

the run up to the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown and the strict surveillance imposed on others once again demonstrates that China continues to violate international standards of human rights.

We Canadians are concerned about fundamental human rights. During my first year in office, André Ouellet, our Foreign Affairs Minister, and I developed a coherent and effective policy towards China. Three equally important goals were outlined: prosperity and employment, peace and security, and projecting Canadian values and culture – which is what I want to focus on in my discussion today.

One of the most enduring values uniting Canadians is our common commitment to freedom, democracy, and human rights. Respect for human rights is a key to international peace and prosperity, and it contributes to a global environment within which we Canadians can best pursue our interests.

As I have long believed, the issue, therefore, is not whether but how to promote most efficiently good governance and the rule of law in China. We believe there are a number of ways to accomplish our goals, and they incorporate efforts of both a multilateral and bilateral nature.

Among the most effective channels of influencing is collective action through multilateral institutions. In this regard, at the most recent United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Canada co-sponsored a resolution on human rights in China. The resolution expressed concern about continuing reports of human rights and fundamental freedom violations.

In the speech given by Canada at the UN Human Rights Commission, we declared: "Canada believes that China falls short of international standards in incarceration of political detainees, and with respect to equity and transparency in the judicial system, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion."

In another multilateral area currently under way, we are working closely with Canadian non-governmental organizations to support their efforts to encourage the Chinese government to reverse a decision to move the International Conference on the Status of Women to a venue far from the city centre of Beijing. We want this conference to be an open forum and we have said as much to the Chinese government.

On the bilateral front, when Prime Minister Chrétien and I met with Chinese leaders, the Prime Minister raised the issue of human rights with several of them, including Li Peng and Jiang Zemin. Our Prime Minister clearly explained that Canada intends to maintain a constructive dialogue with China on human rights issues. Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet has told his