

Government Orders

to comment and tell me if the world today would not be safer and more sane?

• (2100)

Mr. Cook: I would love to comment on that because the hon. member has a rather coloured picture of the history of that time. However, remember this: Israel was a peaceful country, and the Jewish state when it was formed was attacked by all of its Arab neighbours. They fought them off, established lines—

Mr. Prud'homme: In '48?

Mr. Cook: We are talking '47 and '48. We are also talking about the Arab countries that persuaded the Palestinians to leave their villages and to leave the Jewish state. We are talking about those leaders in the Arab world that set up those refugee camps and maintained them for years for political purposes, not in the best interests of the Palestinians.

The Palestinians have been hard done by the Arab world, not by the Jewish state. The hon. member shouldn't ever forget that when he talks now in terms of the world being different if we did not have a Jewish state. Thank God Israel is there.

Surely, sooner or later, perhaps the Arabs will quit fighting among themselves and allow the Palestinians to take their proper role in the Middle East. It is the Arab world, not the Jewish state, that has contributed to the great suffering of the Palestinians over the past 40 years.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for North Vancouver said at the opening of his remarks that he wished he lived in a world so that all things were negotiable. He suggested that somehow those on this side of the House were naive because we believe in negotiation.

I liken negotiation in this instance to two young tough guys fighting it out in the school yard. What we have is one beating the other one up very badly. He has the other one on the ground with his hands around his neck and is banging his head on the ground saying: "Do you give, do you give?" But he will not take his hands off his

neck long enough for a yes or a no. You cannot negotiate unless you allow the other one to answer.

I am responding to that comment from the hon. member because we now have a situation where, after last night's attack, the question has not even been asked: "Do you give?"

I know the hon. member has been in the House waiting for his opportunity to speak. He will be happy to know that the latest report is that the warheads that struck Israel were not chemical warheads. I am sure he shares with me a great deal of relief about that.

The hon. member asked: "Can you imagine how sanctions would hurt the people of Iraq if they continue?" I think I am quoting him correctly. My question is: Could he tell me if he does not believe that the action last night very much hurt the 350,000 people who died?

Mr. Cook: Madam Speaker, there are two quick caveats. I am curious as to where the figure 350,000 came from.

I am delighted that they were not chemical warheads that struck in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem tonight.

As far as the rest of it is concerned, we have had six months of solid diplomacy and negotiation and got absolutely nowhere with this barbarian. There comes a time when you must take action. I repeat the line I gave in the speech. "All it takes for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing." The time is for action now.

Mr. Ken Hughes (MacLeod): Madam Speaker, on August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein brutally invaded Kuwait, a fellow Arab nation. His purpose was simple. He wanted to extinguish Kuwait as a nation and systematically acquire its wealth. What he did not count on was the united condemnation of his actions by the United Nations.

Saddam Hussein turned a deaf ear to the world and quickly massed his troops along the Iraqi and Kuwait borders with Saudi Arabia. In a rapid response some 30 nations, including Canada, sent military personnel and equipment to the region to deter any further aggression. This was not simply a collection of nations acting individually and unilaterally, but instead a united stand