

*S. O. 31*

The Canadian navy has had a proud record throughout its history. Our sailors do not turn and run when the shooting starts. They do not want their government and their MPs to tell them to.

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## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, today the world is perched on the edge of an unthinkable abyss. Calculating the loss of life which will result from war in the Middle East is horrifying.

Equally horrifying is the long-term impact on the global environment. Experts have determined that even if only one-half of the oil wells in Kuwait are set on fire, the wells will burn for months, producing millions of tonnes of ozone depleting and global warming gases. The resulting clouds of black smoke will create the effect of a nuclear winter.

The burning of the Kuwaiti oil fields would cause temperature extremes and alter monsoon patterns at tremendous costs to food production world-wide. It is estimated that over one billion people in Asia would face starvation as a result of monsoon failure. Even partial monsoon failure could cause more deaths than the population of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia combined.

A war in the gulf would have disastrous environmental implications. I am not scare-mongering. I am asking, in light of these facts, how can we even contemplate a war as a solution to this crisis?

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## PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

**Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, in listening to the debate today, the choice seems to be to respect our commitment to the United Nations or to renege, to stand on the sidelines and wait.

But wait for how long? Until the threat of UN action against Iraq is no longer credible? Wait until Kuwait is destroyed? Wait until the death of every man, woman and child in Kuwait? Wait until Saddam attacks further? Wait until Iraq develops nuclear capability? Wait until a UN coalition breaks up?

Neville Chamberlain said wait. Saddam Hussein has defined our choice for us.

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[Translation]

## PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, January 14, on behalf of the centre of peace undertakings in Canada, President Frans Manouvrier handed to me and to my colleagues petitions bearing the signatures of 4,770 Canadian men and women opposed to a military intervention in the Persian Gulf. These petitions are addressed to the Canadian government and urge it to take a pacifist approach to the gulf crisis.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Manouvrier, Mrs. Johanne Robitaille and all those who worked to gather nearly 5,000 signatures of people in favour of peace. I urge all the citizens of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell to sign similar petitions.

We must not intervene forcefully as long as there is still a chance to maintain peace in the Persian Gulf.

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## PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, on August 2, 1990, without any warning or the slightest provocation, Iraq, a member of the United Nations, invaded and has since occupied Kuwait, a small country also a member of the United Nations. It is no longer simply a conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, but a conflict between Iraq and the rest of the world. Rarely has the international community shown such solidarity against an aggressor. Never has the United Nations reacted so efficiently, and never in the last 40 years has Canada felt such a need to react.

Our prime minister, the right hon. Brian Mulroney, and our Secretary of State for External Affairs, the right hon. Joe Clark, have used every diplomatic channels in an effort to resolve this crisis in a peaceful way, because, that is what all Canadians wish would happen before midnight today in the Persian Gulf.