

## Contributing to the war?

by Joey Goodings

THE PERSIAN GULF WAR has invaded the minds of us all. It attacks our thinking emotions and attitudes. How can we avoid that latest coverage, instant replays, and close-ups of the latest technology?

Our choice is to become desensitized. We continue our daily lives, numb and disconnected. The news becomes a mini-series. Reality becomes fiction.

The fact remains, however, that millions have died in the many wars of the twentieth century, with little progress made toward a peaceful "new world order". Peace is merely the carrot at the end of the stick.

I remember last Remembrance Day well. I saw a veteran standing beside some poppies. A row of medals gleamed from his jacket; his posture was strong and alert. A true soldier. His presence evoked admiration.

Which came first, the soldier or the war? Perhaps each of us, in one way or another, admires war. We admire the sense of purpose, the strength of human will, the glory of victory.

Do we, in our daily lives, collectively build the temple of war through our thinking, emotions and attitudes? We have all been raised in a society in which war permeates our language, our culture and our beliefs. To what extent has death and destruction become an acceptable reality?

A line was drawn in the sand, and we find ourselves today plugged into a giant war machine. Our nation is at war. We, as Canadians, are part of its workings. Our non-action becomes a tacit consent for war. This reality cannot switch off.

In the words of John Cruickshank, a columnist with the Globe and Mail, "Wars do not beget peace. They beget defeat and destruction. They do not beget stability. They beget exhaustion and contempt for life."

As a citizen of a nation at war, one must ask, am I a contributor to the destruction of war?

### All for a drop of oil

In the past  
While countries were being overtaken  
Being overtaken for a bit of control  
Others remained sitting and condemning  
Condemning those who strove for control.  
Now on the news  
I see bombs falling  
Falling, all for a drop of oil.  
I do not hear of the dying  
Dying, all for a drop of oil.  
In my city  
I see people crying  
Crying, against a war  
All for a drop of oil.

Mary Jane Hamilton

# United Nations opposes war

by Joey Goodings

THE UNITED NATIONS Association of Canada (UNAC) opposes the Persian Gulf War.

Geoffrey Grenville-Wood, the National President of the UNAC, said on CBC Radio, Jan. 15, "I believe that the Security Council Resolution, number 678 of Nov. 29, giving the authority to use force was a bad resolution, bad for the United Nations and bad for world peace. In my view it was not necessary. Sanctions should have been given a chance to

have an effect."

In a letter written to Joe Clark, Grenville-Wood says that the United Nations has no effective control over the forces in the Gulf and that it is concerned about this misperception among Canadians.

"It is important to remember that any offensive action that might be undertaken will not be taken on behalf of the United Nations. This will not be a United Nations war," said Grenville-Wood.

The UNAC believes sanctions require at least one year to have

a full effect. This position challenges the legality of the use of force under Article 42, which requires that other steps, once put in place, must have proved to be inadequate.

In a letter to Joe Clark, dated Jan. 16, the UNAC states, "Resolution 678 is therefore flawed in a major respect and actions taken under its authority may very well be of questionable validity, in law. It is also now clear that some better process needs to be in place for the assessment of the effectiveness of sanctions."

With respect to the Security Council of the UN, the UNAC letter states, "...that the present structure of the Security Council is unrepresentative and unbalanced and leads to the accusation that the Council operates on a double standard. Further, the question of the veto remains controversial and a source of friction."

The UNAC does not, however, demand that Canadian troops leave the Persian Gulf. The UNAC recommends that Canada should maintain its role in enforcing sanctions and

provide humanitarian assistance.

In his commentary on CBC Radio, Grenville-Wood said, "War is not necessary. Ask yourself, what will have been gained if literally tens of thousands of lives are lost in order to remove Iraq from Kuwait? Will the price be seen as worthwhile, if we cannot be certain that the same objective could have been achieved without the loss of any lives? Perhaps the time has come for a pause of good sense, for all our sakes."