

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 16, 1991

The House met at 2 p.m.

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*Prayers*

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### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

#### PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday more than 500 people in Val d'Or took part in the first pacifist demonstration in the area against the war in the Persian Gulf. Demonstrators, most of whom were students, accompanied by teachers, representatives of associations, unions, native communities and the people of Val d'Or quietly walked for three kilometres.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that this march for peace in my riding was organized by a first-year student at the Polyvalente Le Carrefour of Val d'Or, 13-year old Tommy Saucier, who has every reason to be proud of this success.

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[*English*]

#### TEST BAN TREATY

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, since January 7, an important conference has been taking place at the United Nations in New York. This is a special conference to convert the partial test ban treaty into a comprehensive test ban treaty and thereby ban all nuclear tests.

At the present time only underground tests are permitted, but there have been over 1,000 of these tests since 1970, and the number of nuclear weapons increased from 20,000 to 50,000. Unfortunately, the United States and the United Kingdom are opposing this conference and Canada is not supportive. This is hard to understand, since some of the states involved in the Middle East crisis are pressing to develop nuclear weapons and a comprehensive test ban would retard this development.

Before this conference ends on Friday, I would ask the Canadian government to support the continuation of the conference and a comprehensive test ban. Stop the development of nuclear weapons.

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#### EL SALVADOR

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, at this time of war threat caused by a bloody dictator, the death squads of El Salvador openly claim the right to absolute power.

For 10 days after Christmas, my wife Alice and I, with others, visited El Salvador. We met many unarmed people who are risking their lives to repopulate the rural areas, build a movement for peace in El Salvador, and contest the March 10 national and municipal elections.

One of them, whose father, the rector of the University of El Salvador was assassinated by the death squads in 1980, returned from exile and is running as a candidate for the national assembly.

Two days ago *the Globe and Mail* reported the broadcast by the death squads, claiming to represent "a superior capitalist class (that)—has a duty to exploit—and even exterminate the inferior classes when the benefits of capitalism require such".

I call on the Secretary of State for External Affairs to demand that President Cristiani of El Salvador suppress the death squads.

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#### PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

**Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel):** Mr. Speaker, the debate we are engaged in now is not an easy one. We are debating the future and whether or not Canada should stand with 30 other nations against the aggression of Iraq.

After hearing the talk in this House of Commons, Canadians have a right to be confused. Perhaps it would be useful if we all asked ourselves some simple questions. Is this a war about Kuwait, Iraq, oil supplies, Texaco's profits, or is it about preventing a global nuclear war?