

failed. For the entire period during which they were in force, he was also pillaging Kuwait, building up huge reserves for his forces and compelling the Kuwaiti population to take flight. Within a short time, the Coalition would have liberated nothing but a desert and a few inhabitants in total subjection to Saddam Hussein. No, the United Nations had no choice, under the Charter, but to use force in the interest of justice and thus begin an operation to restore peace and international security...

The soldiers who are courageously discharging their mission are entitled to expect the politicians to do everything possible to prevent us from finding ourselves in such straits in the future. They are perfectly justified in this.

The building of peace

Paradoxical as it may seem, this war expresses the firm desire of the international community to build a better world founded on justice and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. This determination must go far beyond the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty. We have waited too long for this kind of attitude, this demonstration of responsibility on the part of the United Nations, not to feel collegially committed to ensuring that this new spirit also manifests itself in the search for long-term solutions to the inextricable problems of the Middle East.

Canada is playing an active part in this undertaking. I would like to share with you today my thoughts on the matter, along with certain initiatives that the Prime Minister is announcing today in Ottawa and that Canada intends to pursue in the months ahead.

To begin with, we must, above all, be realistic. For Canada at this stage to claim to have the answers to the problems of the Middle East would be presumptuous. Why? Simply because it is first and foremost the business of the countries in the region to together find solutions to the current situation. No lasting solution can be imposed from without. A commitment on the part of the countries immediately involved is essential to stability and security in this region.

This having been said, the task is a considerable one and will also require the cooperation of countries beyond the Middle East. In fact, many of the causes of instability in this region, such as the central problem of the proliferation of arms, call for solutions that would involve the whole international community. We will also have to count on the mobilization of international resources, notably those of the UN, to respond to the humanitarian and security problems that have been aggravated by Saddam Hussein's adventurism...

Immediate post-war issues

[T]hree pressing questions will arise once the objectives of the Security Council resolutions have been achieved and the ceasefire has been established:

- humanitarian assistance will have to be provided to the civilian populations and to displaced persons;
- a peacekeeping force will have to be established; and
- the damage caused to the environment by the huge oil slicks in the Gulf will have to be repaired.

Humanitarian assistance

We must continue the magnificent coordination and cooperation effort that the various international organizations have begun... Canada has made a substantial contribution to these efforts, by channelling about \$16 million to humanitarian needs of the total \$77.5 million we have committed for economic assistance. We intend to continue our commitment without any a priori exclusivity. It will be necessary, no doubt, to help the Iraqi people and to respond to the needs of countries such as Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. However, we will have to mobilize the resources of the entire international community, especially countries that have shown considerable surplus oil revenues and those whose military commitment within the Coalition has been limited.

A peacekeeping force

Moreover, the borders of Kuwait must initially be guaranteed by a peacekeeping force, ideally under the

authority of the United Nations. Canada feels that this force must consist mainly of troops from the countries of the region. Their expertise, however, is limited. That is why Canada, which has a well-established reputation in this field, has offered its services to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the countries of the region to establish a training program. In addition, we are prepared to participate both in the establishment of such a peacekeeping force and in the planning operations that its deployment requires. We are also prepared to cooperate with the United Nations in calling a meeting of experts in Canada with the responsibility of analyzing needs and identifying the various alternatives that are worth exploring...

Restoration of the environment

[W]e must collectively tackle the clean-up of the damage caused by the insane dumping of unprecedented quantities of crude oil into the Gulf. A team of Canadian specialists is already on site and is busy planning this operation together with colleagues from many countries. But we must also look further ahead and examine how to strengthen present conventions on the use of the environment for military purposes. It may be necessary to negotiate a new instrument. We have already taken the initiative of contacting certain countries to pursue this project further. At the same time, we will examine the possibility of reinforcing the international mechanisms currently provided to respond to such emergencies.

Medium-range challenges

But these immediate post-war problems seem almost trivial compared to the challenges of establishing lasting peace and security in this region...

A global approach to security

While a peacekeeping force is a factor in maintaining equilibrium, it cannot in and of itself claim to fully guarantee the security of the Gulf states. Regional arrangements must thus be complemented by international guarantees