

the Security Council and of the United Nations.

Mr. President, many Canadians have been directly affected by this crisis, one of the most grievous the world has faced since the end of the Second World War. Canadians remain detained against their will by the Government of Iraq. Hundreds of other Canadians have joined the multinational coalition of forces in the region, and are now separated by thousands of miles from their family and friends. And despite our geographic distance, every Canadian is threatened by the new, dangerous tensions in this most volatile region of the world.

The presence of Canadian forces in the Gulf is fully in keeping with our traditional role as a peacekeeper under the auspices of the United Nations. To keep the peace, you must first make the peace, and it is to that cause that the Canadian men and women in the Gulf are committed. Our position is one of integrity and dedication to the upholding of international law and the universally recognized norms of conduct in the relations between states.

Does Iraq have legitimate concerns which should be discussed? Perhaps there are some. It is up to the governments of Iraq and Kuwait to negotiate those questions either directly or in the many international fora which adjudicate exactly such disputes. The possibility of such negotiations is contained in Security Council Resolution 660, the very first passed by the Council in responding to the invasion. We urge Iraq to pursue this option. But first it must comply with the resolutions of this Council, resolutions made necessary by its deliberate decision to abandon the search for peaceful solutions. We sincerely hope it will do so, as all of us wish to see peace instead of war.

That choice, between peace and war, is now in the hands of Iraq.

Thank you, Mr. President.