

and arms reductions, in political, diplomatic, human and economic efforts – can help to ensure that any further conflict in the USSR will be contained and localized.

From East-West to North-South Confrontation?

We now face a paradoxical situation. The ending of the Cold War can reduce the great power interference which has frequently exacerbated Third World conflicts; at the same time, the lifting of the omni-present hand of those powers may also encourage or permit new assertiveness, aggressiveness and opportunism by others.

The Kuwait Invasion as a Test Case

Whether we like it or not, the world's response to Saddam Hussein's aggression is the first test case of the post Cold War order, and by all historical standards, the international community has responded well. To say that because the world has not applied similar standards of international order in the past, Kuwait should not be made a test case, is surely to preclude ever making progress. There will be another test before very long and probably it will come in some region that is not of as much economic or strategic interest to major world powers. If, at that stage, this new international consensus and the new international security structure fail to respond with equal vigour and even-handedness, the cynics will have been vindicated, and more importantly, the world will be plunged backward.

The UN's Mandate and Procedures

The UN Charter has been followed further and more faithfully than ever before in relation to the peace and security functions which are at the centre of the UN's structure. Because the measures have not been applied previously there is debate about how to do so now. It would have been easier if the Military Staff Committee of the UN and "stand-by forces" had been in place, in the Fall of 1990, but since they were not, it will inevitably be the governments of the US and of Saudi Arabia which will make the key decisions about the use of force. There will be grounds to debate their rhetoric, tactics and timing, but it is critical that the overall strategy of the Security Council, and its resolutions which have the force of law, have the unequivocal support of the government of Canada, and of all Canadians committed to the United Nations.