

Oral Questions

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have two brief comments in response to the Leader of the Opposition, one having to do with the question of a flag.

The Leader of the Opposition invented a false principle, in effect, a falsehood, yesterday with regard to the question of the Canadian flag—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I am sure he did it inadvertently—with regard to the question of the Canadian flag, when he said that Canadian troops never serve except under a UN flag. Does he not know about the multinational force of observers in Sinai where Canada is serving? If he wants to speak symbolically, does he not know about Canada's participation through the years in NATO under the NATO flag? What is at issue is the authority of the United Nations and there is no question at all about the authority of the United Nations being vested under Resolution 678.

With respect to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Leader of the Opposition should know, if he was watching the Secretary-General's appeal yesterday, that that appeal reflects very largely the points that were contained in the letter from the Prime Minister of Canada to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, suggesting a negotiating position that might be followed with Saddam Hussein. I tabled that letter in the House of Commons yesterday.

We are encouraging the Secretary-General and others to continue to persevere in those kinds of efforts. But the Prime Minister makes it abundantly clear, and the world knows this—President Mitterrand made it clear for France today—that the person whose response is required is Saddam Hussein.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The majority of Canadian men and women are opposed to the government's actions in the gulf crisis. They ask that economic sanctions and negotiations be continued, in order to reach a peaceful solution. Does Canada intend to ask the Security Council and coalition mem-

bers to take the time to look at other, non-military means to get Hussein out of Kuwait, such as reinforcing economic sanctions?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member talked about time. The Security Council and the world gave Saddam Hussein a period of grace, 47 days during which every day, every minute, Saddam Hussein had a chance to respond. Every time he refused. He shut the door on every initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the UN and others.

[*English*]

When members of the opposition speak of giving Saddam Hussein more time, let them ask themselves: What use does he make of this time? What use did he make of the period of a pause for peace? During that period he was building a trench across Kuwait to allow himself to take oil and move it through that trench to pollute the Persian Gulf, to undertake and commit, in effect, environmental warfare. How much time does the opposition party want to give Saddam Hussein to carry forward this kind of activity?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have some questions in turn for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Number one, why is the government refusing to listen to Canadians who are saying: "Take the time to make the sanctions work to get Hussein out of Kuwait by not going to war"? Why does the government not listen to Canadians who are trying to tell them something?

I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, why does he not listen to Canadians who say that you do not have to destroy a country? you do not have to kill people, you do not have to destroy a region to stop aggression?

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I naturally do listen to Canadians. I listen to the evidence that is given by intelligence experts. I would very much listen to the hon. member if he would begin to accept my invitation of some months ago that he make available to us any information that he has that sanctions are working.