

Government Orders

of freeing a country overrun by a dictator. That too is their expertise. They are also good politicians.

The hon. member might not like me to say that because he is a former admiral in the navy, but they are good politicians. That is why he is in the House today. They are good politicians because they can work with other nations in the world.

Mr. Speaker, do you think that the people on the Golan Heights today do not have to exercise a little political savvy once in awhile in dealing with their situation? Whenever they are in peacekeeping situations of the world, they have to relate to the political realities of the situation they are in. They have to be diplomats enough to talk to those people and build bridges. They have to be military enough to hold their ground and do what is right for international justice and boundaries in this world.

I hope that answers the hon. member's question. I do not know why this government has not only not kept its commitment since taking office but now is talking about reducing the forces still further, just after complaining that we do not have enough forces to do the job as it is.

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I appreciated a number of the comments made by my colleague, particularly the one where people such as Saddam Hussein must not be permitted to violate human rights and must in fact respect international laws. I just wanted him to explain to me very briefly what he believes the government's position is with regard to his point, that is that Canadian Armed Forces and other forces ought to be under UN command. Second, he did mention that the Prime Minister of course had not convened the House to make those decisions. He referred to the Oka crisis and to the gulf crisis, but is this not an approach that the Prime Minister uses on whatever he undertakes? It is either that or closure or some other form of limiting discussion by Canadians.

I have a final point. He spoke about a new order of peace and co-operation in helping each other out.

I do not know if the member has the time to respond to those three questions: the Canadian Armed Forces under UN command, the government's approach of not consulting, and the new order. If so, I would appreciate those comments.

Mr. Hopkins: I thank the hon. member for his question. First, the Prime Minister has an attitudinal problem. He is the Prime Minister of a democratic country, but he does not call Parliament into session to discuss decisions that his government is making in committing our Armed Forces abroad, and that is wrong.

Never again in this House—and I said that in ending my speech—should any government in this country ever commit troops to a military problem area where there might be a war without calling Parliament into session. This is still a democratic country, and the Prime Minister is practising dictatorship within the democratic situation we have in Canada and going along no his own.

On the Oka affair, I think the army did the best possible job it could. I had very good communication with some people in it. When they heard they were going to go in there, they said: "Nobody what happens, we are going to get blamed for what happened". I saw on television one night where a young soldier got punched in the nose, blood was streaming down his face. He never reacted. He stood there.

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that at last, with other members of Parliament, I have an opportunity to speak on Canada's action in relation to the events around the Persian Gulf this summer.

The government's resolution on which we are debating begins well enough. It says that the House condemns the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and demands the complete withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and affirms, quoting from the resolution:

—unequivocally its support for Canada's actions in the United Nations Security Council and its support for all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions adopted since August 2.

So far, so good, but unfortunately the government's resolution goes on to tie this to:

—the despatch of members of the Canadian Forces to take part in the multinational military effort in and around the Arabian Peninsula;—

Even though the government had first spoken about the United Nations, it slides over the fact that the United Nations did not authorize that military action and the military action is not led, let alone commanded by the United Nations.