

*Oral Questions*

Union or of the President of the French Republic, to name just a few.

[English]

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague just said, according to many observers there is strong evidence that sanctions are working.

It would seem important to listen to further evidence concerning sanctions from our parliamentary delegation now in Iraq. We would like further clarification and to know if the Prime Minister agrees today that sanctions still are the best means to achieve UN goals and a resolution of the conflict in the Gulf?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are there in the gulf because we seek to avoid war. We seek to defend the interests and the integrity of the United Nations. We seek to assist in the deterrence of aggression which is consistent not only with our traditions and our history, but also with our position as one of the founding nations of the United Nations.

Indeed, we believe that sanctions have played and will continue to play a useful role. There is nothing in the draft resolution at variance with that.

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, so that all members can participate in a full and informed debate tomorrow on the Gulf crisis, I would ask the Prime Minister to fulfil the promise made to this House yesterday and table today full information on the effectiveness of the sanction policy.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, indeed there is a motion for tomorrow:

That this House, noting that the government of Iraq has not complied with the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the invasion of Kuwait and the detention of third country nationals, supports the United Nations in its efforts to ensure compliance with Security Council Resolution 660 and subsequent resolutions.

That will be debated by all members of the House. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is on his way back from Jordan and Israel presently. He will no doubt provide information we have available on sanctions.

**An hon. member:** He is not here yet.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Well, he is not here yet but I will ask to see what information is available that might be relevant.

There will be this debate tomorrow. Not only will all members participate but it will be interesting to see how all members vote.

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, the resolution which the Prime Minister just read out does not, as the Prime Minister I am sure will concede, expressly commit the Canadian government to place Canadian troops in any offensive action against Iraq, should that be authorized by the United Nations. That resolution which is coming before the Security Council on Thursday, according to the drafts that are now circulating, clearly authorizes the use of force in the gulf after the deadline—whatever the deadline ultimately is—is passed.

My question to the Prime Minister is this, will the Prime Minister make a clear, unequivocal commitment that before Canadian troops are committed to any offensive action against Iraq, the Prime Minister will bring a motion before this House giving this House a chance to pass judgment on whether Canadian troops as such should be committed to offensive action in the gulf?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hypothesis that my hon. friend raises is one to which I will respond only because it is in the context of a debate that will take place tomorrow.

I personally believe and have said many times that the action that was taken at the United Nations and the action that is proposed is designed to convey an unequivocal message to the president of Iraq that aggression does not pay and that lawlessness is an unacceptable code of conduct in the international community.

That having been said, the hypothesis that my hon. friend raises would represent a substantial variance from policy at this point in time and I would be happy to ask the House leader to consult with members of the House to ensure that there is full participation.

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I doubt if anyone in this House, let alone the Canadian people, could understand what the Prime Minister just said in respect of the specific question that I asked, that is will there be a debate in this House on a clear resolution authorizing Canadian participation in force, or will there not be? Will the Prime Minister indicate how he interprets the resolution, that is the motion that is being placed before the House for debate tomorrow? Will he acknowledge that does not in fact give the government