

Canada served on the Security Council during the last six months of 1990, when the world mounted the most extensive campaign of diplomacy in recent history, seeking Iraq's peaceful withdrawal from Kuwait. We were involved intensively in the negotiation and drafting of the Security Council resolutions respecting Kuwait and co-sponsored 10 of them. We pursued independent initiatives to ease the disruption of Iraq's invasion and to seek a peaceful withdrawal.

In August, Canada contributed \$75 million in humanitarian assistance, with disproportionate high amounts going to Jordan and Egypt and we delivered quickly on the money we promised. Throughout the period, Canada insisted on the central role of the United Nations and, in particular, urged the U.S. to act with the UN rather than alone.

On the assumption that Islamic leaders from developing countries might have more influence on Saddam Hussein than we do, we encouraged our friends in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie -- Bangladesh, Nigeria, Senegal and Mali -- to go to Baghdad, but Saddam Hussein would not receive them.

In late November, I met with Presidents Ozal and Mubarak, and with King Hussein and Prime Minister Shamir. Based on these discussions, Prime Minister Mulroney proposed elements of a peaceful settlement which Mr. Perez de Cuellar took with him to Baghdad: complete Iraqi withdrawal; identification of a process for settling Iraq's dispute with Kuwait; the guarantee of all borders; and an undertaking to settle the other problems of the Middle East.

These were essentially the elements proposed publicly by France some days later, after Saddam Hussein refused to discuss peace seriously with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Those elements represented the only general basis for settlement. Now Iraq says it wants a peaceful settlement. What a pity this conversion has come so late.

We were profoundly disappointed when Saddam Hussein rejected every attempt at peace and forced the world to war. Canada, like other active supporters of the UN, is engaged today in achieving by force what the world could not achieve by diplomacy. Some 2,500 men and women of the Canadian Forces are now in the Gulf, aboard two destroyers and a supply ship, working in a special field hospital unit and operating 26 CF-18 aircraft.

The direct results of Iraq's attack on Kuwait are truly terrible. Kuwait has been defiled. The Kuwait government reports 3,000 Kuwaitis are dead and 17,000 missing. Yesterday, the British House of Commons Human Rights Group heard chilling