

None of us in this House wants war. But sometimes it is necessary to fight for peace. And this is one of those times. I believe that as a nation we must bear our burden in doing by force what diplomacy and sanctions could not do. We must secure Saddam Hussein's withdrawal from Kuwait as 12 U.N. Security Council Resolutions demand. And we must maintain solidarity with our coalition partners -- within the region and outside it -- many of whom are bearing a far larger burden than we are. What would the world think of us if we withdrew our forces when the going got tough and we retired to the sidelines? And, more important, what would we think of ourselves?

Canada will do its share. I can tell Canadians that we have the full capacity now to meet the obligations we have assumed and that all of our obligations can be met without the introduction of a policy of conscription. All Members of this House want to see this conflict end -- no one more than my colleagues and I. But some Members argue that we should have a pause in the conflict, now. In our view, such a pause would be counterproductive. Resolution 678 -- the resolution that Canada co-sponsored -- has already provided for a pause. The Government sees no point in pausing again.

The proper response to Saddam Hussein's intransigence and brutality is not to reward him with a respite from the war he started. It is in no one's interest to make it any easier for him to position more missiles to attack the cities of Israel and Saudi Arabia. And we are not going to take a chance at letting him regroup, rebuild his damaged infrastructure, and deepen his defences. The first order of business is to win the war. The second order of business is to win the peace.

Saddam Hussein has exploited the fissures and fractures of the most volatile region in the world. This is a region where weapons of mass destruction exist. This is a region that has made arms merchants rich. It is a region where many are poor and politics notoriously unstable.

The history of this region is that one war has simply set the stage for the next war. While the battles continue and Kuwait is being freed, while the United Nations resolutions are being implemented, Canadian diplomats have begun to consider what to do afterwards to bring peace and security to this turbulent region. The military victory we seek will be short and bitter, if we do not build just and durable peace. We will spare no effort in seeking solutions to those problems. Seeking solutions to those problems starts with the United Nations. If we succeed in maintaining our unity of purpose now, the problems of this region can be addressed by a U.N. that has stood the test of crisis. If we do not succeed in maintaining our unity of purpose, those problems will fester in the face of a discredited U.N.