Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Today the minister would have us believe that he is concerned over the human repercussions, but in his speech yesterday he did not refer even once to the serious environmental consequences of the conflict.

Can the minister tell us to what extent Canada considered the environmental impact before making its decision? And can he give us today his assessment of the terrible environmental degradation we can expect if war does break out?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): One thing for sure, Mr. Speaker, is that Saddam Hussein did not bother to analyse the impact on the environment, on human rights, and on world security before launching his attack against Kuwait. Another thing for sure is that he did show he is quite capable and determined to use and create war tools which might lead us into an environmental war. This has already been demonstrated. If we continue to give Saddam Hussein the time asked for by the Liberal Party, it is clear that he will seek other means to launch an attack against the world environment.

[*English*]

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have the right to expect from their government a far higher degree of concern than is being shown by Saddam Hussein.

The environmental fallout from this war is simply going to be devastating, far greater than anything that Saddam Hussein could do on his own. The effect may well be to destroy the food chain far beyond the immediate regions involved. It will certainly turn the Persian Gulf into another Dead Sea.

Given this and given the hundreds of thousands of deaths that will surely occur, the question this government must answer, the question this government has not answered is: Why take the fatal and irreversible step of committing to war before it is clear beyond any shadow of a doubt—and it is not clear beyond any shadow of a doubt—that the most comprehensive set of sanctions that have ever been imposed in modern history will work?

● (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the most comprehensive set of sanctions ever devised in human history, and I agree with the hon. member on that, are allowing now the passage into Iraq of chemical additives, lubricants, water purification chemicals, spare parts and other things that can be used to build the war machine. The time that is being demanded by the Liberal Party is allowing Saddam Hussein to devise new means of environmental warfare, to perfect his capacity to conduct chemical warfare, and to perfect his capacity to conduct biological warfare.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to other impacts, let me quote from the report of Amnesty International. It reported on December 19 that the violations of rights within Kuwait by Iraq include arbitrary arrest and detention, without trial, of thousands of civilians and military personnel, widespread torture of such persons in custody, imposition of the death penalty, and execution of hundreds of unarmed civilians, including children. The member should stop pretending that there is some kind—

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs may want to table that document.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would be honoured to do so.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

REQUEST THAT DOCUMENT BE TABLED

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may pose a point of order.

We are asking The Secretary of State for External Affairs, as a senior minister, should know the traditions of this House, that when he cites from and reads from a document in this House, he should be asked to table that document so that all members can share the information.

I am not referring to the Amnesty International document; I am referring to the document and piece of paper he was reading from in reference to sanctions. Would he please give us the piece of paper and information from which that was drawn?