

*Government Orders*

wishes that we just accept its judgment before we have an opportunity to see what the problems may be. This side of the House absolutely refuses this. It is also important to put it in the context of the United Nations itself.

There is an excellent article written by Bernard Wood of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. He raised the question that the most important substantial concern related to the dominant United States role in the gulf effort is linked to the basic question of what the aims and procedures of the whole operation really are and who will set them. Once again, it must be stressed that there is no easy answer. We are in unexplored territory in trying to co-ordinate an effective and legitimate response to aggression by the whole international community. He pointed out that the territory is not totally uncharted because the United Nations does have a procedure. On the one hand, we have an international crisis which was only anticipated in the most remote corners of policy and research institutes. We had a situation where everything that could possibly happen blew up very quickly and the only place that has any experience in dealing with international crises is the United Nations. Again, I join those people who say, if you turn to the United Nations and strengthen that organization, you are likely to be able to build up a stronger history of working together.

There is another point related to the situation that I think should be mentioned. It is that when we were fighting the Soviet Union, and all western nations were fighting the Soviet Union in one way or another, we had a reason, we had an ideology. We knew that these were the communists and we opposed communism. We knew that we were Conservatives, Liberals or socialists but we knew that we were against the communists. We fought them. But when you have the breakdown of ideology, as they have right now, when you have Europeans forming new alliances, when you have the Third World thinking a different way, when you have the debate in North America changing, people do not have those small, one-line expressions to hang on to tell them what is going on. So when the so-called bad commies join us, what do you make out of a battlefield where the commies are fighting with the Americans? Well, it means

that one has to stop and think: what is this world all about?

Therefore, there is the battle for public relations. One of the most interesting developments in this battle is watching the different leaders, who speak different languages, putting forward their positions on an American-based network, CNN, which is watched throughout European and Middle East hotels as well as in Asia and throughout North America. There is the leader of Iraq giving his position, the King of Jordan putting forth his case as to what should be done, and the American congressional leaders coming forward. There is a fight for public relations. The Americans know how to play this game and so, in many respects, the momentum again rests with them.

Without ideology and without thinking through the situation, we can get caught up in that rhetoric, particularly in Canada where there is such a spill-over and we think: well, these are our close friends, that must be the best direction to go. But close friends must work closely together and often close friends, to work together, need a body which provides a forum for arbitration and for discussion that makes any discussion a little more flexible and a little easier.

I recognize, like other members, that this situation is not getting any better and whatever we say today might be overtaken by events tomorrow and that we may, in fact, be into a crisis overnight. We just do not know. We hope not, but we do not really know. As the alliance through the United Nations puts into place its forces, the supply ships catch up with the troops who are flown in, the fuel depots are organized and everybody sits and waits in the desert for the next move, one has to stop to think about people who are sitting there day after day.

The date on the calendar changes, the American election passes, the date approaches Christmas and, all of a sudden, you get people saying: "Well, how long are we going to be here? Are we going to be here for months? Are we going to be here for a few hours? Do we pull back?" Who is going to make that decision? Who is going to sit there and say this has been long enough? When are we really going to know that grain supplies are depleted in Iraq? When are we going to know when the will of the leader of Iraq is broken and what is going to do it? Who is going to take responsibility for these?