

and were determined to miss no chance to campaign for more equipment. General Canadian self-deprecation was happy to join in smirking about our ships. In fact, twelve of the US warships now on station in the region are older than *Athabaskan*. Surely, we must assume that the Minister of Defence and Canadian military commanders have exercised the professional and ethical judgement that the ships, with their new systems, are adequate to the tasks that will be assigned to them and that the equipment itself does not occasion unacceptable risks to the men and women under their command.

With respect to the debate about the legitimacy of the Government moving to place Canadian troops in an "active service" zone without consulting Parliament, individual Canadians will have to make their own judgements. A related issue that has been raised is whether, in effect, the Government has committed Canada to a "state of war". In fact, Canadian forces have been committed to the surveillance and enforcement of a UN embargo, with related self-defence duties, and with a clear possibility -- but only after a separate UN Security Council decision -- that our forces might subsequently be committed under the Charter in a "use of armed force ... in the common interest" as part of the UN's "preventative or enforcement measures". At the same time, it is clear that these elements of the Canadian armed forces are entering into a highly-armed and volatile region, where hostilities could readily break out and involve them.

A second round of debate in Canada was triggered by the decision to send the fighter squadron to provide air support, raising questions as to whether this represented Canadian participation in an "offensive buildup" led by the United States. This step, together with the refugee and other aid measures announced on September 14, was in fact a contribution, geared to Canadian capabilities, in the major round of burden-sharing that had been sought by the United States. It does represent moral and material support for the strengthening of the international means to monitor and enforce sanctions, to provide deterrence and defence against armed force, and finally it does strengthen the base for potential enforcement action if that should be undertaken.