

withdrawal and restoration of the *status quo ante*. There is even a further obstacle to peaceful resolution in the growing conviction in the international community that the current regime in Iraq must go, or any peaceful settlement achieved is likely to prove only an interval for a further embittered Saddam to regroup, re-arm (probably with nuclear weapons and certainly with other weapons of mass destruction) and re-launch expansionist schemes.

For a peaceful resolution and a durable peace, then, the international community must count on sanctions being fully enforced and having the intended effect of forcing an Iraqi climbdown, with minimal if any face-saving involved for Saddam Hussein. Ideally, such a scenario would involve the deposition of the leader either before or after the retreat from Kuwait, an unlikely outcome given the success of Saddam's manipulative and murderous tactics for staying in power. Moreover, there is a vital need to avoid making Saddam a martyr to the West, however much his replacement is desired.

Failing such replacement, the minimal future requirement would be for the indefinite continuation of an iron-clad global arms embargo against Iraq and a powerful regional collective security alliance. Since Saddam bankrupted one of the Third World's most prosperous economies for his arms imports during the Iranian war, and resorted to developing Iraq's increasingly sophisticated weapons industries, neither of these measures would provide absolute reassurance. Furthermore, the overall build-up of military forces and equipment is in itself undesirable and potentially de-stabilizing in this volatile region. For example, a major increase in the size and sophistication of Saudi Arabian armed forces will at some point constitute a serious security concern for Israel, with the potential for further arms races.

So this is the uncertain and dangerous endeavour on which Canada is launched under the aegis of the United Nations and in active collaboration with some two dozen other countries. We can expect further thrashing out in Parliament of the rights and wrongs, objectives and limitations of the steps Ottawa has taken, and not taken.