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executed thousands of people for no reason other than political expediency.

Now, faced with an event that has shaken the world and involved one of the world's most powerful countries in terms of technology and nuclear superiority, what are we going to do? At the very least, are we going to re-evaluate our relationship with China? In so doing, are we going to reconsider our ODA commitments which totalled close to \$36 million in 1988?

What about the mega Three Gorges Dam project that we have entered into with China? Granted, the Chinese Government has agreed to put off the project for five years. However, what kind of guarantee do we have now that the project will not continue? At the cost of \$17 million to the Canadian taxpayer, it was like pulling teeth to even get the Government to admit to the cost of the project.

Last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Declaration. This year, Canada will sit on the UN Human Rights Commission after an absence of four years. In January of this year, in a press release announcing the annual consultations in preparation for the 45th Session of the UN Human Rights Commission, the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Landry) stated in the House: "In previous years, we have played an active part in the Commission's work in an observer capacity—but this year we will be able to play a leading role. We can submit resolutions and exercise a greater influence." She went on to say: "When we are confronted with flagrant violations, our short-term goal internationally is to work toward rapidly improving the conditions of those who are deprived of the full enjoyment of their human rights".

The Bush administration has outlined at least major initiatives in order to improve the situation somewhat for the people in China and those connected to it. Although Mr. Bush clearly stated that he will not take any steps to precipitate a breakdown in U.S.-China relations, he announced U.S. humanitarian aid to be provided to victims of the military assault through the International Red Cross and hearings for visa extensions for Chinese students studying in the United States. Mr. Bush also stated that all aspects of United States-Chinese relations will be reviewed in light of the developments. This

is why we welcomed the news made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs tonight in the preamble to the resolution.

The European Community has strongly hinted that relations with China will suffer as a result and in fact stated that planned talks next month with the Chinese on expanding economic contacts are cancelled.

I am a bit puzzled by the reaction of our Government to the situation. When our Leader asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he would call a meeting of the Security Council, the response was at best non-committal. We have not as yet heard of what action we intend to take with respect to our seat on the UN Human Rights Commission. Neither have we heard what assistance, if any, we will provide for the victims of this bloody event. What are we waiting for? The precedent has been set already. If we are not going to be the first in doing something, let us not be the last.

Canadians across this country are lending their support to the victims of this massacre and to Chinese Canadians. The Ukrainian-Canadian community and other ethno-cultural groups have already sent messages condemning the Chinese Government's actions giving full support to those who are fighting for democracy and freedom in China.

Canadians all over the country are concerned that, although the situation is a bit calmer, it could once again erupt and lead to a civil war. That is why I say it was with a heavy heart that we heard the comments that this crisis may chain react into something more serious. Yet the Government makes statements such as being encouraged that there appears to be more calm. There was more calm before this weekend, but as we heard today from the Secretary of State, that calm has disappeared.

We are very concerned about the safety and security of the 600 Canadians who are reported to be in China. I would like to ask the Government to do whatever is necessary, even if it results in an adverse change in our relationship with China, to ensure their protection. I would also like to urge the Government to grant political asylum to those Chinese students who request it so as not to put their lives in danger upon return to China. Again, that was welcome news that we heard from the Secretary of State on this item.