

*Oral Questions*

assistance that will be required to deliver humanitarian, medical and food aid to the region?

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, with respect, I have difficulty in understanding the argument of my hon. friend.

She indicates that Canada is a symbolic presence for war. Canada is not a symbolic presence for war. Canada has a real presence designed to enforce the reality of the United Nations. We believe the United Nations is the only international body that can procure a durable peace. That has been a consistent policy of the House for over 40 years and we plan to respect it. With regard to the symbolism of the G-7 nations, Canada has the fourth largest deployment of forces in the region of the entire G-7. That is because we believe that strongly in the United Nations.

• (1430)

We believe, reluctantly but of necessity, along with the rest of the industrialized world and apparently most other people in the world who believe in freedom and liberty, that the cause of liberty and the cause of freedom is best served, given the absolute intransigence of Saddam Hussein, by the actions taken to enforce the will of the United Nations yesterday.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I agree finally with the Prime Minister on one item, and that is, that the United Nations should be the force for enforcing and finding an enduring peace—

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Ms. McLaughlin:** —and I believe it can be as long as it does not operate solely on the old world order and does truly become a new world order.

I would like to pursue further the point that I made earlier to the Prime Minister. I have been in contact with a number of international aid organizations today and they all say that there is an urgent need for a number of humanitarian activities which now require military assistance. They require air and sea escort to protect ships bringing medical and other humanitarian aid to the region, to protect refugees in the region and to ensure that food reaches the some four million starving people in the Horn of Africa.

My question to the Prime Minister is this: Will he make our military resources available to accomplish these very important objectives which are also life and death objectives?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what the hospital arrangements of this government deployed yesterday are in the process of doing.

**Ms. Mitchell:** That's not possible.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The NDP says no. But we are there to assist allies. We are there to assist all in the area. We are there to respond to the requirements of the Geneva Convention. Surely, that is at least something that the NDP should applaud; that Canada provides hospital facilities to look after the injured or wounded. Surely this is in keeping with our humanitarian traditions.

My hon. friend says—and I think I am quoting her accurately—“The United Nations should be the instrument to enforce the requirements of peace”. Indeed. But how do you do it? How do you do it when confronted by a brutal aggressor who refuses to withdraw? You either make speeches or you stand up after a period of time and say enough is enough and the civilized world has said to Saddam Hussein, enough is enough, and you must leave Kuwait.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, when it is a question of whether we take the risk of war or we take the risk of more talking, I would suggest that we should take the risk of more talking.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**Ms. McLaughlin:** My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Although the Prime Minister did say last night that obviously all diplomatic avenues must be explored, it is not too late—quite the contrary—to stop this war, and Canada can and must play a role. Will the Prime Minister use his good offices to work towards peace and instruct our United Nations diplomats to begin the formalities required to convene an international conference on the Middle East?

[*English*]

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, again in the preamble of the question of my hon. friend, she makes an interesting statement.