

The evidence of that is very clear from the beginning. In fact our initial military response came immediately following a meeting between the Prime Minister and George Bush and before the United Nations had authorized the use of force to implement sanctions. It was to implement sanctions. We supported that decision of the United Nations, but it is important to underline the fact that our Conservative government responded not to the United Nations, but to George Bush. That is a betrayal of the independent tradition of this country of peacemaking.

I think we have to ask ourselves very clearly as well what was the effect of the actions led by the United States and the Security Council. We have to remember that later our Secretary of State for External Affairs and, indeed, the Prime Minister made it very clear that they really did not care whether the United Nations in fact was prepared to go to war if sanctions broke down or beforehand, as we are seeing now.

No, our Secretary of State for External Affairs said: "The United Nations might not work. There might be a veto. China might say no. If there is a veto, we in Canada are prepared to discard the United Nations and we are prepared to take unilateral action." I do not accept the fact that this government is now wrapping itself in the flag of the United Nations because it happens to be convenient for them to do so as it is for the United States.

This raises very grave questions about the future role of the United Nations. Rather, our actions have been from the beginning driven by a desire to do what George Bush has told this country to do.

I mentioned China. I want to say just briefly that, again, as a community of nations we have to ask ourselves what price has been paid to cobble together this coalition that authorized resolution 678, which was such a dangerous and open-ended resolution and does not talk about United Nations command. In fact it flies in the face of the fundamental principles of the Charter of Rights itself. How quickly is the United States forgetting those horrifying events in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989 in its attempt to build this coalition with China.

I could look at other nations and ask the same question. Others will do that, I am sure.

### *Government Orders*

A question again that we as elected representatives of the people must ask ourselves surely is: What would this war be all about? What would be the objective of going to war at this point? Would it be to restore democracy to Kuwait, to Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the region? No, of course not. Kuwait is far from a democracy.

As the Secretary of State for External Affairs said last night, it is a semi-feudal society. We are not talking here about restoring democracy to countries which are sorely in need of democracy and respect for human rights.

Are we talking about the United States demonstrating respect for international law and being opposed to aggression? I do not think they have to look very far at the history of the United States in the world community to recognize that it has, far too frequently, displayed total contempt for international law, whether it be in East Timor with a genocide of over 200,000 people when Indonesia invaded, whether it be its active support for its murderous regimes in Chile or in El Salvador today, pumping in over \$1 million a day, or whether it be its silence in the face of other invasions and the question of Tibet and Cyprus, and its involvement, as my colleague from Vancouver East has said, in Grenada and Panama. I think it is pretty clear that the United States has a rather selective view and a selective respect for international law which is demonstrated very well in its contempt for resolutions dealing with the occupied territories.

I want to note as well, and I think it is important in examining the history of this conflict, to note the position that the United States took, not in another country in another jurisdiction, but with Iraq one week before Iraq invaded Kuwait. There was a meeting between Saddam Hussein and the United States ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie on July 25, one week before Iraq invaded Kuwait. We have a transcript of the meeting that took place between the United States ambassador and Saddam Hussein. This is what the United States ambassador said to Saddam Hussein during the course of that conversation one week before the invasion.

In talking about the effects of the price of oil dropping, she said:

I think I understand this. I have lived here for years. I admire your extraordinary efforts to rebuild your country. I know you need funds. We understand that and our opinion is that you should have the opportunity to rebuild your country.

Then the ambassador of the United States said this: