

With the time and the wealth he would acquire, he would add further weapons of mass destruction to his arsenal, including in all probability nuclear weapons. In what position would this put his neighbours? After Iran and Kuwait, what would be his next target? Saudi Arabia? Jordan? Would we hold ourselves back again, waiting for the latest atrocities to end so that Canada might then be invited in as part of a peacekeeping force?

Saddam Hussein has threatened directly to attack Israel with weapons of mass destruction. In the face of extraordinary provocation from Iraq, as evidenced by Foreign Minister Aziz' deplorably aggressive threat from Geneva last week directly to mount an assault on Israel, Israel has demonstrated remarkable restraint.

Should Saddam Hussein move against Israel, would we still hold ourselves back in the hope that we would be called in later to help keep what is left of the peace in what is left of the Middle East?

This course is a prescription for neither wisdom nor responsibility and it is not a course that Canada should follow.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: It is also argued that a peacekeeping role would be more in keeping with Canada's traditions. There is no reason at all, none whatsoever, to believe that a peacemaking role now disqualifies Canada for a peacekeeping role later.

Participation in the Korean War did not prevent External Affairs Minister Pearson from helping to create the United Nations peacekeeping function. Membership in NATO and NORAD has not prevented us from participating in every United Nations peacekeeping operation but one since the beginning of the international organization, and supporting right over wrong in the Persian Gulf does not preclude a peacekeeping role for Canada there following hostilities.

Like all Canadians, we are justifiably proud of Canada's peacekeeping traditions. But peacekeeping is only part of Canada's traditions. Standing firm for what we believe in and fighting if necessary is also a Canadian tradition and one that we remember most solemnly every November 11.

More than 1,700,000 Canadians participated in World Wars I and II and in Korea; 100,000 graves in Europe and Asia that bear silent but eloquent testimony to the courage and will of Canadians to stand for what we believe is right.

Government Orders

A terrible wrong is being committed by Saddam Hussein and I believe it is a terrible wrong which, if unchecked, could lead to horrific consequences for other nations in the region and indeed the entire world. A terrible wrong is being committed by Saddam Hussein, and I believe and this government believes that it is the moral duty of the international community to stop him now.

His motives in attacking Kuwait were self-aggrandizement and greed, nothing more difficult than that to understand: greed, money, territory, access to the sea, greed. That is the reason that for the first time one Arab state invaded another, a peaceful neighbouring state that had co-operated freely and generously with its neighbour.

[*Translation*]

To confuse international opinion, he has attempted to link the Persian Gulf crisis with the Palestinian issue. No one believes he invaded Kuwait to help the Palestinians. Everyone can see he is trying to rationalize his invasion of Kuwait after the fact and to undermine the multinational coalition now facing him. His attempt to portray the occupation of Kuwait—and the atrocities and murders he perpetrated on other Arabs—after all, he is the one who initiated such violence against his Arab neighbour—as somehow advancing legitimate Palestinian interests and concerns is both beyond understanding and beneath contempt.

Since we last debated this crisis in November, we have received the Amnesty International report detailing the extent of murders, rapes and brutalization in Kuwait. Torture and executions of non-combatants, including young children, have been wide-spread and accurately reported by the Amnesty International officials. I urge all members of this House to read this eye-opening and distressing report. Thousands of people have been subjected arbitrarily to arrest and detention. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forcibly evicted from Kuwait. A systematic effort is being ruthlessly carried out to erase the identity of a nation.

Notwithstanding these atrocities, some still make the argument that economic sanctions should be given more time to work. That is an interesting point of view and I look forward to hearing what the members think of that for, in my opinion, the most fundamental question we must ask ourselves is will sanctions alone work? The sanctions and the naval and air blockades have succeeded in stopping a great deal of Iraq's foreign trade. There