

dramatic moment in the proceedings, Vaclav Havel -- playwright, prisoner, president -- said: "Participating in this Summit is the pre-eminent moment in my life" -- because it brought to pass the goals of freedom and comity he had spent all his days pursuing.

The promise of Paris will remain unfulfilled if these brave leaders and their peoples are unable to turn challenge into accomplishment.

In Helsinki in September, Presidents Bush and Gorbachev basically agreed their interests in the world are the same. This should be a cause for celebration. But the celebration is muted because, thousands of kilometres from Europe, another drama is unfolding. The world, through the United Nations, is united to prove that the old way, of naked aggression, has no place in the new international society we seek to build. My talks in Turkey, Jordan, Egypt and Israel confirmed the belief that the greatest catastrophe for the region would be for Saddam Hussein to get away with his attack on Kuwait. Those countries prefer a peaceful solution, but not one that would reward the aggression of Iraq.

The world would not be united in common purpose in countering aggression if the Cold War were still with us. The Security Council of the United Nations would be frozen by ideology, stalled by vetoes. The Soviet Union would be obstructing, not constructing. And aggression would proceed uncontrolled, undeterred and unpunished. The United Nations, to which Canada has always been committed so profoundly, now has a chance to fulfil its creators' expectations. It cannot fail.

The Gulf has other global dimensions. The dramatic escalation in oil costs as a result of that crisis is a perilous blow to the struggling economies of Eastern Europe -- and those of the developing world. This aggression is a direct threat to world order and to the welfare of millions of people all around the globe. That is why the world takes this so seriously. The vital need is for Iraq to understand the world's resolve.

The act of war by Iraq, against Kuwait, points to the limits of what we celebrated in Paris and the challenges which remain -- the fact that development, and debt, and terrorism, and the trade and proliferation of arms threaten our security as much as the old threats which fell with the Berlin Wall. The Persian Gulf shows that other regions are far from the structure of confidence and trust now being built in Europe, and that Europe itself -- and the rest of the world -- are exposed to danger unless those regions and those problems are addressed urgently, through common commitment.

In all three regions -- the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Europe as a whole, and the Persian Gulf -- we are seeing