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In the course of human history Governments all too often have taken decisions which come from the dark side of human nature. The decision of the Chinese Government to use tanks against young students comes from that dark side of human nature. Such a decision taken by a single human being would be madness. Such a decision taken by a group of human beings is collective madness.

We have witnessed an extraordinary few days in contemporary world history. We have seen food riots in Argentina at the very time of the successful renewal of democracy in that country. We have seen a changing and desperately uncertain time in Iran, a small but tremendously important step toward pluralism in Poland, and major steps in the arms talks between the two superpowers.

However, all of these, important as they are, pale for ordinary Canadians when contrasted with the terrifying images coming from the most populous nation in the world. They are terrifying images as more than a million young military conscripts are turned by the Chinese Government against more than a million young Chinese students.

Alongside those terrifying images is the uplifting image that we saw of a single defenceless student on his own standing in front of and climbing up into a tank. We have witnessed an act of terrorism of a Government against its own people.

The force of the House of Commons and the moral influence we have on behalf of our people must indicate to China that that Government must cease its brutality or the repercussions for China and the world would be incalculable. The repercussions for the future in terms of human events will be unfathomable.

I want to thank you again, Mr. Speaker, for exercising your discretion in this matter. Because you cannot speak for yourself in this Chamber I want to unite your voice with mine and the peoples of the constituencies we share in the Pacific city, conscious of these events perhaps even more sensitively than are people in other parts of Canada.

I want to say to you, Sir, on behalf of the Official Opposition, the Liberal Party, that it is with great sorrow and real anger that I join with other Members of this

House and other Canadians in a total and utter condemnation of the current leadership in China.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I want also to express my appreciation to you, Sir, for granting this emergency debate and to commend the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), the Hon. Member for Windsor—Lake St. Clair (Mr. McCurdy), and other Members of the House who have sought this debate tonight. I know that all Members of the House of Commons and, indeed, all Canadians share a deeply felt sense of horror and of outrage at the events that have unfolded over the last few days in China.

We have watched a country's Armed Forces turn on its own citizens in an indiscriminate and brutal fashion. We have seen unarmed students and citizens gunned down and overrun by tanks. We have witnessed troops shooting from behind at fleeing crowds. We have heard of military units dealing summarily with even non-violent acts of resistance.

Tiananmen Square, which has been the site of so many important historical events over the decades and over the centuries, now adds to its legacy one of the most tragic occurrences of modern China.

The situation is evolving very rapidly. The latest news we have had from our Embassy in Beijing only minutes ago is that the violence which started in the Chinese capital is now spreading across the country. There is growing evidence that the military is at odds with itself. We have received reports that there is now fighting between various factions of the military. The appearance is one of military chaos. Those forces who unleashed the initial program of violence against the students in Tiananmen Square appear to have set *entrain* a chain of violence that cannot now be easily contained.

How could this have happened? As the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, we had hoped and believed that China was on the road to extensive and fundamental reform. For 11 years the Chinese leadership has been pursuing a range of policies aimed at opening China up to the outside world. Hallmarks of this welcome reversal of earlier centralism and isolationism have been the decentralization of decision making, the encouragement of private enterprise, and the welcoming of increased trade and economic exchanges with Canada and other western democracies.