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Our cover story this issue by **Janice Gross Stein**, deals with the gravest issue of war and peace that has faced Canada and the rest of the world in a long time. The House of Commons Committee on External Affairs and International Trade has been holding hearings on the Gulf crisis, and on 8 November heard testimony from three Canadians. The brief excerpts presented below from these committee witnesses illustrate the broad range and quality of the debate.

**Bernard Wood**, CIIPS Chief Executive Officer: "What are the international community's legitimate goals? They are straightforwardly defined by the UN

resolutions concerned: withdrawal, restoration of the status quo ante, including the restoration of what was internationally recognized as the legitimate regime in Kuwait.

We cannot waiver on those conditions.... By the same token, it is not a legitimate objective of the international community to eliminate Saddam Hussein and his regime. We cannot choose Iraq's rulers any more than he can choose Kuwait's.

... I do not believe full-scale war is inevitable. There should still be at least an even chance that it can be avoided. However, we cannot ignore the proven track record of Saddam Hussein and the unconcerned resort to large-scale warfare.... [T]he international community is forced to conclude that a credible threat of overwhelming attack on himself may be essential to ensure the compelling of his compliance with international law ..."

**Ernie Regehr**, Project Ploughshares: "There is a moral obligation, we increasingly hear, to be prepared to go to war, whether under formal UN authority or not, in order ... to uphold international law. The reasoning is familiar.... If Saddam Hussein does not pull out of Kuwait, the failure to resort to direct mili-

tary action would set an unacceptable precedent. It would show that one can flagrantly violate international law and get away with it....

I want to argue that this is fundamentally wrong ... direct military action against Iraq, as distinct from monitoring and enforcement of sanctions, will exact unacceptable human, political, and material costs. In addition, it will undermine the very principle that its proponents claim they most want to defend: respect for international law."

**Gwynne Dyer**, Military analyst and historian: "Saddam Hussein's great virtue, in a sense, is his undoubted wickedness....

The great majority of international conflicts have incredibly tangled pasts and there is always some wrong on both sides. This case, almost uniquely, is a nice open and shut case, and handled well it is a great opportunity, but of course it has enormous risks. If this precedent is successfully pursued and established, particularly if it can be done without war, a year from now we will almost miraculously find ourselves at least half way toward a workable international security system based on United Nations principles.... But we have to get through this one first."

— **Michael Bryans**

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