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FURTHER DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN BEIJING

The last twenty-four hours in Beijing have seen a serious deterioration in the current civil crisis. It is evident that thousands of people have been killed and many more wounded. The streets of Beijing remain violent, and the situation volatile and tense.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs the Right Honourable Joe Clark condemned the army's actions, saying "We can only express horror and outrage at the senseless violence and the tragic loss of life resulting from the indiscriminate and brutal use of force against the students and citizens of Beijing. We are witnessing violence at a scale and scope that can only shock and offend all Canadians. The actions of the Chinese military are inexcusable. We once again call upon the Chinese Government to urgently and immediately take steps to stop the aggressive and senseless killing by its armed forces."

At noon today, the Department called in the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China. The Acting Under-Secretary of External Affairs conveyed to him the reaction of the Canadian Government to the current situation.

The Department of External Affairs remains in constant contact with the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. The Embassy has warned Canadians in Beijing to remain indoors until further notice. The Department considers prudent the delaying of any planned travel by visitors to Beijing until the situation is calmer.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada