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China has to shape up before they can host Olympic Games

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HIND



The Cord Weekly
(Wilfrid Laurier)

WATERLOO (CUP)—If you were to visit Google while in China and type in “Falun Gong,” “Tiananmen Square,” or even “free press,” you’d get this message: “In accordance with local laws, regulations and policies, part of the search result is not shown.”

In 2002, the Chinese government blocked all access to Google, but that only lasted two weeks and ended just as mysteriously as it began. The great firewall that they built slowed down all internet traffic coming from outside the country.

To provide service to the Chinese public, Google chose to set up shop in the People’s Republic of China, and is now subject to Internet censorship laws.

The search engine must block the most politically sensitive websites—religious groups, democracy groups, memorials of the Tiananmen Square massacre, and many other terms associated with free knowledge. It’s no surprise, then, to see that China is ranked 163 out of the 169 countries rated on the World Press Freedom Index.

In this day and age, this just isn’t right.

The Chinese authorities promised the International Olympic Committee that they would make

concrete improvements in human rights in order to host the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, but their tone quickly changed after they got what they were after.

As part of tidying up China’s act after winning the bid, police and judicial authorities were given orders to pursue the “Hit Hard” campaign against crime. Every year, several thousand Chinese citizens are executed in public, often in stadiums, by means of either a bullet to the back of the neck or lethal injection.

Advocates of the bid said having the games in Beijing would encourage China to liberalize because of the intense attention the Olympics would bring to the country. I say bull.

They also decided to crack down on followers of Falun Gong and other religious and democratic movements. Many of those detained in police custody or in labour camps are being held without trial or sentenced to prison terms under criminal law. They are being punished for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights.

Then there’s the matter of Tibet. During the 2008 Olympic bids six years ago, there were many protests against Beijing making the bid due

to their current occupation of the region.

There was also a bipartisan coalition in the United States House of Representatives that attempted to put forward a resolution asking the International Olympic Committee to reject China’s bid for the 2008 Olympics. It never passed.

Advocates of the bid said that having the games in Beijing would encourage China to liberalize because of the intense attention the Olympics would bring to the country. I say bull. Despite the absence of any significant progress in free speech and human rights in China, the International Olympic Committee’s members continue to turn a deaf ear to the situation.

Reporters Without Borders outlines a list of things that should be done before China hosts the Olympics—such as the release all detained journalists, the removal of restrictive laws towards the media’s freedom of movement and work, the demolition of the public relations department, stopping the jamming of radio stations, stopping the blacklisting of human rights activists, legalizing independent organizations of journalists and human rights activists, and ending the censorship of Google.

China’s actions towards the followers of Falun Gong along with their occupation of Tibet, including repression of protest and discrimination against ethnic Tibetans, should have disqualified Beijing’s bid for the 2008 Olympics. There must be freedom in China before the games can be held there.



A Polar bear can smell a man from over 20 miles away. That means that while you’re sitting in SUB enjoying your coffee, a Polar Bear in Leduc is checking its fridge for mayo so that it can make a you sandwich. And now, thanks to Phillip Pullman, they’ve been given armour.

Here at Gateway Opinion, we’re focused on maintaining our technological superiority over animals, because we’re just one typing pool full of monkeys away from not having jobs.

Drop by our meetings on Thursdays at 4pm in 3-04 SUB, where we offer a nice spread of ideas—even if many people gathered in one place is like a buffet to a bear.

GATEWAY OPINION

Stealing ideas from chimps since 1910

More spending needed to bulk up CAF

Military spending may be at an all-time high, but we still don’t have adequate forces to protect our sovereignty and uphold our international commitments

ANDREW
MILLEKER



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REGINA (CUP)—Recent study by the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives shows that Canada’s current level of military spending is now equivalent to what it was at the height of WWII and 2.3 per cent greater than what was spent on deterrence policies during the Cold War.

Current spending is just over \$18 billion per year, making Canadian military expenses the sixth-highest in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance. Bill Robinson, co-author of the report, said “it doesn’t accord with the general impression the public is given, which is supposedly that we’re not spending all that much on the military.”

Why do these statistics seem shocking to us? We’re at war, after all, and that costs money. As members of NATO, we’re bound by international law to use force to support fellow NATO members under attack.

If Canada didn’t increase its spending, the country would hardly be globally responsible, and that’s something

that we Canadians seem to take pride in. The reason for the shock is that for the latter half of the 20th century, Canadians have been relatively free from open conflict. As many as two generations have now grown up unaccustomed to warfare and what it takes to make a formidable resistance to it.

If Canada didn’t increase its military spending, the country would hardly be globally responsible, and that’s something that we, as Canadians, seem to take pride in.

Even if you don’t agree with Canada’s current mission in Afghanistan, increased military spending will only serve to better our peacekeeping efforts in other parts of the world. When Lester B Pearson envisioned Canada as a peacekeeping nation, Canada had a well-funded military with adequate equipment for its time. Before Trudeau systematically destroyed the capacity of our military, Canada actually had a hope of being able to enforce a global

standard of behaviour. Now our military lacks even basic transportation, which has resulted in the majority of deaths in Afghanistan due to improvised explosive devices and roadside bombs.

Canada faces threats to its economic interests abroad, arctic sovereignty, and, worst of all, the threat of terrorism at home. Our country has reached a turning point in its history where we can ask ourselves if we want to be a passive player in the world and let the Americans (whom we seem to be terrified of) protect us, or if we want to come into our own and be truly self-sufficient. An increase in military spending gives us more credibility both at the global bargaining table and with our most valued trading partners. The route of diplomacy will only work if our military is capable of enforcing its agreements.

Canada is gradually becoming an economic power, as evidenced by recent surge of our dollar passing parity with its American counterpart. Canada also has a vast amount of land left virtually unprotected, and is lucky to have maintained its sovereignty for this long. With both the Russians and Danes moving to make a claim to the North, Canada must be decisive in its handling of hostile situations. With a stronger military, it will be able to do just that.