

*Government Orders*

Over the years, we have developed a system of laws and regulations to protect persons and property, in other words, to ensure that our fellow citizens behave in a manner that is acceptable. On a world scale, there are certain conventions and there is a code of behaviour to which most countries generally adhere. There are rules to ensure there is peace and order in the global village. The agency responsible for monitoring compliance with those rules is the UN Security Council.

Since the invasion of Kuwait last August, the Security Council's approach has been balanced and decisive. It was able to maintain a consensus when adopting twelve consecutive resolutions. The UN has explored all diplomatic avenues, which includes the latest visit to Baghdad by Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, to find a peaceful solution to the gulf crisis. The Government of Iraq has reacted with intransigence, insolence, and indifference.

Faced with this lack of co-operation on the part of Iraq, on November 29, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 678, according to which member States are allowed to use all necessary means to ensure compliance with the previous resolutions, and more specifically, to oust the Iraqi forces and restore Kuwait's legitimate government.

This resolution was adopted on November 29. But in spite of numerous efforts to solve the crisis by pacific means, the Government of Iraq did not show any sign of changing its politics and its attitude in the matter. Thus, it appears to be unwilling to collaborate. It knowingly chose not to respect the international order, the United Nations, and the UN resolutions. The Iraqi government is an international outlaw, no less. Like all outlaws, it must suffer the consequences of its actions.

However, there is quite a striking difference between the Iraqi government's situation and that of the common criminal who makes the headlines. The fact is that the international community offers a way out to the Iraqi government, and a pacific one at that. It is up to Saddam Hussein to choose his destiny. Will he leave Kuwait of his own free will, or will he wait for the community of nations to force him to do it? Will he choose a pacific

solution, or will he persist in defying international order, thus forcing a tragic confrontation with the international community?

Faced an obstinate and intransigent aggressor, should the international community bow down itself or should it take the necessary means to force the aggressor to retreat behind its own borders?

• (1950)

I suggest that on the basis of these considerations, only one conclusion can be drawn. Yes, we must constantly seek diplomatic and peaceful solutions to the crisis. Yes, we must maintain the UN imposed sanctions. However, is there any evidence that these sanctions have had any effect on the Iraqi government? None, as far as I know. Although they may have caused serious problems to the Iraqi people, after five months, they do not seem to have charged anything in the arrogance and inflexibility of the Baghdad regime. How long should we wait? Six months, a year, five years? There is no answer to that. After all that time, what would remain of Kuwait?

The presence of Iraqi forces has already been detrimental to the people, the economy and the infrastructure of Kuwait. Moreover, if the international coalition does not act decisively and efficiently, the whole international order and the principles of collective security will be seriously jeopardized. Failing a decisive action, the United Nations, credibility and effectiveness could rank among the major victims of the gulf crisis. We do not want to return to a situation where the only law which would prevail in this world would be the law of the strongest.

We are dealing with collective security. The invasion of Kuwait has already destabilized an already volatile region which is of tremendous importance for our interests and the health of the world economy. Through the United Nations, the international community must take action to re-establish the territorial integrity of Kuwait, one of its full members, failing which the notion of collective security would remain a purely theoretical view. We would endorse that might is right. Our words must be supported by our action.