Government Orders

If one is in Baghdad, one will notice that most of the police cars on the streets are in fact from Kuwait. Is that what happens in Canada? Obviously not. We have not attached one province and stolen all of its possessions and hauled them somewhere else. It is clear to me that Iraq is not treating Kuwait as its 19th province. It simply went in to pillage and plunder. We certainly do not hear about those kinds of things happening in the other 18.

I have a number of other quotes I could use about the various atrocities in Iraq, but I think I will pass those by because we have certainly heard them from others and I do not think they need to be repeated. It is clear the atrocities have to stop.

We have heard people say: "Wait. Give sanctions more time." Yet we have not heard how long we should wait or for what, or if they would ever support military action. There is no doubt in my mind that a year or two from now, after the sanctions have proven that the people suffer more and that the military dictatorship has not suffered, we would have to use military forces against them. Then of course we have to deal with the fact that Iraq may be much stronger. However, one thing is certain: Iraq has proven it has no respect for the United Nations.

I am also concerned when I hear people say that this is not a United Nations effort, that this is in fact a U.S. effort, and that we are all teaming with the U.S. There are certainly a lot of nations on the Security Council. Do they really believe that all those nations are simply puppets of the United States? Do they really believe that China or the Soviet Union as members of the Security Council are merely following orders from the United States? When the call for military forces went out, the Liberal and NDP coalition would have the country believe that only those who responded were those in the control of the U.S. Can we imagine Afghanistan, Bangladesh, France, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria, and the United Kingdom all being puppets of the United States, all with forces much greater than anything that Canada has sent there?

• (2020)

Or, can we believe other countries like Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, and Germany all being puppets of the United States? I certainly cannot, and I do not think they can either.

I would like to comment on our role in this regard. We are part of the United Nations. Many years ago we were part of another group of nations that liberated a country. Canada played a role. Our role was significant enough; we were important to the country of Holland. We can ask our veterans, those who served in Holland, whether their contribution was useful. As someone who was born in Holland, I can say that although the contribution of Canada in the over–all scheme may not be significant, the Kuwaitis today will greatly appreciate the support in freeing Kuwait supplied many years ago to provide opportunities of freedom and advancement to other countries in the world from its terrible invaders.

I am sure I could go on, but I recognize the time constraint. Clearly we have to support the United Nations in its resolution to deal with the Iraq-Kuwait conference.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be recognized so many times.

I have a question for the hon. member. Could he indicate how he feels about the fact that the Soviet Union at the present time is supportive of the action against Iraq but does not want to respond to the world community as far as freedom in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia is concerned?

As he knows, the Soviet Union in 1956 during the Suez Canal crisis invaded Hungary. When the west was turning to the Middle East, the Soviet Union acted at that time in Europe. The same thing is happening right now.

Mr. Gorbachev seems to work against the democratic processes that are taking place in the Baltic states. What are his feelings about it?

Mr. Soetens: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. There is a substantial difference in the question that he asks and the resolution that we are dealing with today.

The resolution we are dealing with today is one in which all countries of the United Nations have condemned an invasion of one country by another. It does not mean I necessarily support what has happened in some of the places he has talked about, but that is not what we are debating.