

As the Prime Minister stated on August 10 of this year:

The international community must do everything possible to ensure the respect of international law and to prevent its transgression. The lessons of history are clear—no civilized nation is excused from its broader responsibilities to the world community for international peace and order.

Since its inception, the United Nations, was designed to be the primary conduit of action on the international stage. Ever since 1945, the United Nations has sought to uphold international law and order. Unfortunately, from 1945 to as recently as this past summer, the cold war prevented any solidarity by the United Nations. Now, however, and in fact beginning with this crisis, for the first time the United Nations is working as it was originally designed. Since 1945, few other nations have worked as loyally and as diligently within the United Nations as Canada.

Since August 2, the United Nations Security Council has passed no less than 10 resolutions pertaining to the Persian Gulf crisis. Contrary to popular belief, propagated by some in the media and some in the socialist party on the other side, it is the world community and not simply the United States, that has acted quickly and decisively in response to this crisis. The UN Security Council resolution 660, which Canada, under the leadership of Ambassador Yves Fortier co-sponsored, states: "Determined that a breach of international peace and security had taken place, and therefore condemned the Iraqi invasion, demanded its withdrawal from Kuwait and called upon Iraq and Kuwait to negotiate".

Clearly it has been the world community, under the auspices of the United Nations, that has stood up to Iraq. Let us not be misled into thinking that we have blindly and naively followed just the United States into the crisis; we have not.

• (2010)

Again, Alex Morrison of the Canadian Institute for Strategic Studies has said:

We (Canadians) act differently from the Americans in many ways. We have a different South African policy, a different Cuban policy, a different Middle East policy, a different Central American policy. At the United Nations, where I was part of the delegation for six years and a member of the Security Council delegation, Canada voted differently from the Americans on international security and arms control issues 66 per cent to 75 per cent of the time each year.

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This situation is no different. Canada, in fact, has played an instrumental role at the Security Council. In fact, nine out of the 10 resolutions have been co-sponsored by Canada. Additionally, according to a *New York Times* article, of August 30, 1990, at a time when the Americans were considering acting alone with naval interdictions of Iraqi commerce at sea, Canada's United Nation's representative, Yves Fortier argued, and I quote from *The New York Times* article:

—that the Security Council should instead take a step-by-step approach under the Charter's Article 42, which provides for blockades and other military actions but only with explicit Security Council approval.

Subsequent actions by the Americans attest to the strength of the Canadian argument.

Nevertheless, there can be no denying the importance of the leadership that the United States has provided in this crisis. Acceptance of their responsibilities as a world power may even have prevented greater international repercussions and perhaps forestalled any expanded attack by Iraq on the oil lines in Saudi Arabia itself.

Mr. Speaker, what has led to the impression that Canada is subservient to the Americans? The question is deeply disturbing to me and, I am sure, many other members of this House. Obviously, our role at the United Nations has been overlooked by our own media. How else can we explain the lack of media coverage of the positive actions of Yves Fortier at the United Nations?

An hon. member: There is no positive action.

Mr. Reimer: I am not alone in my concern. Dr. John Sigler, political scientist at Carleton University in Ottawa, in response to a question at the external affairs and international trade committee meeting, stated—and I invite my socialist friends to do a little listening for a change. Instead of talking from the seat of their pants, why do they not listen and then speak a little more in informed debate. Dr. Sigler said:

We do not have someone, as far as I know, in the Canadian media who is an expert on the United Nations, who sits there and systematically has told the story of what has happened. We have all read *The New York Times*. The French do a much better job.

And then Dr. John Sigler went on to say, and I quote:

I only learned, frankly, that Fortier had strongly stood up to the Americans on the blockade from (the) cable news network from Atlanta. I never saw any of it here. There was quite a story there about the fact that Canada, France, and the Soviet Union had taken a strong