

remaining at their post in the most trying conditions over the last several weeks.

As far as we are aware, only perhaps 20 Canadians remain in Kuwait, and another 60 in Iraq. Through our mission in Baghdad, we will continue to do what we can to provide consular assistance. And we, like others, will continue to press Iraq to permit all individuals who wish to leave to do so. But neither we nor others are willing to allow them to be used as bargaining chips in Iraq's attempt to wrest concessions from the world arrayed against it.

Let me conclude by reiterating that it is vital for Iraq to understand that unless there is compliance with the will of the UN Security Council, force will be used. That is the best chance we have for avoiding the use of force.

Canada's role in international conflict has often been one of creative diplomacy. Our most creative diplomacy has been in building international institutions founded on shared principles and the rule of law, and in the creation of collective powers to respond when those principles and laws are violated. These are the achievements our diplomacy must now defend. Iraq cannot be rewarded by a partial settlement, or any other comfort, without complete compliance with the Security Council's decisions. Otherwise, our diplomacy will have failed, not just in this crisis, but in what we have been doing for 45 years. At stake is the security of countries everywhere and the world's chances to at last benefit from our collective machinery to protect and promote peace.