

to be very costly, waiting to see if sanctions will work is very costly as well.

If sanctions failed at the end of the given period of time—16 months, 36 months, whatever—what then would be the guarantee that the coalition would still be united and able to fight 16 months down the road, let alone 60? And fight for what? Fight for the integrity and respect of the United Nations without which a civilized world cannot exist.

Were Saddam Hussein to succeed, the costs to Canadian interests—and I define Canadian interests very clearly to include the discrediting of the United Nations, the distortion of international order, the trampling of human rights—and the impact on the world economy would be unacceptable.

I have heard it said that Canadian interests are not engaged. When the United Nations is discredited, when a member state is invaded, when human rights are being abused, when people are being slaughtered, I say that Canada's rights and Canada's interests are very much engaged and must be defended.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** For all these reasons, the government believes that Canada should continue to support the United Nations in taking all possible measures to cause Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Some allege that the government is simply following the lead of the United States administration on this issue. This is perhaps the most tired and threadbare accusation of all, because as Prime Minister Pearson wrote derisively in his memoirs: "a sure way to get applause and support at home is to exploit (Canadians') anxieties and exaggerate (their) suspicions over United States power and policies", and Mr. Pearson was right.

It should not be surprising or offensive to anybody that the views of free nations often coincide. In fact, in this case the views of all leading western nations led by governments of very different political stripes, including the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, France, the United States, and Canada, are in harmony.

Why not? We all share the values of liberty, democracy and equality before the law. Our institutions all draw

their validity from the free expression of the wills of our people. In foreign affairs, we all stand for the respect of international law.

It is certainly not surprising to members of this government that in light of the stakes on this issue these democracies, leading western industrialized democracies, all back the United Nations very strongly.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Canada worked hard to persuade the United States to work within the United Nations and to forgo unilateral action. The international coalition knows it must now be prepared to stand up for what is right.

• (1200)

Bob Hawke, the distinguished Prime Minister of Australia and leader of the socialist party in his country, the Labour Party, in weighing the same considerations we are weighing today, told his Parliament on December 4:

—if conflict occurs of a kind which is contemplated and authorized by the (United Nations) resolution, (Australian) ships will be available to participate fully in actions with the allied fleet—

[*Translation*]

François Mitterrand, President of France and leader of his country's Socialist Party, has made clear his country's position when he said, and I quote: "France considers a complete withdrawal from Kuwait to be an inviolable principle. Moreover, (France) holds that the January 15th deadline cannot be postponed or extended for any reason whatsoever". The President of France concluded that: "If the conditions that have been set are not fulfilled, then France will be doing its duty."

[*English*]

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Major has been equally clear and consistent on this point.

Mr. Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition in the United Kingdom, said last week that his party, the socialist party, the Labour Party of the United Kingdom, "will not, in the interests of distancing ourselves from the government, distance ourselves from our forces or from our obligations to the United Nations".

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.