

*Government Orders*

The critic for our party has had talks with the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I cannot speak for the NDP, but I hope the same talks are going on there. The NDP have an excellent amendment.

Our critic put an excellent amendment which would ensure that we take part in the multinational military effort in the future, providing it is under UN command. Then this country would have credibility. Imagine, if we had such an all-party resolution, what a boost this would give our military forces who are out there and whose lives are on the line right now. Imagine what support this would give Ambassador Yves Fortier who speaks on behalf of our country. I congratulate him for representing our country so well.

I was in the United Nations at the beginning of this year. I asked: Does the United Nations listen to the resolutions or motions passed in the House of Commons? The answer I got was, yes, if it is an all-party motion or resolution. They do pay attention to it.

We had that example in this House right after the Tiananmen Square crisis. We negotiated among the three parties a resolution which received unanimous support and the world took note.

I must say to this government that one does not play Russian roulette with Canadian lives who are serving in the Canadian Army.

Canadian military personnel want to know under whose command they will serve in the future if the conflict expands. The government gives us the answer that it is under Canadian command. Surely everyone knows there must be one co-ordinating command authorized by the United Nations. Then we would give full support.

If this Persian Gulf crisis can be settled without war, if the United Nations and all the participating countries supporting the UN resolutions can force Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait and restore the legitimate government of Kuwait through sanctions instead of bullets, then this will be a victory of all victories. It will be a victory for the great institution, the United Nations, a victory for all the countries which support the principles of the United Nations, but most of all a victory for the people of Kuwait.

I hope that the government has learned a few lessons from the international crisis of the Persian Gulf and

from the national Oka crisis that we have had this summer. Lesson number one is: Recall Parliament. When there is a world crisis such as and our Armed Forces are going to be involved, for God's sake, the first thing to do is to recall Parliament if it is not sitting.

The second lesson I hope the government has learned is that it should take all parties into its confidence. It should take the Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Standing Committee on National Defence into its confidence. It should take the people of Canada into its confidence. The government did not do that. If the government had done that and come up with an all-party resolution, then I think the government would have looked good, Canada would have looked good in international eyes, and again we would have shown our leadership as a peacekeeping nation.

Just a little over a week ago we unveiled the statue of the former Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson. We were all out there from all three parties and we all applauded at the unveiling. Well, we can take Lester B. Pearson's vision a step further and, instead of acting just as a peacekeeping nation, maybe we should go a step further and be a peacemaking nation. That is something we have not heard from the Prime Minister nor from the Secretary of State. What negotiations are going on in the United Nations, in the corridors, to show that Canada, yes, wants to continue its peacekeeping role, but also has a peacemaking role because our country is respected by all sides of a conflict.

As a former educator, I would like to take this debate in a somewhat different direction. We all remember that over a few weeks ago, right across the world, candlelight vigils were held in commemoration of the United Nations World Summit for Children on September 29 and 30. These vigils served as a reminder to each and every one of us of the 20,000 to 40,000 children that die every day as a result of malnutrition and disease brought on by it—be it misplaced priorities of local governments, economic hardships imposed by international interests, or very simply war, wars that are long gone, wars that have been ongoing for time out of mind, or wars that are just begun, all leaving behind in their wake such destruction and devastation as is difficult for us in the western world to conceive of, let alone comprehend. Such is the magnitude of war.