

jeopardize 40 years of economic diplomacy and the rules of international trade. We must resolve this issue in our own economic interests and in the interests of the international order.

International order is disproportionately affected by the character of relations among the industrialized countries. History records that the United Nations does not work well if this region is deadlocked. And this region will not have peace if the nations of the world are united only in name. Our task here, therefore, is to strengthen regional cooperation for its own sake and to create conditions in which the United Nations can succeed, a goal that has been frustrated too often in the past by the very tensions we are burying here today.

The end of the Cold War presents us with an opportunity to realize, at last, the full potential of the United Nations. The statesmen who created the United Nations were not dreamers. They were realists who had seen the consequences of a world gone mad, twice in twenty years. They created a system to encourage humanity's best qualities, without ignoring its worst instincts. But by the conclusion of the San Francisco conference, the chill winds of the Cold War had begun to swirl and the U.N.'s collective security role -- the key to peace for all humanity -- was gradually frozen into immobility. Victory over war proved more difficult to achieve than victory in war.

With the global response to Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, we have rediscovered the extraordinary capability of the U.N. to protect peace and order. That aggression, were it to succeed, would undermine both international law and the basic principle of collective security enshrined in the U.N. Charter. What is really at stake in the Gulf is not oil or territory but the foundations of peace. That is why Iraq's flagrant violation of the norms of international behaviour and decency cannot be allowed to stand.

For decades, we have armed for Armageddon and our treasuries have been weakened by that effort. Just when it seemed that a "peace dividend" might be possible, billions of dollars must be spent in the Gulf. The cost to Canada alone is already extremely high. The cost to the members of the Gulf coalition is now in the tens of billions of dollars. Imagine the impact that money could have if it were applied to the deficits in our own countries. Or imagine the impact that money could have if it were used to improve the lives of the poorest people in the third world. Or imagine the impact that money could have if it were available to accelerate the reconstruction of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The current situation in the Persian Gulf makes clear that more effective arms control must become everyone's business. Because it is obvious that excessive arming of Iraq explains in part the grave problems we are experiencing in the region. And cooperation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction must be redoubled.