

For over 10 years, the world has stood in awe of the dramatic changes underway in China. We applauded the economic reforms first announced by Deng Xiaoping in 1978 as he turned back the excesses of the Cultural Revolution and challenged his country like never before. Deng's promises of readjustment, restructuring, consolidation and improvement made the world sit up and take notice at this incredible country once again. Business ties between China and Canada expanded as western nations were invited to join in a remarkable position of reform. Joint business ventures involving Canadian companies have expanded and China has even considered establishing a bank in Canada. In my community of Scarborough, China has also announced plans to open a huge trade centre.

Well, in 10 short years, China overhauled its economy and turned communism upside down. Changes to agriculture and industry opened new opportunities for both peasants and city dwellers alike. New contacts were also made with the outside world as China encouraged the West to participate in their reforms. Here in this Parliament we formed a Canada—China Parliamentary Friendship Group of which I am very honoured to be a member.

The reforms that began in China also helped usher in changes throughout the communist world. Communist systems in eastern Europe, Africa, Central America, began re-examining their thesis of the command economy, one-party rule and state-run societies. They began to focus their resources on responding to and meeting the will of the people.

In fact, we have experienced an incredible irony. On the very day that the Chinese communists violently repress a call for democracy, the communist party in Poland is conceding defeat to Solidarity after a free election. Ten years of reform in China today mean very little indeed.

After nearly two months of indecision and confusion, the Chinese leadership demonstrated that it has no capacity for political change. The tragedy over the past days reveals a country where politics is dominated by personality and where leadership is cloaked in mystery. China's political weaknesses have resulted in the horrible spectacle of an army charging down the Avenue of Eternal Peace, opening fire on thousands of unarmed students who were calling for freedom.

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Just as the democracy wall was destroyed a few years ago, Chinese leaders have again shown their intolerance to freedom. By using violence to sustain its political power, the Chinese leadership has chosen a course that is uncivilized and certain to fail. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn once wrote:

Anyone who has once proclaimed violence as his method must inexorably choose the lie as his principle.

Well, it is time for the lies and the killing in China to end. Canadians can only wonder about the future of China and indeed the prospects of Hong Kong when it becomes part of China in 1997.

I applaud the actions of our Canadian Ambassador in China. Canadian students in Beijing University have been placed in secure accommodations and other Canadians in the country are being contacted. I also understand that Canadians seeking information on their relatives in China can contact the 800 number, 800-267-6788. The role of our embassy in this situation is to guarantee the safety of Canadians in China, and I believe all Members should commend the Ambassador for the very difficult job that he is doing in Beijing.

I support the resolution that condemns the brutal use of force against the peaceful populace of Beijing and call upon the authorities of China to cease this senseless killing and immediately adopt a course of civilized dialogue with the people of China.

To the over 40,000 Chinese Canadians in Scarborough, I offer my condolences for your countrymen and my sincere hope that peace and freedom will again prevail in China.

• (2200)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak during this important debate tonight, and I want to thank you for allowing this emergency debate.

The violence of the events in China has shocked and saddened us all, and I am pleased that the motion presented by the Secretary of State for External Affairs received the unanimous support of the House.

[*English*]

The Hon. Member for LaSalle—Emard (Mr. Martin), who spoke earlier said that this was one of the evenings on which he was particularly proud to be a Member of Parliament. It is always a high point in the life of Parliament when we are able to come together as one mind and express on behalf of Canadians a particular view. Of course tonight what we have expressed, both in