

when the youth it has educated rises up in the name of freedom, has no future”.

According to *The Toronto Star* today:

“Perhaps the most horrid scenes of the Government’s slayings occurred on Tiananmen Square. Tanks crushed to death several students who remained huddled in the tents set up on the plaza during three weeks of demonstrations”, eye witnesses said.

There was also a report from one Beijing student eyewitness that tanks had crushed students who had linked arms in a last ditch embrace of the snow-white “Goddess of Democracy” statue, a sort of Statue of Liberty made of plastic that students had put up in the square.

*The Star* reported that a “story of carnage emerged as victims of the violence in Beijing recalled how the People’s Liberation Army soldiers shot, clubbed and even strangled their way through a sea of unarmed protesters”. *The Star* went on to report that one doctor said he examined the body of a man in his mid-20s who had been choked to death by metal chains the soldiers had hidden in their hats for crowd control. One man, who was near a foreign reporter, asked: “Does America know what happened here? Does the world know?” These words echo the fears of many Chinese people. They fear that their blood is running in the streets and not being seen by the world.

The People’s Republic governmentally controlled media called yesterday’s military raid on the square, “A glorious victory over counter-revolutionary turmoil”. The only mention made of the human carnage that accompanied the assault was when a “maverick for Radio Beijing’s English language service asked listeners to protest the most barbarous suppression of the people”. What courage that individual displayed.

Similarly, courage was shown by many thousands of people, young and old, in Beijing and many other centres in the People’s Republic.

The *Vernon Daily News* quotes a student leader as saying: “The whole city, the whole country, the whole world is watching. We students are not here just for the people of this city but for the sake of history and all society”.

It would appear that the brutal force with which the Government suppressed the recent protests has forged the will of the Chinese population.

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Today, many of us watched as a single man risked his life while for several minutes he stalled a column of tanks in Beijing.

One reporter from this continent reported the general feeling amongst those newly anointed freedom fighters:

An art student nearly incoherent with grief and anger as he watched the body of a student being carted away, his head blown up by bullets, said: “Maybe we will fail today, maybe we will fail tomorrow, but someday we will succeed. It is a historical inevitability”.

What we are witnessing now is a government at war with its own people. *The Globe and Mail* reports an old Beijing resident as saying:

“In 1949, we welcomed the army into Beijing,”—referring to the crowds who hailed the arrival of Communist troops at the end of the Communist revolution. Then he waved toward a line of 50 army trucks that were blocked in a sea of more than 10,000 angry men and women, and added, “Now we’re fighting to keep them out.”

The Chinese people and the world are now both at one in finding it difficult to understand why the People’s Army is killing its own people. That feeling, combined with dissension amongst some of the troops, may provide the setting for a tragic civil war.

I implore my colleagues to do all we can in our own ways, to the limited extent that we can do anything, to ensure that this tragic civil war does not occur, to ensure that more blood does not flow in Beijing, Shanghai and elsewhere, to ensure that those crushed under the armoured carriers yesterday and the day before, protecting their Statue of Liberty, have not died in vain.

Finally, let me remind Members that China, with more than one billion people, roughly one-fifth of the planet’s population, is a pre-eminent player on any world stage and all Canadians of goodwill have nothing but fond hopes for the Chinese people.

I was told today by the president of the Chinese Canadian National Council, that Canada has something between 500,000 and 700,000 residents of sole or part origin in China. Toronto has up to 250,000. Your city, Mr. Speaker, has approximately 100,000, Edmonton and Calgary each 20,000, and so on across Canada.

They and all of us, whatever our origin, are fully united in this issue: the killing must stop.