

*Government Orders*

and confidence in our senior military officials directing this operation.

I have also heard the views of Harvey and Tina Meek of Markham. Their son Harvey is a jet pilot with 439 squadron in Qatar. Tina believes strongly that Canada should be involved. Like the Van Nostrands she, obviously, would have preferred a peaceful solution to have been found.

However, Mr. and Mrs. Meek believe Canada must honour its commitment to the UN resolution. Tina said Harvey has chosen this profession and is well-trained to do the job he has been asked to do. "He is an excellent pilot" said Tina "and is proud to have been chosen to go." Both Janet Van Nostrand and Tina Meek conveyed a strong sense of pride in their sons. They believe our service people should have the full support of all Canadians as they carry out their ominous responsibilities in this tragic war.

Last Sunday afternoon I attended a special prayer vigil for the Persian Gulf crisis. It was an ecumenical service organized by churches in the Stouffville area. Approximately 150 to 200 Christians were in attendance. We prayed for the leaders of all nations involved, including Saddam Hussein. We prayed for the military personnel and civilians on both sides of this conflict. We prayed regarding our own response to the prospects of war. Also, we prayed to celebrate Christ's sovereignty and Lordship.

Since Monday of this week I have had 23 concerned people in my riding call my constituency office in Unionville. Fifteen people believed that Canada should not be involved in an armed conflict and eight said that Canada should support United Nations' efforts to stop Saddam Hussein.

I, too, wanted a peaceful solution and I, too, did not want Canada to be involved in a war. I did not want John Van Nostrand and Harvey Meek to be involved in an armed conflict. I would have liked to have seen an absolute end to war on this planet. Mankind should be capable of achieving this.

In my view, the United Nations is the only vehicle or process through which world-wide peace can ultimately be achieved. When Kuwait was first invaded by Saddam Hussein last August, I understand that the United States

was on the verge of declaring war on Iraq and going it alone to drive Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

Through the efforts and interventions of our Prime Minister, President George Bush was persuaded to act under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Iraqi issue has been the moment of truth for the United Nations. The usefulness of the League of Nations was dashed when Italy was allowed to invade Ethiopia in 1936 without a mobilized and co-ordinated effort by allied nations to force the Italian aggressors out.

Thanks to the end of the cold war and the dramatic changes in the Soviet Union's economic and military policies, we now have witnessed for the very first time the U.S.S.R. voting with the United States and other members of the UN Security Council to condemn, in effect, the actions of Saddam Hussein and take military action, if necessary, to drive the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. If the Security Council had not passed resolution 678, I believe the value and purpose of the United Nations would have been permanently crippled.

We are witnessing the most remarkable chapter in the history of the United Nations. It will be a chapter which will send a strong statement to would-be aggressor nations for decades to come. I believe it will be a strong deterrent to the leader of any country which might consider attacking or invading another country. Such a leader can no longer assume that he would capitalize on having two of the world's superpowers on opposite sides of the conflict. Such a leader would have to be cognizant that in 1991 the U.S.S.R. and the United States voted in unison to condemn Saddam Hussein's brutal invasion of Kuwait and that on Wednesday, January 16, the United Nations' contingent attacked Iraq.

Over the past few weeks, like many Canadians, I have struggled with the question of whether sanctions would work. Only a few days ago, I thought that we should consider recommending an extension of the period for sanctions to work. However, I have been persuaded that with a tyrannical regime, such as that in place in Iraq, sanctions would not work. I believe Saddam Hussein and his army would have continued to be well fed. I also believe that thousands of average Iraqi citizens were undergoing grave hardships regarding lack of food, safe drinking water, medical supplies, and proper sanitation. However, there is not the remotest chance that these