

*Government Orders*

Armed Forces, who are doing a job for us and for the world, to come home safe and to come home now.

• (1150)

This problem in the Middle East is not going to be solved by bullets, although the immediate problem may be. It will not be solved by bullets, by missiles being lobbed at each other or by blood being spilled all through the Persian Gulf. The war has started, but the process of peace must also be started now.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, in support of the Americans, are playing a role in the gulf and they are serving proudly. It was a decision of this government, for which we all must share some responsibility collectively, and we do. This government has a responsibility at this point in time not to sit back and wait for military activity to bring a resolution to this crisis.

The government must not stop until every stone is unturned and until every square centimetre of possible common ground is explored so that the United Nations can progress from this point on and that true lasting political peace, not merely militarily imposed peace, is found in the Middle East. This is the great challenge to parliamentarians.

We all woke up this morning at little stunned, I think. I did not think when I ran for election, nor did anybody in this place, that we would have the issues before us that we have had. My goodness, we have had the Canadian government face to face with our native peoples in Oka. I thought it was pretty traumatic. We have debated things like the abortion bill and Meech Lake. We are wondering if this country has the political will to stay together. Each and every time these issues came up, I think we all sat back and said we never thought we were going to be elected to sit and participate in these big decisions.

This is the biggest decision we have ever faced. This government has to find ways, and our party will support it as it tries, for peace through the United Nations. We would like to see this government, in the finest tradition of Canada, be innovative, be creative, be the bridge builders and find political solutions where none seem to be.

We have a tremendously strong tradition, and it is not one we should let fall now. It is a tradition of trying to find a common interest. It is a tradition of pursuing peace at almost any cost. My colleague who spoke earlier talked about the United Nations and the new world order. Think about the tumultuous times we live in. We have been celebrating over the last year the thaw in the cold war. We saw the Berlin wall fall. I guess maybe we thought everything was going to be easy from this point on.

Do you know what we found out, Madam Speaker? The easy part was the cold war. The hard part is trying to establish a new world order. Canada has a role to play. Its role is to redefine in the United Nations the acceptable parameters and the rules of the game by which we now must play in order to ensure sanity as this world changes dramatically. What are the rules of engagement? Surely to goodness, force has to be the final option that is used. This is new territory for us and we must pursue it vigorously. We must participate and we must initiate as a government and as a country.

In the coming days, there will be much debate in this Chamber. There will be debate about the resources given to the Canadian Armed Forces. There will be many questions asked about the role of the Canadian Armed Forces. There will be pleas to the Canadian government, in the finest tradition of Pearson, to get involved and find those political solutions and to do it as quickly as we possibly can. There will be accolades for the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces who are serving us so proudly in the Persian Gulf now.

I would hope that during the course of the debate we do not lose sight of the major tasks ahead of us. The major task ahead of us is to stop the war, stop the guns, and stop the bullets in the Middle East. The major task ahead of us is to ensure that Saddam Hussein is driven out of Kuwait. The task ahead of us is to make sure that Saddam Hussein, who has terrorized the Middle East, does not have the capability to do it again. The task ahead of us is to ensure that a true and lasting peace is attained in the Middle East. They are big tasks, but I know that Canada is up to the job.

It is going to be up to parliamentarians to shed a little bit of the partisanship we all too often see in here. This is not a partisan issue. Let me make it very clear: the position of the Liberal Party is that, if we had our way, sanctions should have been given more time to work—