

governments of very different political stripes -- including the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, France, the United States and Canada are in harmony. And why not? We all share the values of liberty and democracy and equality before the law. Our institutions all draw their validity from the free expression of the wills of our peoples. And in foreign affairs, we all stand for the respect of international law.

And it is not surprising that in light of the stakes on this issue these democracies all back the U.N. strongly. Canada worked hard to persuade the United States to work within the United Nations and to forego unilateral action. The international coalition knows it must now be prepared to stand up for what is right.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia, the leader of the Labour Party in his country, in weighing the same considerations we are weighing, told his Parliament on December 4 that "if conflict occurs of a kind which is contemplated and authorized by the [U.N.] resolution, [Australian] ships will be available to participate in action with the allied fleet..." François Mitterand, President of France and leader of his country's Socialist Party, has made clear his country's position when he said that "...France considers a complete withdrawal from Kuwait to be an inviolable principle. Moreover, (France) holds that the January 15th deadline cannot be postponed or extended for any reason whatsoever... If the conditions that have been set are not fulfilled, then France will be doing its duty." In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Major has been equally clear and consistent on this point.

And Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition in the U.K., said last week that the Labour Party "will not, in the interests of distancing ourselves from the government, distance ourselves from our forces or from the United Nations." And we know now that both chambers of the U.S. Congress as well have voted to support the U.S. Administration in the implementation of U.N. Resolution 678 -- to get Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait.

Canada's policy from the beginning has been a two track policy -- working for peace but preparing for hostilities, if diplomacy failed. In fact, the record will show that from the day Iraq invaded Kuwait, we have carried on extensive diplomacy designed to find a peaceful solution to this crisis. We have consulted widely in the region, and elsewhere, promoted the importance of the U.N. as the instrument of the world's response, urged a prompt withdrawal by Iraq and counselled prudence on our allies. A full outline of all of our principal efforts since last August will be set out by Mr. Clark, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, when he speaks in the debate later today.

I am satisfied that we have done everything possible to promote a peaceful outcome to this crisis. No one wants a war, least of all those to whom it falls to fight. I am sure that I speak for every member of this House and for all Canadians in expressing my admiration for the dedication and professionalism of the Canadian servicemen and women in the Persian Gulf. And I am sure, whatever our policy views, we in this House will be unanimous in supporting these outstanding and courageous men and women. They are there in the defence of the values and interests of all Canadians