

and they deserve the country's gratitude and support. Both they and their families have our prayers for a safe return.

If war comes, Canadians will be at risk. Saddam Hussein has openly and blatantly threatened to use weapons of mass destruction in the region and to sponsor terrorist activity abroad as well. We have, therefore, advised Canadians that they should defer travel to the region and, if they are already there, to consider leaving now.

CSIS and the RCMP have increased their levels of alert. On this point, I want to reassure Iraqi-Canadians that they will not be subject in any way to illegal surveillance or unwarranted detention, as was the case in regard to other citizens during World War II. That lesson fortunately has been learned.

The House has been recalled today, in these serious circumstances, to permit members to express themselves on the Gulf crisis in the full knowledge of the facts and of the government's position on them. We are asking that the opposition join in re-affirming Canadian support of the U.N. in securing the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. This procedure is consistent with our tradition in the past.

In 1939, the Leader of the Opposition, stated in this House for example that "We are going through a very grave crisis," ... he said, "It is no exaggeration to say that this is a war for the preservation of human liberty." "So far as my party is concerned... there will not be... anything in the way of political manoeuvring or captious criticism."

And, in June 1950, the Honourable Stanley Knowles, speaking on behalf of his party on the Korean crisis, pledged his party's "complete support of the principle of collective security, and [their] readiness to carry [their] support of that principle into all it may involve." Mr. Knowles went on to say that "the government has the concurrence of all the groups in this house in its readiness to support the action taken by the United Nations. "That is clearly our obligation, and that way alone lies hope. If we can deal with this present crisis on that basis and demonstrate the effectiveness of collective action for peace we may yet achieve much more in that direction than at times we have dared to hope."

As it was in 1950, so it still is in 1991. The Government is acutely conscious of the gravity of the situation. Canada is a peaceful country. Canada Day is an occasion for family gatherings and friendship not for bombast and military parades. Canada is a country that stands for decency and peace but we are also a country that stands for principles -- respect for the law, freedom and human dignity.

The fundamental truth in this debate is that if we want peace we must defend these principles which are enshrined in the U.N. Charter. We must be prepared to stand up for what's right. To do otherwise is to signal to Saddam Hussein and to other potential aggressors that the U.N. is incapable of responding effectively to aggression. No moral superiority accrues to those who stand on the sidelines and let