

• (1520)

Second, the Leader of the Opposition pretends that the use of force in the Gulf would not have the authority of the United Nations. That is absolutely false. Resolution 678 of the United Nations is precise. Let me quote Articles 2 and 3:

2. Authorizes Member States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait, unless Iraq on or before 15 January 1991 fully implements, as set forth in paragraph 1 above, the foregoing resolutions, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement resolution 660 (1990) and all subsequent relevant resolutions and to restore international peace and security in the area;

3. Requests all States to provide appropriate support for the actions undertaken in pursuance of paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

That was the resolution entered into deliberately after extensive legal advice and after extensive discussion with the Secretary General and with others. There is no question that the actions we are taking, the actions we would contemplate are actions that have the authority of the United Nations.

Third, he proposes, as I understand it, to call back Canadian troops. Well, certainly that is not the position of the government.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Fourth, he makes the curious and, I find, alarming argument that because the United Nations failed in Tibet, because the United Nations failed in Cyprus, and because the United Nations has failed in solving other crises, we should not help the United Nations succeed in Kuwait. That is absurd and it is not a logic that this government accepts.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, 167 days ago, Saddam Hussein brutally invaded Kuwait, without provocation. That is how the war started. Today Kuwait is still occupied. It has been pillaged, and more than half the population has fled the country. Amnesty International has reported flagrant human rights violations. Saddam Hussein has declared that Kuwait is now, irrevocably, part of Iraq. A sovereign member State of the United Nations is about to be wiped out.

Since the beginning of this crisis, the international community has, with unprecedented unanimity and clarity, expressed its position. The UN Security Council has adopted 12 resolutions, most of them unanimous, con-

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demning Iraq's act of aggression and demanding that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, while imposing sanctions to force it to abide by the UN decisions.

Forty-eight days ago, on November 29, Saddam Hussein was given a period of grace. The purpose was to give diplomacy another chance and to try and convince Iraq that the international community was not bluffing and that it would use force, if necessary, as soon as the deadline expired. This resolution was clear. It indicated that as a sign of good will Iraq would be granted a period of grace to give it one last chance.

Yesterday, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar returned from Iraq, discouraged and convinced that it was now practically impossible to hope for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. On the advice of the Secretary-General, European foreign affairs ministers decided not to send a delegation to Baghdad.

Since Security Council resolution 678 was adopted, Iraq knows perfectly well that the international community is not bluffing. However, its troops are still occupying Kuwait.

[*English*]

During these last 48 days, diplomacy has been applied to a degree rarely seen before. I indicated, as the Prime Minister did, that I would like to give some indication of some of the actions that were taken by Canada. I cannot recount them all for a variety of reasons, because some are still in train. I want to indicate some of the activities in which this country, on behalf of peace, has been engaged.

On a bilateral basis, and perhaps it was one of the most important actions that was taken early in this crisis, the Prime Minister was in Kennebunkport for a meeting with the President of the United States. It was a meeting scheduled before this conflict began, before the invasion of Iraq.

There were senior and respected Americans then counselling the President of the United States to engage upon a surgical strike. That was the advice he received. The Prime Minister told him on behalf of Canada that that kind of policy would not be acceptable to Canada and should not be followed by the United States. That gave the world an opportunity to pursue diplomatic and peaceful solutions to this aggression.