S. O. 52

We must be prepared to take action if events do not quickly translate themselves into the kind of change that is tolerable. If there is no progress we should consider recalling our Ambassador.

In respect of trade with China, which is considerable, we may want to consider that we cannot do business as usual in that sphere as well. But we have a policy on which all sides of the House agree: That is, we cannot continue to provide aid to those governments characterized by the abuse of human rights and the lack of respect for democracy.

At present we provide something of the order of \$115 million in aid to China. I would call attention to the Three Gorges Dam for which Canada has already provided \$14 million in terms of feasibility studies. It is not only a large and important project, it is a questionable project. It is one which will displace about one million Chinese and it has not been subject to an appropriate environmental appraisal.

There is no doubt that this kind of examination would raise serious questions on its own merits whether that project should be continued. We should serve notice that it will not be a project to be supported in the future and we should withhold our support on the basis of conditions as they are now any increase in foreign aid to China, and if matters do not change, to terminate government-to-government aid completely.

I am sure the result of this debate will be unanimity on all sides of this House in expressing horror and condemnation. But I hope there will also be agreement in this House that we should not proffer empty words and that unless there has been certain progress we will tell this Chinese government that this country will not allow business as usual so long as the youth of that country, just as in any country in the world, are being slaughtered by a government that is supposed to support them, to aid them, to allow them to have the benefits of a future rather than death in the struggle for democracy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Liberal Party, I join people throughout the world in denouncing the brutal repression of defenceless demonstrators by the Chinese armed

forces. The whole world watched with amazement, horror and disgust as a peaceful call for freedom and democracy was repressed in bloody fashion. The first day Tiananmen Square was occupied by the students, Canadians, like others throughout the world, witnessed this struggle for freedom and human rights. All of us here in the House and across the country are dismayed to think that these students whom we saw on television every evening were victims of such a barbarous act.

I am sure that the 360,000 Canadians of Chinese origin share our indignation. Through you, Mr. Speaker, we extend our heartfelt condolences to them. We also extend our condolences to all Chinese students in Canada who saw their brothers, sisters and friends perish.

In adopting this measure today, we clearly show that Canada will not stand idly by while this struggle for democracy and human rights goes on.

The situation in China is troubled, to say the least. It is reported that shooting is continuing. It is also reported that major demonstrations are going on in other centres, like Shanghai.

We shudder when we hear the Chinese authorities announce that the repression of the "counter-revolutionaries" has just begun.

It is also reported that the army, in its desire to crush the democratic movement, is considering other attacks, in particular on the University of Beijing.

We should be indignant about the repugnant acts of the Chinese leaders. The excuses invoked by the Chinese authorities are in my opinion both flimsy and upsetting.

In the last few weeks, the world has seen hundreds of thousands of young Chinese demonstrate peacefully for democracy, freedom of expression and the press and an end to government corruption.

[English]

These demands of the Chinese students are not outrageous. The students were not attempting to topple the state. The critical element before us in this House is that the students were acting peaceably with hope, even with joy, with a genuine excitement, with a sense of pride in their country, with a sense of fulfilment that they could make China a better place.