

Mr. Clark replied:

...[T]he House will recall that I made the point yesterday [6 June 1989] that in a country of the power and size of China the disorder that is occurring cannot long remain an internal matter. However, I know that all Members of the House of Commons would want the United Nations to respect the letter of its charter.... Today [7 June 1989], the Prime Minister has signed a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations.... First, it conveys to the Secretary General the resolution adopted unanimously by the House of Commons on Monday night and the record of debate. It also indicates to the Secretary General that Canada would support very strongly both his leadership and action that might be taken through ECOSOC [Economic and Social Council] and action that might be taken through the Human Rights Commission. It indicates that in our view that in these circumstances the United Nations and the Secretary General should act in a way to have the fullest impact possible within the terms of the charter.<sup>20</sup>

On 14 June 1989, Liberal Leader John Turner asked Mr. Clark whether the Government was planning to table a UN General Assembly resolution condemning the actions of the Chinese Government. He also asked the Minister to consider speaking to Soviet President Gorbachev to press him into a stronger position against the Chinese Government and to press the Soviet Union into confronting China openly at the United Nations. Mr. Clark replied that he was interested in the Opposition Leader's suggestion.<sup>21</sup>

On 26 June 1989, Mr. Turner asked Mr. Clark:

...I have not heard Canada yet call for strong international action from the International Monetary Fund or from the World Bank. I have not heard Canada talk about cutting off economic aid. In the Minister's own words, we cannot have business as usual.... My constituents, in particular, and members of the Chinese Canadian community across Canada are very concerned about the future of Hong Kong.... Will the Government, through the Minister, place on the next agenda of the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government the issue of Hong Kong which is destined to fall under Chinese jurisdiction in 1997?

The External Affairs Minister responded as follows:

...[T]hat is a very interesting suggestion.... As the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, that meeting will in fact be in Asia [Kuala Lumpur] this year [October 1989], so it may well be a particularly appropriate venue for that kind of discussion.<sup>22</sup>

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20 *Commons Debates*, 7 June 1989, p. 2709-710.

21 *Commons Debates*, 14 June 1989, p. 3013.

22 *Commons Debates*, 26 June 1989, p. 3591.