

On my way to the region, I also met with Secretary of State Baker, just before he embarked on his own tour. He shared our view that there is a psychological moment of opportunity to be seized on the agenda for arms control. His immediate concerns were with the arrangements for regional security which would enable the United States to withdraw its ground forces from the theatre and bring the troops home. Even as we spoke, of course, the Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council were meeting in Damascus with the Foreign Ministers of Syria and Egypt to reach agreement on the stationing of Syrian and Egyptian ground forces in Kuwait, to replace Coalition ground forces, once a definitive ceasefire with Iraq was arranged.

I believed that my trip to the area should begin with the Government of Kuwait. The Emir of Kuwait was still in Taif, in Saudi Arabia, where he had spent the occupation. His appreciation for Canada's contribution to the liberation of Kuwait was heartfelt. The Emir was deeply concerned at the damage to his people and to his State. Plans are already beginning for the massive reconstruction of Kuwait and I welcomed the clear assurances that the expertise of Canadian companies will enjoy opportunities commensurate with the important role Canada played in liberating Kuwait.

Mr. Speaker, the senseless damage to Kuwait must be seen to be believed. Across the limitless desert landscape burn innumerable fires, each set deliberately with powerful charges of high explosives. Downtown, on the waterfront, are burned-out building after building, looted store after store, museums, homes, things of value or merit, trashed. This wasn't war damage -- this city was put to the torch in the last 48 hours of occupation.

For the Kuwaitis, the ending of sanctions against Iraq is therefore a major problem. Should oil exports again earn revenues for Iraq when Kuwait remains crippled? On the other hand, Iraq itself is badly damaged and needs to finance its own recovery. One idea being explored by countries of the region is the dedication of a proportion of Iraq's oil revenues to repair the damage Saddam Hussein has done.

Much will depend on what kind of regime survives in Iraq. Saddam Hussein is now being challenged by his own people. But through the force of arms and oppression he can cling to power. As long as he does, the countries of the region will be wary of his designs, and will want continued sanctions on anything enabling him to rebuild his armies.

In Kuwait, there is a mood calling for change in the way the country governs itself. The Government says it is anxious to open up the regime, to institute more democracy. I encouraged that development, and urged that particular care be