

Oral Questions

We understand that the United States is moving forces into Saudi Arabia and that U.S. planes are on alert for a possible strike on Baghdad. Of course, everyone in this House is concerned about this. In a report from the White House, it did say that western allies have agreed to this operation.

Could the Prime Minister tell this House what Canada has agreed to, if anything, and could he give us some information on this situation from a Canadian perspective.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that Secretary Cheney of the United States has indicated that these reports are very considerably inflated in regard to what may or may not be contemplated.

What is taking place, as my hon. friend knows, is repeated violations by Saddam Hussein of United Nations' prescriptions and rulings pursuant to agreed upon resolutions of the Security Council in regard to implementation. He persists in violating and flaunting the will of the international body. The United Nations has conveyed to him the views that these must be accepted in their entirety. His attitude has been to understate the case and be extremely unhelpful.

I hope it was not lost on him what happened when he proceeded with imprudence the last time. If Saddam Hussein has any vestiges of intelligence, which many people doubt, he will immediately follow to the letter all of the rulings of the United Nations Security Council.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell us specifically what Canada's response is and whether Canada would have a role in this. Could he tell the House specifically what his instructions have been on behalf of the Government of Canada regarding this?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Inasmuch as Canada has not been asked to play any given role, I cannot respond because it would be entirely hypothetical.

Canada was a member of the Security Council when the matter was resolved and the prescriptions were drawn up and designed. As a member of the Security Council and as a member of the General Assembly we, along with every other nation in the world, with one or

two exceptions, insist on the full and strict application of those sanctions as they apply to Iraq.

I suppose the message all members would want to send to Iraq is that in their own interests, and the interests of all of their people, to urge their leadership to comply immediately and totally with the prescriptions of the United Nations.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. Did President Bush get in touch with the Prime Minister about the situation? And if so, what was the Prime Minister's answer?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, President Bush did not get in touch with me about this, and in fact we are referring to resolutions already ratified by the United Nations Security Council. What we see today is a refusal by Saddam Hussein to comply with rulings already approved by the Security Council.

Three months ago, the President of Iraq refused to proceed with caution. He underestimated the political will of the civilized world. The direct threat to peace, to his neighbours and to Israel was very real. It was made clear to him what the consequences might be but he has refused to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council. He is now being urged to comply, fully and without delay, with those resolutions.

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MONTREAL'S ECONOMY

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

The government is playing the fiddle while Montreal burns! This summer, government members begged the government to do something about the situation in Montreal. It has done nothing.

This morning, the government of Quebec released a devastating report on the economy in the metropolitan area which totally contradicts all the claims made by Tory ministers. Things have never been worse in all the 25 years I have been a resident of Montreal.

My question is this, and I think the time for the usual stock answers is past, what specific plan—perhaps the Prime Minister would care to listen to what I have to