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happening. My first reaction was to cancel the whole initiative, take a stand.

As I listened to the ambassador, I could hear the anger and sorrow in his voice at the tragedy of his nation. I could begin to understand the suffering that must be going on in the embassy among those who spend their lives trying to build bridges to us in Canada. I realized that we must not cancel, that we must postpone. We must postpone that so it can be one of the bridges on which we will start to rebuild, pending a renewed China moving toward freedom and prosperity.

Through its actions, the Government of China has learned and taught many hard lessons. It has demonstrated the fragility of trust and co-operation between itself and the world, and between ourselves. Out of respect, Canada has largely accepted China's counsel on the region, in world bodies or discussing international politics. We have even turned a blind eye occasionally because we have developed a trust in its view. But it has damaged that.

As I turn my blind eye a little bit toward the remote region of Tibet, I wonder if history may show us in default for benign apathy and neglect when we should have investigated and should have raised that issue more aggressively in the international forums of the world.

China is important not just to Canada, it is important to the world. It is more important than it was 10 years ago. It is a powerhouse of the world, economically, socially, and politically. It is in turmoil now.

That turmoil has left a large vacuum. There is the Chinese-Soviet initiative on Kampuchea. How will China exert controlling influence over the Khmer Rouge to prevent another blood bath in the killing fields of Kampuchea? Will the front line states of Vietnam and Thailand fill the vacuum or will ASEAN collectively pull together to prevent another civil war in Kampuchea?

Let Canada begin to prepare its part in a peace-keeping mechanism so that we will not sit here again for another night on a debate on Kampuchea. Instead, we will begin making the peace.

In 10 minutes it will be morning for us. It is 12:45 p.m. in China right now. It would be my hope that as we

condemn China in this resolution, we would also unanimously pray for the safety and reform of the reform leadership, young and old, inside China, that China will know peace and prosperity, and will return to fulfil its rightful and full role in our international community.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I think this is probably one of the most emotional debates of my 10 years in this House.

We join unanimously in all parties to condemn the present leadership of China that has brought about such carnage and violence against the young students in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. These were students who were demonstrating peacefully, not to overthrow the Government but to demand a hearing, more freedom, and an end of corruption of high officials.

• (2350)

We pay tribute to these students tonight, many of whom died for their cause. The massacre of fellow citizens by the People's Army will never be forgotten in Chinese history or in the minds and consciences of all who uphold human rights.

We in the New Democratic Party support the position taken by Canada as outlined by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) tonight. Canada has strongly protested the carnage and violence. It has taken steps to protect Canadian nationals in China. It has extended visas for Chinese students in Canada, has suspended certain bilateral events and it has supported the statement of the U.N. Secretary General calling for restraint.

In my remarks I want to briefly mention some of the information that I had, having consulted with leaders and friends in the Chinese Canadian community in order to bring their views to the House tonight. I might say that we learned about an hour ago that the People's Liberation Army now has moved into most of the major universities in China. Most Canadian Chinese people that I spoke to are stunned, are very concerned at the bloodshed and totally condemn the Government actions in China. They condemn the infringement of human rights, the taking of human life and the fear of security for persons who were involved in the demonstrations or those who supported the students. Canadians of Chinese origin oppose the violation and the slaughter. Many