

*Government Orders*

As we know, Canada's commitment to the multinational effort involves nearly 1,700 men and women. Some 950 of these are with the Canadian task group, while our deployment of eighteen CF-18s and their associated support staff accounts for an additional 570 personnel. Both elements of our contribution are under the command of Commodore Ken Summers, whose joint task force headquarters reports directly to the Chief of the Defence Staff here in Ottawa, thus ensuring that our forces are employed only in those roles to which the government has agreed. Tactical arrangements for the employment of Canadian forces personnel as part of the over-all multinational deployment have been arranged for the Canadian task group and the CF-18s.

As all hon. members are aware, the deployment of the Canadian task group was announced on August 10 by the Prime Minister. After the ships were prepared for departure, they sailed across the Atlantic and through the Mediterranean before passing through the Suez Canal on September 16. That task group began its patrol in the assigned areas of the Persian Gulf on October 1 and has been able to utilize port facilities in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The deployment of the eighteen CF-18s from 409 Squadron, which is based in Baden-Soellingen, was announced by the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs on September 14. These aircrafts are based in Qatar, and have been flying defensive air patrols over designated areas of the Persian Gulf since the middle of October, and Squadron 409 will soon be replaced by Squadron 416 from Cold Lake, where I visited last week.

The Canadian task group and the squadron of CF-18s have been deployed as part of a multinational effort to deter further Iraqi aggression and to ensure strict implementation of the United Nations embargo. As I noted before, Canada has certainly pulled its weight in this endeavour. At one point, Canadian ships and aircraft have been involved in the monitoring and interception of nearly 1,000 ships in pursuit of effective maritime trade sanctions against Iraq. Beyond this, they have participated in a number of actual boardings, all of which have taken place, fortunately, without incident. In addition,

our squadron of CF-18s has been able to increase its number of daily patrols when required, and has been asked to cover critical air space over the Persian Gulf.

I think all Canadians can take great satisfaction from the way in which the skill and professionalism of the Canadian forces personnel has contributed to the controlled, yet effective enforcement of the UN trade embargo. What has been especially striking has been the way in which our personnel have adapted to the very challenging circumstances. Not only have they adjusted to the extremely demanding climate of the Persian Gulf, but our naval personnel and pilots have received outstanding support from Canadian forces personnel in Canada, Germany and in the gulf, all of whom have responded with innovation and a great deal of hard work in organizing and sustaining Canadian air and maritime operations there.

In summary, quoting the all-party committee that went over, as it reported, it said:

In summary, we give top marks to the Canadian contingent in the gulf. They are contributing in a proficient way to Canada's highest traditions of outstanding international service in the cause of peace.

I want to say, as well, how much we appreciate the support of many individual Canadians: school children, business people, Canadians across the country who have been sending letters, calling and showing their support to Canadian men and women. It really means a lot to them when they are over there in the Persian Gulf.

Canada's security also depends on a stable international order. To this end, a continuing feature of our foreign and defence policy has been a broad-based commitment to promote international peace and security. We have pursued these objectives over the years in a variety of ways, in collective defence arrangements and multilateral peacekeeping operations. Canada has an outstanding record in those areas, one of which we are very proud.

However, Canada's commitment, as well, to international order has also entailed and must continue to oblige a commitment to collective security and defence, a commitment which we have seen as Canadians have fought in Europe in the world wars and in Korea. Since 1945, Canada has helped create a system of collective security which looked to Europe as the first line of defence. These commitments have taught us that security at home is meaningless unless all members of the