

and Asia bear silent but eloquent testimony to the courage and will of Canadians to stand for what we believe is right.

A terrible wrong is being committed by Saddam Hussein and it is the moral duty of the international community to stop him. His motives in attacking Kuwait were self-aggrandizement and greed. To confuse international opinion, he has attempted to link the Persian Gulf crisis with the Palestinian issue. No one believes he invaded Kuwait to help the Palestinians. Everyone can see he is trying to rationalize his invasion of Kuwait, after the fact, and to undermine the multinational coalition facing him. His attempt to portray the occupation of Kuwait -- and the atrocities and murders he perpetrated on other Arabs -- as somehow advancing legitimate Palestinian interests and concerns is both beyond understanding and beneath contempt.

Since we last debated this crisis in November, we have received the Amnesty International report detailing the extent of murders, rapes and brutalization in Kuwait. Torture and executions of non-combatants, including young children, have been wide-spread. Thousands of people have been subjected arbitrarily to arrest and detention. And hundreds of thousands of people have been forcibly evicted from Kuwait.

A systematic effort is being ruthlessly carried out to erase the identity of a nation. Notwithstanding these atrocities, some still make the argument that economic sanctions should be given more time to work. However, the most fundamental question we must ask ourselves is will sanctions alone work? The sanctions and the naval and air blockades have succeeded in stopping a great deal of Iraq's foreign trade. They are unquestionably having an impact on economic conditions and living standards within Iraq. And Iraqi oil production is down substantially. At the same time, there is clearly leakage of foodstuffs and components through the embargo.

How much time would it take for sanctions to work? Six months? -- 16 months? -- 60 months? No one knows. The essential point is that Saddam Hussein has demonstrated limitless tolerance for the suffering of his own people. This is a man who put his nation through eight pointless years of a war that took almost a million lives. So pointless, in fact, that in August he gave back almost everything he had taken from Iran in order to purchase Iranian neutrality in this conflict.

While industrial production is down substantially because of shortages of imported goods, Saddam Hussein will ensure that the Iraqi armed forces are guaranteed the top priority for key commodities. He will not hesitate to pass on any amount of suffering and deprivation to his countrymen. Their well-being and security is clearly the furthest thing from his mind. And there is no evidence that sanctions have caused a groundswell of public discontent.

In fact, there is no reason to believe that the sanctions are having the desired effect -- to persuade Saddam Hussein to remove his forces from Kuwait. And, there is every reason to believe, based on his own statements and behaviour, that he is