

world community the burden of a great challenge. If new and more hopeful vistas for world peace are at last to open, we, as the United Nations, have to be equal to the challenge which Iraq's invasion of Kuwait represents clearly to all of us.

This challenge goes to the heart of Canadian interests and Canadian diplomacy, not just now, but over 50 years: the building of a workable world organization able to prevent, or if necessary, to reverse the most blatant and dangerous of international offences: which is the acquisition by force of another country's territory and, in this specific case, an effort to extinguish a UN member in its entirety. The challenge has gone even beyond these transgressions of international law, as Iraqi authorities have threatened the use of terrorism, and of chemical weapons, which they have used in the past, with terrible consequences, even against their own people.

That is the evil that countries historically arm themselves against. That is the evil which causes proliferation, which is responsible for an arms race which in large part diverts the resources that should be going to the poor of the world and denies people in developing countries the right to decent lives.

Mr. Speaker, I have just come from the Middle East, that this evil has occurred in the most heavily armed and volatile region in the world only amplifies its gravity.

Mr. Speaker, I have just come from the Middle East. The potential for death and for destruction in the Middle East is very real. Members of this House of Commons should have no illusion about the danger -- nor about our obligation to try to moderate that danger. Most of Israel's neighbours remain in a state of war against her. The Palestinian people, despite the Intefadeh, despite their acceptance of Resolution 242, live in a pressure-cooker of frustration, with thousands of new migrants forced home from the Gulf. There are the larger questions of democracy and decision-making in the Middle East; quarrels between families and regimes who each want to lead the Arab world; shocking gaps in income between opulent wealth and the most shocking poverty, and there are chemical weapons, biological weapons, almost certainly some capacity for nuclear weapons, and the steady flood of conventional arms. And in the midst of all that -- in a region where the institutions of modern government have shallow roots -- there is generally, the common link of the noble religion of Islam which, if it became radicalized, could have devastating consequences around the world. President Gorbachev is aware of that. King Hussein is. Presidents Ozal and Mubarak are. And, of course, Prime Minister Shamir understands the threat of Islamic extremism.

That the Iraqi aggression affects security of access to the most vital of commodities further compels our attention. But