

others defend their principles. Canada is a peaceful country -- but Canada is not a neutral country, nor a country that expects a free ride.

Most members of this House, including me, are too young to have had personal involvement in war. We know, however, the devastation that war has brought to too many nations around the world and the sorrow it has brought, in the past, to too many families in our own country. As a result, the avoidance of war has been the principal thrust of Canadian foreign policy.

Over the decades, Canada has made contributions to the cause of peace that have been substantial and effective. But we have always known that peace comes to those who are willing to defend it. Indeed, it is because our parents and theirs courageously resisted aggression in places, far away, that we, today, are members of this democratic Parliament in a free and independent country.

I believe we honour that heritage and respect noble Canadian traditions of valour today by standing firm in support of the United Nations and in helping to suppress aggression against an innocent member state.