

Government Orders

difficult question of whether to use other means beyond the economic sanctions which are already in place.

No one wants war, but Iraq started a war with the brutal and merciless invasion of Kuwait. No one wants war, but Iraq's continued attempt to eliminate the identity and very existence of a member state of the United Nations cannot be ignored. No one wants war, but Iraq must clearly understand the firmness of international resolve. That is the reason why the Security Council will be adopting a further resolution tomorrow and why this House should support the resolution before it tonight.

The Persian Gulf is in conflict tonight. There can be no denying of this fact. Not only has Iraq acted belligerently toward Kuwait, it has since held captive third country nationals as hostage, contrary to the principles of the United Nations.

Bernard Wood of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security stated the following in an External Affairs and International Trade committee meeting:

First of all, let us be clear, there is a war in the Persian Gulf right now. There is an aggression that has taken place, and it has not been rolled back. Saddam Hussein declared and acted in an active war and it has not been resolved. It is therefore not the burden of the international community at this stage to say that we are the ones who are advocating war. What is at stake? I think it is important to choose our terms carefully in this regard. We are talking about enforcement action of international peace and security under the terms of the Charter.

Therefore, can we, as a peace-keeping nation, stand idly by as another nation, fully aware of the United Nation's charter, in fact a member of the United Nations itself, rapes and pillages another member country? Our collective conscience should answer that question.

Alex Morrison of the Canadian Institute for Strategic Studies recently stated to the External Affairs' standing committee:

Canada and Canadians have always been ready to respond appropriately—and may I say more quickly than some of our allies in this century—to calls for contributions to the preservation and defence of international peace, security and stability. In the case of the gulf crisis we have done it again.

Ought we always and ever, without fail, stand aside in the face of clear calls for action? Of course not. Are we only right when we disagree with the United States? No, not at all. Are we wrong when

we agree with the United Nations Security Council? No, we not. Are we wrong when we join some 30 other countries in a multinational military effort to deter aggression? Of course not.

Mr. Speaker, later in that same meeting of the External Affairs committee, Mr. Alex Morrison went on to state the following:

I think it is a very great misperception and it is wrong for Canadians to assume and conclude that Canada acts only under pressure or persuasion by the United States. I have had some experience in this during my six years as a member of the Canadian mission to the United Nations, and I can say that this is not the truth.

It is, however, the truth per se that the opinion of the United States, our greatest ally, certainly is a factor in the determination and in the formulation of Canadian foreign policy. But, as has been said, we were active in 1914, not three years later.

As were the Americans.

We were active in 1939, not two years later.

As were the Americans.

Let us remember that Iraq did not simply pop into Kuwait only for a drink and a friendly discussion. They invaded the country with decisive military force and since that time have systematically attempted to wipe out all traces of Kuwait and its people.

We are talking about a Stalinesque effort to remove all traces of a legitimately constituted nation and its population. Iraq has made no attempt to explain or justify its brutal acts, other than to offer the flimsiest of historical claims to Kuwait. Not satisfied with encouraging the flight of hundreds of thousands of people into the desert from Kuwait on August 2, Iraqi occupation forces have conducted a campaign of terror against those who have remained.

Yesterday at the United Nations some survivors of the ongoing Iraqi atrocities gave stirring accounts of the condition of their homeland and its remaining people. The Iraqis have spared no one from the suffering, the young as well as the old.

I firmly believe that the fundamental issue in this crisis is morality in international behaviour. Consequently, it is Canada's international responsibility to ensure that nations adhere to and fully respect international law. Without this consensus, the world would be captive to every despot's whims and wishes. We must re-establish international order. Without it, as history has clearly shown, chaos and then war are inevitable.