

*Oral Questions*

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same minister.

On November 28, the Secretary of State told us that it was the responsibility of "all nations to seek a basis for the peaceful acceptance of Security Council resolutions", and later in December he told Canadians that "our government is determined that no stone be left unturned in our efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis".

We have heard from the minister today about French, British, and Yemeni proposals. We are going to hear about what Canada has done in the last five weeks. What we want to know is what peace initiatives this government will pursue today and tomorrow to avert a war in the gulf.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Two things, Mr. Speaker. First, I should make it very clear, as I believe I did in the answer to a question from the New Democratic Party, that we are actively working with other countries to see if it is possible to make progress on some of the proposals that are now being considered, one of which,—the French proposal—reflects to a remarkable degree proposals that Canada itself put forward.

The point is not to have a number of proposals that we can wave around and say that we did this. The point is to try to have something that will work. There are some proposals that may work. I have already answered the question that we are using all of our energy, as we have through this period, to try to see if it is possible to make those proposals that are now on the table, that are now being considered, work.

But, as I said in French a moment ago, the question really is not a question for the United States, for France or even for Canada. The question now is a question for Saddam Hussein. Will he accept the condition precedent in the French proposal which is that he must signal clearly and unequivocally his willingness to withdraw troops from Kuwait and to begin to respect Security Council resolutions?

Finally, as I said to her colleague the other day in committee, we have no monopoly on good ideas. If the hon. member has a proposal that she believes we should pursue, we would be very pleased to have that. We have been pursuing—

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. If there is a war and we take part in it, our safety will be jeopardized, here, in Canada. We should not delude ourselves about that. The transportation system, particularly for air transportation, as well as systems supplying us with drinking water, will all become potential targets.

Can the government confirm that it has taken, in conjunction with the provinces, every step to ensure the safety of these infrastructures and of the Canadian people on our own territory? Can the Prime minister tell us specifically what he has done in that area?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Solicitor General of Canada):** There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the government is well aware of the risks the hon. member is referring to. Saddam Hussein and some of his colleagues even made direct threats. Mechanisms are in place to allow us to identify such risks that could be facing Canada as well as evaluate them and take appropriate action if need be.

[*English*]

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, that answer is hardly complete. It is very clear, given the fact that the decision to go to war is a discretionary one arising out of the failure to allow sanctions to work. I am delighted to hear the Secretary of State for External Affairs fully endorse the French proposal. I take it this is a new piece of information just provided us.

Be that as it may, it is crucial now to provide the civilian population with assurances that its security is being looked after.

What steps has the government taken in terms of public information, even more important in terms of public education, to prepare Canadians at home for possible acts of retaliation? Furthermore, what steps has the government taken in terms of those Canadians who are working abroad to provide them with contingency protection in case of war?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Solicitor General of Canada):** Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to reaffirm the fact that we have taken those threats very seriously. It is very important that not only Canada be vigilant but that all countries in the world be vigilant, because threats have been made to other countries as well.