

That desperate act did not succeed. Israel remains a non-combattant. And our other partners in the region remain in the coalition.

I have spoken in recent days to the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Jordan. The purpose of those conversations was to consolidate the coalition and to reassure them of our understanding of the courageous steps they are taking:

- I told the Israeli Foreign Minister of our support for that country's right of self-defence and of our great appreciation of their responsible restraint in the face of great provocation;
- I sought the views of the Foreign Minister of Egypt and expressed our admiration of their determination to maintain the coalition and to not allow a second Iraqi aggression to undo our response to the first;
- I discussed with Turkey's Foreign Minister that country's participation in the coalition, a co-operation made all the more brave by the difficult circumstances arising from their location next to Iraq and their political situation;
- And, in conversation with my Jordanian colleague, I reiterated our offer of humanitarian assistance to that troubled country and put forward our good offices to maintain the lines of communication between Jordan and its Arab neighbours. He thanked me for the concrete assistance Canada had delivered thus far.

I also spoke last Thursday to the United Nations Secretary-General indicating to him, on behalf of the Prime Minister, our appreciation of his great efforts and our willingness to contribute to the settlement of this conflict when Saddam Hussein agrees to withdraw from Kuwait. That includes any expertise or assistance we might offer to establish a peacekeeping force in the region. I said to the Secretary-General that Canada was with the United Nations before this conflict, that we are with it now, and that we will be with the UN to build a new peace after Saddam withdraws from Kuwait to build a new peace.

We hear in some quarters a call for a pause in the conflict. It is our firm belief that this would be counterproductive and unwise. By his actions, Saddam Hussein continues to show an utter contempt for the United Nations. Military power remains in his hands to threaten Israel and others with terror. A pause now -- with those weapons in place -- would not be a risk worth accepting. A pause now would be read as a