Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask all Members of this House to support Canada's efforts, as a member of the United Nations coalition, to expel Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. I do so, Mr. Speaker, on the basis that sometimes war is necessary to secure peace. The war in the Persian Gulf did not begin on January 15th but, rather, on August 2nd, when Saddam Hussein invaded and occupied Kuwait, brutally and without provocation.

Saddam Hussein's action threatened the entire region. It gave the world community the choice either to do nothing, as it had so often done in the past, and acquiesce in the occupation by Iraq of a country one-tenth its size. Or to respond. The world responded. The world decided to act within the framework established 46 years earlier in San Francisco, a framework Canadians helped build -- the United Nations.

The world did not use force immediately to reverse Saddam Hussein's aggression. Rather the response was both measured and prudent, giving diplomacy a chance to secure the peace. From the beginning of August to the end of November, 12 resolutions were passed by the United Nations Security Council ordering Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait. Almost all of these resolutions were passed unanimously. This unity of purpose and perspective reflected the totally unacceptable nature of Saddam Hussein's assault on the principles of peace and security. And it reflected the new spirit of cooperation which had given new life and new hope to the United Nations when tensions between East and West eased. Twenty-eight nations sent forces to the Gulf to enforce the sanctions.

The last five months of 1990 and the first weeks of 1991 witnessed the most intense diplomacy in modern history. At meetings of the United Nations, the Arab League, the European Community, and the Non-Aligned Movement and in literally hundreds of contacts between leaders from the world over -- north and south, east and west, Moslem and non-Moslem, Arab and non-Arab -- all avenues to peace were explored. I am satisfied that throughout these months Canada did all it could do diplomatically in the cause of peace. But all avenues led only to the dead-end of Saddam Hussein's intransigence. And so, on January 15th, after a final, 47-day pause for peace, coalition nations followed through with the use of force authorized by the United Nations.

Canada joined in that effort. We were determined to see the United Nations act as it said it would act if Saddam Hussein did not respond to the will of the world. We were determined to help secure the withdrawal of Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait and to help restore peace and security to the region, as called for in U.N. Security Council resolution 678. So we asked Canadian men and women to serve their country again, this time in the Persian Gulf, accepting the great personal risks this entails. These courageous men and women deserve our full support and we owe it to them, to their families and to history to make our positions clear, to declare where we stand as representatives of the Canadian people.