

But there are hopeful signs in how the world has responded to those old ways. Ten United Nations Security Council resolutions have passed with unprecedented consensus since August 2nd. There has been a near universal application of, and adherence to, sanctions against Iraq. The military forces which have gathered in the Gulf region are from 25 very different countries -- Arab and non-Arab, Muslim and non-Muslim, countries from East and West, North and South.

Canadians are a peaceful people. We don't want war in the Gulf. If this crisis can be resolved without conflict, nothing would be more welcome. The world has had enough of wars. We don't need more war graves, or war heroes, or war victims.

Kuwait today is a victim of war -- a new victim. One hundred days ago, it was at peace, negotiating differences with its neighbour Iraq. Then Iraq abandoned negotiations, despatched its troops, broke basic international law, denied foreigners the right to leave (and now uses them as bargaining chips), and began the deliberate sacking of Kuwait. This crisis started with an act of war. Our hope and purpose is to have it end peacefully. But simply talking to Saddam Hussein will not persuade him. Had talk been our only response, Iraqi forces would almost certainly have moved beyond Kuwait, into Saudi Arabia, creating more new victims of war.

The troops of 25 nations, and the sanctions of the UN, give a chance for talk, for diplomacy, for peace. And those instruments of peace have been developed and employed with unprecedented skill and effect, not least by Canada. But those efforts have weight because they are backed by the threat of force, and that threat will persuade Saddam Hussein only if he believes it will be used.

That is the harsh reality for people who are serious about peace in the Gulf. If we send troops, and refuse in advance to use them, Saddam Hussein has no reason to seek peace.

By its nature, diplomacy is not dramatic. But the modern media focus on the dramatic. Most Canadians have no idea about the history that has been made in the Security Council in the last three months, but their hearts are tugged by the testimony of anxious Canadians who want their families home. And if Messrs. Heath, Brandt, Nakasone, Waldheim, and other lesser figures are received by Saddam Hussein, television audiences may forget about the act of war which started this crisis, and the breach of international law which denies foreigners the right to leave freely.