

S. O. 52

• (2020)

The world will not buy the argument of the Chinese leaders that they were putting down a dangerous insurrection. We saw those peaceful students and then we saw those students killed by AK-47 rifles and crushed by armoured personnel vehicles.

There is no rationale to this. There is no justification within the human condition for what is happening. It is a blatant murder of Chinese young people authorized by the Chinese authorities. Surely the Chinese Government must be made to understand that any further actions of this sort will only worsen the situation.

It is particularly sad for me and other Members of the House who have followed this issue to realize that over the last 20 years China appeared to be making strides, and indeed, was making strides to enjoy better relations with countries around the world, to take its rightful place on the international councils of power as the most populous nation in the world.

The Chinese Government, the leaders in China must be made to understand that all the good-will built up over the last several years, all the international friendships, all the increase in commerce, all of the increasing influence of China over world affairs can be shattered by the ferocity and brutality of the past few days.

It is frightening to think that innocent students are the victims of power struggles, internal, invisible power struggles at the top of China's hierarchy. Struggles for spheres of influence at the top of the Communist Party in China is no excuse for genocide.

Chinese leaders must be made to understand that acts of repression debase all moral authority for a government and inevitably debase all moral authority anywhere. The Chinese leaders are sowing the seeds of their own destruction by what they are authorizing now.

Canadians have a special bond with China, stretching back a century to the missionaries, Mr. Speaker, your own family, stretching back to the genius of Norman Bethune. The Chinese have recognized and honoured Canada's humanitarian interest in their country. We urge them to recognize and honour the humanitarian interests expressed by an all-Party resolution and the moral authority that this Chamber can reflect of the opinion of the country.

Canadians were proud when Prime Minister Trudeau helped lead the way in recognizing mainland China, and in recognizing Communist China as a real and legitimate voice of the Chinese people. We were proud to recognize the legal authority of China's leadership to speak for their country. We were proud to use all of Canada's influence in helping China find a solution to a series of problems they had at that time as it related to their international recognition.

That is why an emergency debate, which you have, if I might say so, Mr. Speaker, so wisely allowed in this House of Commons is so critical. That is why the proposed unanimous resolution from Canada's Parliament is so vital and so relevant. The Chinese Government and the Chinese people have long understood Canada's attempt to be good friends. We have never asked China to adopt our way of government. We have never asked China to adopt our way of life. We have never asked China to adopt our economic system.

We understand that China is a great world power and that we are not. We understand that China must find Chinese solutions to Chinese problems. We also understand as members of the human condition, that these solutions must reflect human justice, must recognize human rights to which China now ascribes as a member of the United Nations.

When Canada played a role in prodding the western world to recognize China, we did it because it was fundamentally right, because it was the right thing to do. We urge the leaders of China today to understand that their actions over the weekend and now are abhorrent to all notions of humanity. We ask them to understand that the fundamental and right thing to do is to end the oppression, to understand that a world which has reached out to China, and rightly so, will never turn its back on the Chinese people again. However, the world will turn its back on the leadership in China if this barbarism continues.

Attempting to clamp down on the news media is only making the situation worse for China. Attempting to destroy freedom of the international press to report what is going on merely underscores the essential validity of the protest of the Chinese students.

Chinese leaders cannot allow press reporting of uprisings, or protests, only when it suits their convenience. They cannot allow international television crews to film their leaders meeting on a friendly basis and amicably