

That is but one example of the intense period of diplomacy involving Canada and others to avoid conflict. I had 54 separate meetings with foreign ministers from around the world in an attempt to avert this conflict.

Our efforts were mirrored in the activism of others around the world. That too is a change, a welcome change which demonstrated the profound preference of the world for peace and the profound involvement of the world in that search.

To claim that the war we must now fight is a war of one group or one nation or one narrow interest against another contradicts the facts. Great powers are there, as are lesser powers. Nations from the South, as well as the North. Brown and black are fighting alongside white. The spectrum of faith and nationality is full -- Christian and Muslim, Arab and non-Arab.

Look at the 28-member Coalition in the Gulf. One of those members is the United States. It is bearing much of the burden. It is also bearing much of the sacrifice. But there are 27 others, with hundreds of thousands of troops committed. Arab nations like Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Syria and Kuwait. There are Muslim nations like Bangladesh and Pakistan. There are nations from Central America and South America, like Honduras and Argentina. There are nations from Africa, including Senegal and Niger. There are our traditional Western allies -- Australia, Italy, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain and Turkey. And there are old adversaries from the East -- Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria -- who have sent military contributions to the region.

There is no conflict in the history of mankind which can compare to the consensus and unity in the face of aggression that this conflict represents.

Comparisons have been made with Korea. People point to the fact that that war was fought under the UN flag. Certainly, there was a UN flag there. But the UN flag was a U.S. command. General MacArthur was the Commander, the sole Commander of UN forces.

The Korean war, despite its UN auspices, was largely a Western effort. In the Gulf today are forces from Latin America, Africa and the former Communist bloc. No continent is absent. That too is profound change.

And the UN flag is in the Gulf. The UN flag is there in the 12 Resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council demanding Saddam Hussein's withdrawal from Kuwait. The UN flag is there in Resolution 678, which, under Article 48 of the UN Charter, explicitly authorized UN members to implement that Resolution if diplomacy failed. The Canadian flag now