

Government Orders

people could have risen up and demanded that their leader reverse his position and pull out of Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein has carefully orchestrated his Iraqi invasion to be seen by his followers as a religious crusade. Saddam Hussein has also very cleverly fuelled the flames of hatred by the Iraqis against the United States of America.

We have, in Saddam Hussein, a stubborn, fanatical leader who I now believe would never have had the moral courage and wisdom to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait.

If sanctions had been allowed to continue, one has to ask what action Saddam Hussein would have been taking. He would certainly have had time to increase the mobilization of his men and equipment. As the right hon. Joe Clark said yesterday, there was some indication that the Iraqis were building an oil pipeline to the gulf. This would have made it possible to pour millions of gallons of oil into the gulf which would not only have created an environmental disaster, but, if torched, could have created a horrific holocaust. Also, more time would have permitted Saddam Hussein to build up his arsenal of chemical warfare and perhaps nuclear weapons.

I also would like to say a few words about Israel. Saddam Hussein has threatened to attack Israel and to establish a linkage with Kuwait and Israel. Israel has demonstrated a commendable restraint over the past few months. However, if the United Nations had not used force to stop Saddam Hussein, does anyone think he would have stopped with Kuwait? I do not.

All diplomatic efforts by many world leaders over many months did not yield results. Saddam Hussein summarily rejected every opportunity for a peaceful solution to the crisis. I thought he might change his mind. I prayed he would. But in the absence of any movement by Saddam Hussein, the United Nations forces decided to initiate armed conflict to free the citizens of Kuwait and protect the fundamental viability of the United Nations.

Such action will send a chilling message to the world that armed aggressive actions such as Saddam Hussein's unprovoked invasion of Kuwait will not be tolerated by member countries of the United Nations.

In closing, I pray that this war will end very soon and that Saddam Hussein will surrender quickly to minimize the loss of lives.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Madam Speaker, as always I listened very carefully to what the hon. member said, and I would like to ask him two very specific questions.

I would appreciate it if the hon. member would give us his views, quite frankly as always, on two proposals. It is a fact that when a war starts, we must also have people who are prepared to talk about peace, disengagement and cease-fire. We cannot just wage war. We also need people who will say how to stop the war. So what kind of diplomatic means will it take? Do we have any ideas? Do we have any suggestions? I have several that I would like to submit for comment to the hon. member. For instance, how about starting right now with representations to the United Nations, with suggestions for a plan that at the time was mentioned by Saddam Hussein himself, when he was otherwise engaged against Iran and shortly afterwards, concerning a conference on bacteriological, chemical and nuclear disarmament, in other words, to make this vast area which is the world's powder keg—The hon. member knows my thoughts on that. For 25 years I have been saying: It is going to explode. It's a powder keg, getting bigger all the time. Bigger and bigger.

• (1220)

Aside from Saddam Hussein, whom we condemn because of his invasion of Kuwait, does the hon. member believe that the time is ripe for considering the possibility of a conference on nuclear, bacteriological and chemical disarmament, involving all countries in the area, and I would include a friendly country, Israel, especially with respect to nuclear arms?

Second question: How long does he think it will take to call this international conference, to set aside all the hypocrisy and lies that prevent us from looking reality in the face, a real international conference, so that we can stop talking about the Middle East, about those incredible tragedies in Lebanon, the Golan heights, and the Gaza strip. Would the hon. member care to comment?

[*English*]

Mr. Attewell: Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member. He has a long history and a great knowledge of the problems in that part of the world.