

Government Orders

U.S.S.R. authorities to refrain from using further violence against the people and democratically elected governments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

[Translation]

That this House appeals to the U.S.S.R. to adhere to its obligations under the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris, and to seek solutions consistent with respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms; and

That, recognizing the continuing Canadian government policy not to recognize *de jure* the annexation of the Baltic States, this House recalls its Resolution of March 1990 and continues to support the right of the Baltic peoples to determine their own future.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion. Is there agreement?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a short point of order.

Considering that we are about to launch into a very historic and important debate where the need for a maximum exchange of ideas is critical, there have been communications between the parties in terms of the proposal that we consider, after the first round of speeches by the leaders, entering into Committee of the Whole to maximize the positive and meaningful exchange between members.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you would seek the unanimous consent of the House to move to Committee of the Whole after the first round of speeches by the leaders.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, there have been resolutions on this subject passed twice in the House and referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, where that kind of discourse with officials and experts has been going on and continues to go on.

We thought it appropriate for this very important subject at this very important and critical time that the formal debate procedures of the House of Commons would be the best way to proceed. But, in terms of any other modifications to our Standing Orders or procedures that might expedite the kind of discourse, I would certainly be prepared to engage in discussions with House leaders about that at a future time.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I take the remarks of the government House leader as a negative and that the government does not feel at this time that the proposal put by the New Democratic Party requires its approval.

I regret that immensely because the Committee of the Whole would have allowed members of the House to have a dialogue with ministers on the other side. It would have also allowed for repeated questions to be put to the government and a more democratic debate.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kamloops has put a suggestion to the House under motions. At the moment, there is not consent and it is now my duty to continue with Routine Proceedings.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (for the Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved:

That this House reaffirms its support of the United Nations in ending the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on August 2 Saddam Hussein launched a war against Kuwait. His invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait are grievous violations of the most basic principles of international law and of human decency. We are here today to reaffirm Canada's support for the United Nations' efforts to bring those violations to an end.

On October 23, the House approved sending Canadian Forces members, vessels, and aircraft to participate in the multinational military effort in the Persian Gulf.