

Some countries have announced the suspension of programs of bilateral military cooperation 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 assure you, however, that the government would not grant export permits for military sales of any sort in the current situation. Furthermore, I have asked that the modest program of defence relations between the Canadian Armed Forces and the People's Liberation Army, which saw a visit to China last year of the Chief of Defence Staff, be suspended immediately.

Mr. Speaker, what is transpiring in China is tragedy of global proportions. Let us hope that the events of the coming weeks see China, and its great people, emerge without unnecessary bloodshed, and with a renewed commitment to fundamental rights and freedoms in an increasingly democratic country. I only wish that I could find greater cause for optimism at the moment.