

is the principle for which 100,000 Canadians gave their lives in two World Wars and Korea. It is the principle which led Canadians to help draft the United Nations Charter 46 years ago -- so that those sacrifices would not be necessary again. It is the principle which 43,000 Canadian peacekeepers have served to uphold, wearing the blue beret of the United Nations. That is the principle all countries have declared they share, but too few have shouldered.

That is why we are in the Gulf -- not for oil, not for democracy, not for others, but for a principle Canadians have always defended, a principle Canadians need if the order this country requires for its security and prosperity is to prevail.

People who oppose the Gulf War make a parallel which is perilous. They equate the avoidance of war with order. Well, order is not automatic internationally, any more than it is domestically. Order is based on principles. These principles must be defended. If they were not -- if transgressions went unpunished -- those principles would become hollow. Order would become disorder. And all nations would become hostages to fortune. International order would be nothing more than a pecking order for the powerful.

A world like that is a world in which Canada would suffer. Although we are a country of considerable influence, Canada is not a superpower. We depend on an order which goes beyond mere power, an order based on universal principles of international law, an order we are defending and building in the Persian Gulf today.

In the Gulf, we are not just defending Kuwait; we are defending Canada.

If the world had not responded to Saddam Hussein, in what other circumstances would it have acted? His invasion of Kuwait was the most clear-cut, brazen act of unprovoked aggression since the Second World War. If, with the Cold War over, and the old barriers gone, the world had turned its back, buried its neck in the sand, and added Kuwait to history's long list of innocent victims, what could we then say about order? Simply that it did not exist, that the world was a free-for-all, a playground for those with power, a graveyard for those without.

And, if the members of the United Nations were unable to act together here, what great power would ever bother again to turn to the UN? The UN would be discredited and then deserted, joining the League of Nations in the dustbin of history, another totem to the world's inability to move beyond the law of the jungle.