

*Government Orders*

against Hussein's actions under the umbrella of the United Nations.

The United Nations Security Council condemned Iraq's naked aggression on the very day of that invasion. Subsequently, 11 more resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council, culminating with resolution 678 which authorized the use of force if Iraq did not withdraw by January 15, 1991.

The most startling fact about this situation is that we have walked down this road before. Over 50 years ago, the world was faced with this very type of naked aggression. At that point, that fork in the road where apparently small decisions marked a very critical choice, the results were a very different result for mankind.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain talked about peace in our time. He and much of the world put their trust in the policy of appeasement. The world wrongly assumed that if it appeased aggression, the aggression would end. History has shown us the horrible price of that policy.

The original intent of this motion before the House tonight was to show whether we had learned that lesson from history. Actions taken by the international community against Iraq indicate that we have. I believe that the United Nations and Canada in its own role—I am convinced, in fact—is that Canada is taking the most appropriate path.

Last November 11, Remembrance Day, I was in my constituency in the town of High River, Alberta. There was an edge of emotion to that day because it was the first time for a considerable period of years when Canadian forces were on duty, away from home, in an area that could potentially become a war zone. That emotional edge came through that day. Canadian forces were moving toward the gulf. There was, of course, the recognition of those who had made their sacrifice in previous world events. But the master of ceremonies also made reference to me, giving me a message as a member of Parliament, and that message was make the right decision, but try all possible diplomatic alternatives to solve this situation.

The speeches made here the day before yesterday by the Prime Minister and by the Secretary of State for External Affairs outlined in intricate detail the countless diplomatic initiatives all sadly rebuffed by the regime in

Iraq. The choice of the right path for the United Nations and for Canada, because we did have a choice, was clear.

No nation and no leader takes a decision to use force or to enter war without knowledge of the potentially horrendous consequences. While early reports were encouraging, I have no doubt that the United Nations forces will face very great challenges. Nothing can be taken for granted. Reports even in the last couple of hours suggest that the State of Israel has suffered a missile attack of, as yet, an uncertain impact and also of an uncertain but potentially volatile result.

We should not be surprised by a volatile circumstance like this, for the risks and the uncertainties are legion and dangerous, but the objective remains the same as it was yesterday and the day before. The objective is the rejection of naked aggression, united action by united nations, and a world order where peace is an enduring possibility.

• (2110)

Many constituents have asked me why we are in the Persian Gulf. Canada is in the gulf because of our commitment to the United Nations. We are a founding member of the UN and have always supported the role it has played in the international community. The UN has seldom been more effective in unity than it is today. We need a UN which secures world stability.

The cold war has melted away. With the bipolar world of the U.S. at one side and the U.S.S.R at the other—each maintaining control within their own spheres of influence—having dissipated in the last couple of years, we need an instrument, a means, to keep the peace in the world. Clearly, the United Nations is the body through which that can be achieved.

We, as Canadians, cannot accept the benefits of membership in the United Nations without also accepting the responsibilities that come with that membership. My conviction is that we must act as Canadians, not as boy scouts or girl guides in the international scene, but as a nation of commitment and a nation prepared to step forward and play its appropriate role.

In light of our stand in this crisis, where Canada chose the path of principle, our standing, and the standing of the United Nations as a result, is strengthened in the long-term search for peace.