

*Government Orders*

or, put positively, we have been there every time there has been a role for a United Nations peacekeeping force.

As I said earlier, it is after the cold war, we see a consensus among nations and, this is our moment of history. In the debate on Monday the hon. member for Waterloo pointed out the following:

For many years in the time of the East-West confrontation we have looked at a standing UN peace force. There have been designs and models and because of the East-West confrontation we have not been able to move.

He urged that we try to establish the machinery for a UN standing peace force with battalions held in reserve by national governments so that in an emergency, such as the current one we are debating or any other regional conflict, the United Nations and Canada as member of the United Nations would not be beholden to any one major power, formerly called superpowers, to act and take a leadership role.

I believe that this is truly the opportunity for us to look at new possibilities and seek a Canadian role to advance this concept of a standing United Nations peace force, just as we have within the respective countries of all member states domestic peace forces.

Certainly the unprecedented situation in the gulf crisis shows that we do have a truly united nations effort going on there. There are 158 countries that have come in, in support of the actions being taken by the United Nations.

Just briefly but for the record, I think it is important to note what those resolutions are. They seem to increase as each day goes by. We are now at the stage where eight resolutions have been passed by the Security Council of the United Nations concerning the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

On August 2, 1990 Security Council resolution No. 660 condemned the invasion of Kuwait. On August 6, resolution 661 instituted sanctions against Iraq and occupied Kuwait. August 9, resolution 662 condemned the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. On August 18, resolution 664 called on Iraq to allow other nationals to leave Iraq and occupied Kuwait. On August 25, resolution 665 authorized the use of reasonable force to inspect shipping and

ensure that the sanctions outlined in resolution 664 were in fact being respected.

On September 13, resolution 666 set out the conditions under which humanitarian shipments of food and medicine could be made to Iraq and occupied Kuwait. On September 16, resolution 667 condemned Iraq's incursion into diplomatic premises in occupied Kuwait—I would note that that included premises of the Canadian mission there—and the detention of diplomatic personnel. On September 25, resolution 670 was adopted limiting air transport into Iraq in furtherance of the sanctions.

Never in peacetime has any country, which has violated international law the way Iraq has, faced such a solid wall of sanctions. Many of us have looked at previous examples of the use of sanctions and felt that it was a flawed instrument, an effort that was often circumvented and of very little effect. Certainly in this case the United Nations support—and I mean the 158 or so countries of the United Nations that are behind these eight Security Council resolutions—indicates that this very serious situation is being well handled and the aggression that was anticipated has to date been contained to the invasion of Kuwait.

Any suggestion that Canada's actions in the gulf crisis have been contrary to our tradition as peacekeepers reflects an opinion that has been overtaken by the facts. This is both peacekeeping and peace making. That is theme I want again to emphasize as we now look at the new possibilities in the post-cold war era of finding co-operation to make the United Nations all that it was dreamt it could be in 1945.

• (1200 )

Peacekeepers have traditionally been deployed under the United Nations flag between the parties to a conflict following a truce. Certainly in the case of the current conflict, Canada would support the placing of peacekeepers between Iraq and Kuwait once Baghdad withdraws from the country it has invaded.

This also raises other questions that I do not have time to go into now, but one must contemplate the nature of a liberated Kuwait. Speaking for myself, I would hope that we would be supportive of democratic forces in Kuwait so that in the future the people of that country would have the opportunity to really have a representative and democratic country.