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viewed the situation and to ensure that he passed to his authorities our call for a stop to the killing and also passed to them the depth of our outrage.

We, of course, have not been alone in calling on the Chinese leadership to stop the carnage and to return to peaceful methods to resolve their political crisis. Most western Governments, Governments from around the world, even Communist Parties in other countries, have joined in condemning the brutality of the methods chosen to clear Tiananmen Square and to crush all and every expression of dissent by the students and other civilians once the military action had begun. This Government remains ready to offer humanitarian assistance or supplies if those are requested or needed.

In assessing the actions which should accompany our condemnation of the violence and the killings, we must bear in mind the need to safeguard Canadian lives, as well as the need to build pressure on the Chinese government.

At the time of the outbreak of violence there were approximately 600 Canadians resident in China, roughly half of whom were in Beijing. In addition, there were a number of business visitors and tourists scattered around the country. Our first concern, because of the violence, has been the security of those in the capital. As a precautionary measure in case of further military action against the universities, our Embassy evacuated all Canadians from the city campuses and is currently providing temporary accommodation to the 75 or so students who are affected.

We are in constant contact with our Ambassador Earl Drake, and we have contingency plans for the evacuation from Beijing of the students, other Canadians, and the staff of the Embassy. We have put into place arrangements whereby aircraft can be made available at short notice for evacuating Canadians to nearby Asian cities, and then onward transportation arrangements can be made after that if necessary.

After consultation with officials in Beijing, we decided about an hour ago to advise Canadians in Beijing to leave that city now. Our Embassy will be assisting them in making their departure. I will of course keep the House advised if we decide to proceed with a complete evacuation.

I should take the opportunity to indicate to Canadians who might be concerned that if they have questions to

raise, we have established an 800 number, 800-267-6788. I know there are many Canadians who have relatives or friends in China who would want to call officials. We will hope to provide them with as accurate information as we can.

With respect to bilateral actions that we might take in response to the crisis, we have already deferred or cancelled all events that were planned in the immediate future. We have postponed the signing of a series of memorandum of understanding on development assistance projects which were to be signed later this week. We have suspended the nuclear co-operation consultations that were begun after China joined the Atomic Energy Agency and which were to proceed early next week. We will be taking similar action with respect to other scheduled negotiations and discussions. We are advising the provinces and non-governmental organizations with planned consultations with Chinese counterparts to follow suit.

Although there are no high level visits in either direction planned for the coming few weeks, we would deflect such visits until a more appropriate time. At the multilateral level I have asked our Ambassador at the United Nations in New York to begin immediately consultations with other UN members and with the Secretary General on means by which the moral suasion of the United Nations might be brought to bear to support the voices calling for moderation and restraint in China. Canada fully supports the statement issued by the Secretary General today calling for restraint.

With respect to the large numbers of Chinese students in Canada, and I believe there are some 4,500 here at the moment, we recognize the troublesome time for them. While we trust that before long the situation in China will no longer be repugnant to them, we understand their concerns. As my colleague, the Hon. Minister for Employment and Immigration announced earlier today, we will be sympathetic to any requests for extending their stay until calm returns to their homeland. My colleague has also taken steps to suspend for at least a two-month period all removals to China under the terms of the Immigration Act.

Some countries have announced the suspension of programs of bilateral military co-operation and sales to China. Canada does not have any such formal arrangements and has sold in the past only very small amounts of non-lethal equipment to the Chinese military. I can