

*Government Orders*

we going to be able to use it again? Does this mean that from now on, every single time there is an act of aggression, the international community is going to war? The entire world is going to be a garrison state. We will not just have conscription from 18 years old to 40 years old. Mr. Speaker, you and I will have to join up, simply to meet that kind of requirement.

**An hon. member:** We don't believe that.

**An hon. member:** Not to worry.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** My colleagues are suggesting that, for the sake of the Canadian Armed Forces, I should not join. I agree with that. That is the real calculation. That is what Canadians out there are asking about.

I just want to raise one final point about the condition that we face if there are hostilities in the next short while. I pray to God there are not. I pray to God that whatever is taking place this afternoon works. But if there are hostilities, when the judgment comes, what is the role of Canada? Should we march into the barricades waving the flag, not the UN flag but whatever flag it happens to be? We do not know which flag it is going to be. It could be the Saudi flag, the American flag, some flag, but not the UN flag.

I make this case to members opposite. The contribution we can make in a military sense is minuscule. We have got good airplanes. We have wonderful armed services personnel, but in the over-all weight of military action our contribution is small. It is small at least when we weigh it against the contribution we can make in the political, diplomatic sense. Wars have to come to an end. Cease-fires have to be negotiated, truces have to be honoured, peacekeeping has to take place, bridges have to be built, reconstruction has to occur, and that is the peculiar Canadian talent. That is the kind of capacity and ability we have nurtured and built up over the years. That is what Canadians want to support. For us to become a combatant, for us to be on the front lines, will destroy and eliminate the ability of Canada to play that kind of role.

The Prime Minister said this morning: "I don't see why we couldn't peacekeep". Do you think, Mr. Speaker, in the Suez crisis that the Egyptians would have accepted

the French or the British as a peacekeeper in those circumstances? What kind of convoluted logic is the Prime Minister using? What kind of cuckoo-land does he draw his ideas from? You do not become a peacekeeper when you have been shooting at the other side. You have to be there as a neutral or at least as a non-combatant at the back side.

Certainly we heard this morning about the threat that might occur to Israel if there is a war. First, let us understand one thing about Saddam Hussein. He said: "I am only going to attack Israel if I am attacked". There is one way to make sure Israel is not attacked by Iraqi missiles, and that is not to have hostilities against Iraq. That is the way to prevent it from happening. But, if it does happen, then surely to God we realize that the conflagration is going to spread like wild fire and someone is going to come in and say: "There has got to be a cease-fire", someone is going interpose themselves and say: "We can't have a war."

Mr. Speaker, I make the case to you. Goodness gracious, this is what this country has been able to do over the years. At this crucial time in history, let us not abandon that approach. When they talk about the Pearsonian tradition, that is the Pearsonian tradition; not a great power, not a military band wagon, not something gargantuan that is going to throw its weight around, but a country that understands that bridges have to be built both in war and peace. That is what we want Canada to do.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs ended his speech with the question of what should we do. I suggest that he listen to Canadians. I suggest that he start reading his letters. I suggest that he start listening to his phone calls. I think he should start understanding that there are Canadians out there who are not afraid, who are patriotic, and who believe in the world order but who do not believe in going to war because it is not the Canadian way. It is not the Pearsonian way. It is not the kind of traditions that we have built up.

Thousands upon thousands of Canadians are writing every one of us. I ask Tory members to read their mail, listen to those calls and see what Canadians are saying. They are saying: "Do not go to war".