

• (0020)

Canada evidently has a role to play in the world community. The United Nations definitely offers a forum to Canada to advance some of our ideas. Inevitably, thought goes to the forum of the United Nations as the place where matters of this kind ought to be resolved. We know that technically this matter cannot be raised there because the Government of China is part of the Security Council. Nevertheless, ways must be found to raise this matter at the United Nations because that is the only body where international indignation can converge, can find full expression and generate the pressure that maybe will have impact on the present ruler in Beijing.

Therefore, we have to find ways of registering, through this Parliament, a message which only parliamentarians can register and, with the help of parliamentarians in other jurisdictions, mount a campaign that will eventually cross the oceans and reach the sensitive nerves of the decision-makers in that great country of China.

We are all saddened by what has happened. Words are inadequate to express the emotions. Others have expressed them here tonight and others will speak, but it is clear that from all sides of this House the strong political will is emerging that something must be registered beyond the scope of speeches with the decision-makers of Beijing to bring them to their senses.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join my voice to all Members of this House in denouncing and condemning the officials of the Chinese Government for their flagrant disregard of human life. In this emergency debate, we are addressing the turmoil in China, the danger it poses to Canadians in China and the consequences for Canada's relationship with that country.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to recall what the debate is about. It is on a motion which reads as follows:

That this House, noting that:

the relationship between Canada and the People's Republic of China is important to Canadians and has been of benefit to both countries over the past many years;

S. O. 52

authorities in the People's Republic of China have directed the armed forces of China to attack the unarmed civilian population of Beijing in contravention of all humane principles of conduct;

the students and citizens of Beijing were peacefully advocating democratic principles and human freedoms as is the fundamental right of all peoples of the world; and

the authorities of China resorted to the use of excessive and indiscriminate armed force on a scale and scope which appalls all Canadians and has resulted in the tragic deaths of large numbers of innocent civilians; therefore unequivocally condemn this 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 dialogue with the people of China.

[*English*]

We are outraged by the violent suppression of freedom of expression, violence against unarmed students resulting in the tragic loss of life through brutal force. This violence and bloodshed has shocked all democratic societies. We saw, in Tiananmen Square, unarmed students and civilians who formed human barricades through their sheer will to stand up for democracy in the face of incredible odds. We saw raw courage on the faces of students fighting for issues which we take so much for granted here at home: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press. We saw the most uncivilized, brutal approach by the Government. We saw complete disregard of the necessary standards of human conduct in a civilized society. We have seen this horrendous story unfold before our eyes.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I feel that we should express our respect and appreciation to all members of the press and electronic media who are really responsible for bringing this painful experience of the students and indeed the Chinese people into our daily lives. We must thank them for their courage and their presence on the scene, and also for having stayed there to make us aware of this dramatic situation.

[*English*]

I believe that the members of that profession of journalism—all journalists, reporters, cameramen, audio-visual men—those brave crews who have brought this unfortunate, regrettable, unthinkable uprising to the world stage require our respect. They have shown us the face of youth thirsting for a more democratic society while maintaining pride in their country and their heritage, the vision of the tanks rolling down the Avenue of Eternal Peace, the destruction of that symbol of democracy referred to as the goddess of democracy. We have