

I am very pleased to be with you here today under the auspices of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. The Institute has earned the reputation over the years of being a leading forum for the discussion of the world's great questions and the issues that they confront our country with.

Nothing could be more normal under the circumstances than to pursue with you the indispensable dialogue which the government wishes to sustain with Canadians at a time when our country is passing through a crucial period in the history of international relations over the past 40 years.

It was with full consideration for the significance of its action that the government made the weighty decision to involve our forces in the fight. One must have the courage of one's convictions. When the international community unanimously calls for the defence of peace, and when the basic principles underlying the international order are involved, Canada must respond. As an architect of the UN system, we must fulfil our international responsibilities to the letter and must do our part to apply the principles upheld by the UN.

The forceful occupation of the territory of a United Nations member is unacceptable and violates the basic principles of the international order. Faced with the invasion of Kuwait, the international community had certain options, one of which was inaction and passivity. This would have been an unpardonable abdication, the acceptance of the outmoded notion of the power of the strong over the weak. An immediate, unilateral counter-strike by a limited number of countries would have amounted to a small group of countries appropriating the role of world policeman. These options were both unacceptable and would both have had disastrous consequences for the future of world relations.

With wisdom but not without some reticence, the community of states resolved to resort wholly to the United Nations to face this threat to its collective security. This was a great victory for the UN system and for countries like Canada, which have based their diplomacy on the construction of a credible, effective multilateral system.

Rarely have such unanimity and such determination been shown within the Security Council, and with the support of the vast majority of UN members. Let us not forget that countries as disparate as Pakistan and Argentina, Senegal and Bulgaria,