

*Government Orders*

the horrible human rights abuses that this man has perpetrated against his own citizens in his own country.

We have been aware of the fact that this man used chemical weapons against his own population in the past. We should not be surprised that subsequent to his actions taken in August of this year that he has continued to abuse the people not only of Iraq but of Kuwait as well. I think it is important to make that statement.

I also think it is important to clarify here in the House that we do support current UN resolutions taken with regard to the Middle East crisis which endorse the use of sanctions against Iraq, and demand the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

As well, I think it is extremely important to say here at the outset of debate that we totally support the United Nations as an institution, in particular as outlined by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We support the founding principle of the United Nations, which is the prevention of war. We want to see this continue to be the major binding principle of the United Nations.

However, if we provide such total support to the United Nations as an institution, it is important that we be very vigilant about the instruments which the UN puts in place. We support the UN resolutions that have been approved to date with regard to Iraq, but we do not, on this side of the House approve of the draft resolution that is proposed to come before the Security Council tomorrow at the United Nations.

As well as not being able to support at this time such a UN resolution which will endorse the use of force in the Middle East, we cannot support the government's Motion No. 24, the resolution which we have before us in the House today. One of our major problems with the government's resolution today is that thereby we are giving a blank cheque to this government to carry out in our name, members of the House of Commons, in the name of all Canadians, whatever action this government deems responsible and appropriate. We cannot agree with giving that power to this government.

However, it is important to add what do we support, and to say that indeed we do support the motion that is on the floor of the House today, as amended by the Hon. House Leader and seconded by myself. Perhaps to clarify

again, I will read what that amended motion says we do support.

It reads:

That this House, noting that the Government of Iraq has not complied with the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the invasion of Kuwait and the detention of third country nationals, supports the United Nations in its current efforts to ensure compliance with Security Council resolution 660 and subsequent resolutions adopted as of 28 November 1990, and that this support shall not be interpreted as approval of the use of Canadian Forces for offensive action without further consultation with and approval by this House.

If it is not possible for this House to approve the amended motion, the Liberal Party will be unable to support the resolution of the government.

• (1730)

Before dealing with some other points, I would like to address in particular the comments made in the speech today by the right hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. I would also like to draw attention made this day by the Prime Minister. As I understand it, he was saying today that he felt any nation that did not support a UN resolution—and the UN resolution he had in mind was the resolution proposed for tomorrow at the United Nations—should be condemned. Yet, in the past two weeks we have heard the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs say that this government was prepared to use force in the gulf with or without UN resolutions.

I feel there is quite a discrepancy between the Prime Minister's comments this morning with regard to the Middle East crisis and what we have heard from the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs in past weeks. It appears that the Prime Minister is prepared to support whatever policy supports his position at the time. It also seems obvious that this government wants to use force in the gulf. That is why we have on the floor today the motion from the government which we cannot support.

I go on to speak to some of the comments made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He commented that the actions of Saddam Hussein were a terrible breach of faith to the United Nations. It is illegal and abhorrent internationally for any nation to invade and occupy the territory of another nation. He talked of the evil of Saddam Hussein, the fact that he has not only the