

getting through to the government, and we watched some of China's leaders express sympathy, understanding, and most importantly respect, for the objectives and intentions of the students. These were positive signs of a nation in the process of change, and many among us believed that China would somehow manage this pressure for such change by becoming more democratic, more open and more respectful of its own people.

When the tanks and the troops moved in Tiananmen Square on Saturday night it was clear that the forces of darkness and not of light had triumphed. It was clear that leaders who had urged restraint were being brushed aside. It was clear that the interests of a few were being placed ahead of the aspirations of the many. It is very much in part because of the great strides forward China has taken over the last decade that the events of the last few days are so tragic for China. And so tragic for those principles and freedoms which we hold dear and which we had thought were starting to find their proper place in Chinese political life as well.

Mr. Speaker, Canada's relations with China have been and continue to be important to us. In 1970, we were among the earliest of western countries to reestablish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic after almost two decades of isolation. Since that time our relationship has grown to the point where what happens in China is of very real and direct concern to Canadians from every part of this country and from every walk of life. Exchanges with China of scientists, students, cultural groups, and sporting teams have become common and have been welcomed by Canadians and Chinese alike. Canadian cities and provinces have become twinned with Chinese counterparts. We have talked with senior Chinese leaders how we can collectively address issues of common concern, be they regional disputes, protection of the environment, or ways to make the world's trading system more sensitive to the needs of both of our economies. Our trade has benefitted both economies, our development assistance program has served to increase China's ability to modernize and has additionally served to introduce the Chinese to Canadian ways of doing things. I believe very deeply that the breadth and intensity of our relationship with China has enriched both of our countries.

The extent of the friendship between Canadians and Chinese that has grown over the last decade makes the carnage in the streets of China's capital particularly sad and particularly difficult to accept without any response. As we examine what our response should be, however, we must remember that we will cherish our friendship with the Chinese people, that we are not going to become "anti-China", that our condemnation and our outrage should be focussed on the violent and aggressive actions that we cannot and will never condone and on those who initiated and encouraged those actions.