

Government Orders

The human tragedy of Kuwait has been documented by Amnesty International. It has been mentioned in the House. It does not need repeating. But this is the ugly reality of today. Today, as we speak and debate what Canada's part should be, that ugly reality continues and a nation of people are being destroyed.

There has been much said about the impressive array of international forces that have been assembled. There has been much discussion that this is an American-led initiative. There has been much discussion in the House about Canada following instructions, false as those accusations are, of another country.

I want to remind members of the House that in 1939, when it sent its young men and women into battle, Canada did not follow the instructions of the United States. I want to remind the men and women in the House that in 1940 Canada did not follow the lead of the United States. I want to remind them that in Korea Canada did not follow the lead of the United States. Canada has made its own decision over its history as to how to take part and how to contribute to world order. It is making that decision today, independent of any other thought because it is right to make that decision.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McKnight: Nine Arab states are part of the international force. The newly emerging democracies of eastern Europe—Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland—are making a contribution to world order. Two states from the African continent, Niger and Senegal, are making a contribution. Why?

The right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra and the right hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs both identified in their addresses to the House the damage, harm, and deprivation that this naked aggression by Iraq is causing the poorest of the poor in the world.

• (1720)

There has been discussion from Iraq and an explanation put forward to the world that in some way this would assist the Palestinian cause, or in some way this was to resist economic aggression by the small country of Kuwait. This aggression took place for no reason but pure greed and power on behalf of Saddam Hussein and his wish for himself. That is what caused the crisis that we are debating today. It is power and profit on behalf of Saddam Hussein.

There is no difference between what we see in the response of the United Nations today and how it has attempted to respond in the past. I say to hon. members that there is a new reality in the United Nations today. It is because of the end of the cold war. It is because of the resolution between the two superpowers that both the United States and the U.S.S.R. will use the United Nations now as an instrument of world order.

When we sent Canadian men and women to the gulf to enforce the embargo against Iraq authorized by the United Nations, we had hoped, as all citizens of this country and other countries had hoped, that the sanctions would bring about the withdrawal of Saddam Hussein.

Some 12 solemn resolutions of the United Nations, from 660 to 678, were all designed to bring about the removal of the aggressor in Kuwait. It has to be remembered that during that time Saddam Hussein, even in the pause for peace, continued to build up his military strength, to occupy the country of Kuwait, and to brutalize the people of that nation.

When we take a look at what would happen, I found it very difficult yesterday when the Leader of the Liberal Party in his address said: "What is wrong with the status quo at this time?" What is wrong with the status quo is that a country is being occupied, its citizens are being brutalized, and a region of the world is in disorder. Order has to be restored.

The pillage and the occupation continues, and the international community has made a decision on a resolution co-sponsored by the United Kingdom, the United States, the U.S.S.R., and Canada. That is resolution 678 which demands that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait by a deadline. That deadline has passed and the Security Council said if that deadline has passed, states were authorized to use all necessary means to bring about Iraq's withdrawal.

It does not constitute any change in the objectives of the Security Council from the start, from 660. Resolution 660 called upon Iraq to remove itself from Kuwait. Every resolution since that, including 678, wants to bring about and is designed to bring about the same thing, the removal of Saddam Hussein.

I have heard in the House that there was something wrong with the drafting of the UN resolution. As much as I admire the intellect of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I do not believe that their intellect is superior to that of the United Nations assembled, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to the legal staff of the United Nations body.