

On 5 June 1989 in the House of Commons, the External Affairs Minister announced Canadian actions in response to events in China. These included:

- advising the 600 Canadians resident in China, half of whom were in Beijing, to leave immediately, with Canadian Government assistance if required;
- postponing the signing of a series of memoranda of understanding on development assistance projects in China;
- suspending nuclear cooperation consultations;
- suspending relations between the Canadian Armed Forces and the People's Liberation Army, including suspension of sales of non-lethal military equipment to China;
- allowing some 4,500 Chinese students in Canada to remain by issuing them one-year visa extensions; and
- working at the UN to support calls for moderation and restraint in China.<sup>3</sup>

On 12 June 1989, Mr. Clark announced that Canada would be withdrawing its Ambassador to China, Earl Drake, for consultations.<sup>4</sup> On 15 June, the Chinese Ambassador to Canada was called in again and presented with allegations that his diplomats were harassing Chinese students in Canada. The Ambassador told reporters afterwards that Canada should not be meddling in China's internal affairs. It was confirmed on 16 June that at least two Chinese diplomats stationed in Canada had defected and were seeking political asylum in Canada.<sup>5</sup>

On 20 June 1989, Ambassador Drake appeared before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.<sup>6</sup> The Government also convened a "National Round Table" made up of businesspersons, academics, non-governmental organizations and representatives of the Chinese Canadian community, to develop Canada's broad strategy toward China. New measures to protest China's behaviour, while at the same time encouraging Canadians to maintain "people-to-people" exchanges with China, were announced on 30 June 1989. The measures included:

- Canadian withdrawal from development-assistance projects involving a state auditor training programme, a lube oil centre, and urban traffic management programme;
- indefinite suspension of consulting activity associated with the Three Gorges hydro-electric project;

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<sup>3</sup> Department of External Affairs, *supra* note 1, pp. 3-5.

<sup>4</sup> Tim Harper, "Canada Calls Home China Envoy." *Toronto Star*, 13 June 1989, p. A4.

<sup>5</sup> Richard Cleroux, "Clark Says Chinese Spying on Their Students in Canada." *Globe and Mail*, 17 June 1989, p. A1; Robert Lee and Charles Rusnell, "Chinese Diplomats Defect." *Ottawa Citizen*, 16 June 1989, p. A1; and Iain Hunter, "Clark Confronts Chinese Envoy." *Ottawa Citizen*, 16 June 1989, p. A1.

<sup>6</sup> House of Commons, Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, *Minutes of Proceeding and Evidence*, Issue No. 8 (20 June 1989), pp. 8:3-25.