

crisis can only be objectively provided by our own reporters.

Cabinet has made the decision that Canadians will now play an offensive role in the gulf. Will this same Cabinet provide the funds required for the CBC to provide adequate coverage so that Canada can come to understand the tragedy of war through Canadian eyes?

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[Translation]

LITHUANIA

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, considering the sad events now taking place in Lithuania, we must condemn outright the use of force to smother the legitimate aspirations of a people. This kind of armed intervention is particularly odious, coming as it does after the Lithuanian people had democratically expressed their legitimate aspirations.

At a time when Quebec, for the second time in 10 years, is also preparing to exercise democratically its inalienable right to self-determination, we feel a special solidarity with the Lithuanian people, having experienced the intervention of the Canadian army in 1970, as a result of the War Measures Act.

I hope that Lithuania will be able to continue on its peaceful and democratic way towards freedom. I also hope that the will of its people is respected by the entire international community.

Furthermore, I hope that in the not too distant future, our two countries, Quebec and Lithuania, will be able to work together as sovereign nations.

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[English]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, last night Canadians sat in their living rooms and listened with shock as reports confirmed our worst fears, that war had begun in the Middle East.

Now that the United Nations effort has begun we, as Canadians, have to come together in support of our soldiers, men and women, who have placed themselves at risk to restore world order.

Oral Questions

The world through the United Nations has taken a stand against the naked aggression of Saddam Hussein. We must stand together to ensure the principles as set forth in the UN charter are upheld.

Former Prime Minister John Turner perhaps put it best when he said that we are all citizens of the world. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we all have a responsibility to share in the collective security of our world and the action which began last evening was the first step to realizing that objective.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Today, for the first time in 40 years, Canada is at war. During the past few months, the Liberal Party has urged the government not to choose the war option. Today, now that the war has started, we will do everything that is necessary to support our Canadian military men and women who are fighting today in the gulf. We want to see them safely back in Canada as soon as possible. I therefore want to ask the Prime Minister: Could he inform the House whether Canadian forces were directly involved in the military operations against Iraq? If so, could he tell us how many casualties there were, if any?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, unless there has been some last minute information, no, there was no involvement of Canadian troops and as far as I know, there were no casualties at all. My hon. friend referred to there being a war option. Canada did not choose that option. It was Saddam Hussein who started a war against his neighbour on August 2. Canada, after entirely admirable attempts with other countries, sought peace and all our efforts supported a lasting peace. However, every attempt was rebuffed by Saddam Hussein. At the very last minute and once the die was cast, Canada joined the other countries defending the interests of the United Nations and in so doing defended the interests of peace in the world.