

The events in the Gulf expose another type of gulf, the gulf which exists between our aspirations and our achievements. Closing that gulf will be a priority for Canadian foreign policy in the period ahead. We must address that priority with as much firmness, determination and unity as we bring to our current commitment purpose.

That task too is a task for the United Nations. If we fail to maintain the unity required today to get Saddam out of Kuwait, we will also fail in these other areas. For the UN would be discredited, and a UN discredited cannot confront the tremendous challenges that region poses to the world.

I have spoken of obligations abroad. I want to conclude by addressing obligations at home. It is said the truth is one of the first casualties of war. So too is tolerance. The emotions and prejudices and stereotypes which conflict conjures are insidious. As we face a dictator in the Gulf, we must remember the requirements of democracy and tolerance at home. If this war breeds animosity between Canadians, that too would be a victory for the peacebreakers.

Democracy is characterized by -- indeed dependent upon -- the articulation of different views. This war has prompted debate. To oppose this war does not mean to support Saddam Hussein. That is true with non-Arab Canadians. It is true of Arab Canadians. Reasonable people -- good Canadians all -- have differing views. That right is the right of every Canadian. That right is the essence of democracy. That is a right not enjoyed by those who must live under Saddam Hussein.

Among the people who fight most fiercely against Saddam Hussein are Arabs. The main Coalition partners in the region seeking to bring freedom to Kuwait are Arabs. This is not a fight between peoples. This is a fight with one man -- a fight between the rule of law and an outlaw.

This Government strongly condemns any and all acts of intolerance and racism displayed towards Canadians of Arab origin, or Canadian Jews, or Canadian Moslems or others.

Intolerance is alarming when it occurs between adults. It is especially tragic when Canadian children are subjected to mistreatment. It is the obligation of every parent to ensure that our children understand that this conflict in the Gulf has nothing to do with their neighbours, and that those neighbours are as Canadian as anyone else and that their rights as Canadians must be respected.

These are trying times for all Canadians. They are times of torment for those whose loved ones are at risk in the defence of principle. It is for their sake and for those who