

was on and which the students so ably represented is a road that is resumed.

Some people have called for the immediate withdrawal of the Canadian Ambassador to China. Certainly this is something that the Government must consider in the days ahead, particularly if it becomes obvious that those who ordered the troops on the students are solidifying their power in the country. Although, as you know, we are not sure. I do not think anyone is sure at this point just exactly what is happening in China. There are strong indications of conflicts within the People's Liberation Army itself. It may be some time before we know who it is appropriate to speak of when we are speaking about the Government or authority in China.

In any case, this traditional gesture of protest is something the Government must consider, but we appreciate that in the next few days and perhaps for the next little while this will be a judgment that will have to be made. Having the Ambassador on site may well be something that will be useful in terms of advancing the security of Canadians who are in China, although as the Minister said, it may well be that all Canadians will have to be evacuated from Beijing and not just the Ambassador in the form of a withdrawal.

• (2210)

With respect to Chinese students in Canada, I was glad to hear the announcement by the Government as to how to deal with the predicament in which many of those students find themselves. The point is well taken that the Government must now begin to think about what it will do with respect to those students if there is a long-term problem. Even if things were to return to an acceptable state in China, these students may still have a long-term problem in terms of having identified themselves as people who were afraid to go home and who may have stayed here longer than they had originally planned. There are some long-term considerations with which the Government will have to deal with respect to Chinese students here in Canada. We urge the Government to do everything possible to facilitate both the safety of the students in terms of staying here, or in China, should they eventually return there.

This past weekend I was at the New Democratic Party convention in Manitoba. Everyone was upset to hear

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what had happened in China. What struck me and even made me feel old for a moment was how upset the Manitoba Young New Democrats were, how upset students were, and how upset students around the world are. They feel an identity with those students in China.

Whether they have ever been in China, or know Chinese, or whatever the case may be, they identify with those young people who for so many weeks now have gathered in Tiananmen Square in a non-violent, idealistic and courageous way. I was struck by the way that young Canadians identified with those students.

Not so long ago I was a student. I remember the events of 1970 when students were fired upon at Kent State University. I believe at that time only four students were killed. This obviously was not something ordered by the national Government. It was an order that came from much lower down the totem pole than that. Yet that event, along with others, so eroded the moral credibility of the policy that the American Government was following at that time in Vietnam that it was not very long before that policy crumbled altogether.

It did not bring on an election victory for the students in 1972, just as this much more massive, tragic, and hardly even comparable event may not bring an immediate victory for the students and what they are seeking. However, I think that I can say with confidence that this much blood will not be shed in vain. This much blood is never shed in vain when it is the blood of the non-violent which is shed at the hands of the violent. Always out of this kind of violence comes a victory that may not be apparent today, and it may not even be apparent in the months or years ahead. We hope that it will be readily apparent in the near future. However, I am confident that this much blood of the non-violent shed by the violent will not be shed in vain, just as the blood of incomparably fewer students in previous situations in other countries was never shed in vain.

Those who know me know it is not my habit to say complimentary things about journalists, but a word needs to be said about many of the Chinese and international journalists who have brought us the coverage of events in Tiananmen Square that they have over the last few days at great risk to life and limb. It is the type of event that gives one a certain respect for the profession when journalists are willing to persist in obviously dangerous