

*Government Orders*

the Middle East against its neighbours in Jordan, Israel and elsewhere.

What Canada must do in the weeks and days ahead is to ensure that we follow two substantial objectives based primarily on our membership on the United Nations Security Council. The first objective we should have is to ensure that whatever action takes place in the Middle East, starting tomorrow, must continue to be done under the United Nations and under United Nations authority.

Article 41 of the United Nations provides for the establishment of a Military Staff Committee. This was designed when the charter was adopted to give the United Nations the opportunity to directly supervise an international peacekeeping force. Let me read it for the record. It is Article 47.1:

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.
2. The Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any Member of the United Nations not permanently represented on the Committee shall be invited by the Committee to be associated with it when the efficient discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires the participation of that Member in its work.
3. The Military Staff Committee shall be responsible under the Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. Questions relating to the command of such forces shall be worked out subsequently.
4. The Military Staff Committee, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, may establish regional sub-committees.

• (1650)

The time has come for the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations to be brought into being. Canada should take the leadership in the Security Council to test and press that position as far as it can. There are indications that the United States would not accept it. Those indications cannot be given in to at the beginning. Every international effort must be made to see that this crisis is used to further strengthen the United Nations and to give it an opportunity to operate.

The practical significance of this is that it permits whatever military action becomes necessary in the Middle East to be done so with the full support of the Security Council and the international community. Anything less than that will have a devastating impact on the world as we know it, and turn this crisis into one that will be preceded only in its consequence by the Second World War. That must be Canada's first objective in the days and weeks ahead.

The second objective must be to clearly limit and delimit Canada's role in this crisis militarily. That limit must be clearly stated by the government and by this Parliament. Canada's role is only to operate within the authority of the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Canadian troops will not be authorized to take any action not authorized by UN resolution. So far, Canada is proceeding in precisely that way. If I heard the Minister of National Defence correctly in the House the other day, he indicated that the current orders to the Canadian contingent is consistent with that principle.

What I think the Canadian people need, in fact what the world community needs as an act of leadership from Canada, is a statement from the government that this will continue to be the government's policy, and that Canadian forces in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula will not be drawn in to any action undertaken by the United States that is not authorized by UN resolution.

We must make it clear in advance to the Americans that that is our position and that if they take military offensive action against Iraq without UN authority, they will lose the support of Canada for their activities in the area. It is an important principle and one which we have to maintain.

Let me quote in support of that position. Mehran Nakhjavani is an Ottawa-based economist and consultant who has done work for *The Economist* and teaches at McGill University. Mr. Nakhjavani, as I understand his position from a number of articles that he has written, including one in today's *Globe and Mail*, is not someone who has any illusion that sanctions will work. I hope on that point he is wrong.

I insist, on behalf of our party, that sanctions be given every opportunity to work before military action is taken. Mr. Nakhjavani is not one who could be seen as someone who has any illusions about the capacity of Iraq to withstand the sanctions. He may, if I understand his