

-- the poverty cycle in the Third World; global warming; terrorism, the drug trade; epidemics like AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome); or the scourge of untrammelled population growth and the related floods of refugees.

In earlier decades of this century, this Royal Society played a role in the great debate which raged over whether or not a state's interests were best pursued unilaterally through the traditional instruments of power or best pursued co-operatively through compromise and concertation. That debate was known as one between Realists and Idealists. That debate is now over because its terms have been reversed by reality.

Those who would persist in the belief that order can be imposed unilaterally, that security lies solely in arms, that the UN is a forum for the weak and not an institution for the world -- they are not the realists of today. They are the victims of a dangerous nostalgia, a hubris this world can no longer afford. They are dreaming as the old idealists dreamt decades ago.

The war in the Gulf makes the point. The costs of unilateral action for Iraq are those we see. The costs of unilateral counter-actions would have been high as well, even if the cause was just, not in shorter military terms perhaps, but in longer political terms. A coalition of effort has been necessary, forged from all sorts of countries of the United Nations. This was the resort of realists.

The type of order countries like Canada have always required is the type of order the whole world now needs. The global village was once a slogan. It is now a description. And in that new neighbourhood, we are all connected to each other in fact and in fate. Building a new order in the Gulf and in the world will not be easy. Order means trust. Order means responsibility. Order means ceasing to be selective. And order always means sacrifice.

In facing Saddam Hussein, the world said the time for talk was over and the time for action had come. In building world order, the time for talk is also over. Here too, it is time for action.

Difficulty must not distract us from necessity. The members of the United Nations who now oppose aggression must work together to preclude aggression. The nations of the world who now fight to restore order must work together to build order. The peoples of the world who yearn for security must now work together to construct security co-operatively. The countries which fight now to defend law must work together to strengthen law.