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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN TRAGEDY

The following is a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark:

"It is now one year since the tragedy at Tiananmen. Canadians were deeply shocked and saddened by those events.

In the past few months, China's leaders have lifted martial law and released some of those arrested last year. We welcome these developments. However, many more people remain under arrest for peaceful participation in last year's protests.

We urge further progress in the human rights situation in China. Specific further steps which Canada would welcome include the suspension of further arrests of dissidents, and the release of demonstrators arrested following the Tiananmen crackdown.

Canada has enjoyed a long-standing tradition of friendship with China and her people. We hope that China will resume the trend toward greater openness which accompanied the dramatic economic reforms in the 1980s, when greater participation by Chinese citizens in the affairs of their nation, was combined with China's constructive engagement with the outside world."