

Government Orders

The isolation of Iraq within the international community is virtually absolute, but Saddam Hussein seems unaware of it or unwilling to admit it. Perhaps he believes his own propaganda, according to which the steady stream of foreign visitors indicates weakness among his opposition.

Every other indication, however, contradicts such a view of his propaganda. For example, the universal acceptance of sanctions is one. Another is Saddam Hussein's condemnation in those forums which were important to him, the United Nations and certainly the Arab League. A third is the fact that the military forces lined up against him across the border in Saudi Arabia include his fellow Islamic and Arab nations. All of these things contradict the Iraqi propaganda line.

Under the old cold war system he could have perhaps counted upon comfort from his eastern allies, but they have all forsaken him. The Soviets, his former chief armourers, have spoken strongly in favour of his withdrawal from the territory that he has militarily seized.

Clearly the time has come to give a further signal about the international solidarity opposing Iraq, an unmistakable signal of the determination to see the invasion so crudely attempted reversed. That is why the United Nations must act again. That is why we must pile resolution upon resolution. That is why there must finally be adopted a resolution authorizing the use of force if Iraq does not respond to the other calls which the international community has issued through the United Nations to date.

The Security Council resolution does not make war inevitable. It authorizes but does not call for the use of force. The resolution gives Saddam Hussein a further chance to remedy the situation by complying further and fully with the Security Council resolutions on the situation. The resolution is a clear signal that a peaceful solution is still possible but Saddam Hussein must understand that the choice is up to him.

Furthermore, there is a disposition to set a deadline to allow a pause of goodwill before which force will not be used—I stress, before which it would not be used—to allow Saddam Hussein every chance to comply fully with United Nations resolutions and to ensure a peaceful solution. Following that pause, for however long the Security Council decides it should be, force becomes an option available to the countries of the coalition with the

full authority of the United Nations. This is a very clear signal to Saddam Hussein about the importance of full compliance with the Security Council resolutions.

We must hope that reason will prevail and that Iraq, faced with the irrefutable evidence of the will of the international community, will at last comply.

I see the positions that Canada has taken in this as the natural extension of the internationalist spirit which animated the foreign policy of our country for the last 30 or 40 years. When the United Nations was created in those dark, final years of the Second World War, it was hoped that a new approach would be possible in international conflicts. Almost without exception, however, international communities saw the regional conflicts resisting treatment in the United Nations because it was neutralized by the division of the UN membership into the blocs, fostered by the cold war.

Now that the old cold war blocs seem to have dissolved, the United Nations again, and in a sense for the first time, has a chance to act in a manner consistent with the intention of those, including Canadians, who framed the UN Charter.

I referred earlier to this gulf situation being a test for the United Nations, and I take this very seriously. Canadian hopes for the maintenance of international security and peace, despite the situation in which we currently find ourselves, have never been higher. I find this when I speak to people around my Etobicoke—Lakeshore constituency, to other members of Parliament and to people who write to me from coast to coast in our country.

Canada's interests lie in the strengthening of the United Nations and in the enhancing of its capacity, through the co-operative action of its members, to act in such circumstances as these. It is not only the fate of Iraq and Kuwait which is at stake, but the global system for the maintenance of peace and security.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of attention to the hon. member. First of all, I wish to compliment the hon. member; his French was excellent; his message was very interesting and I sense that he shares a feeling of great concern about the well-being of young people, and the potential for war is as abhorrent to him as it is to us or to me. I will put it that way. Certainly none of us wishes to