

men and women in the Persian Gulf and to fulfil the commitment made by the Government of Canada to deter aggression and to enforce UN sanctions are being put forward. Resources will be available throughout the crisis, but at this time they come from the total budget of the Department of National Defence.

I can inform the hon. member that we are having discussions with colleagues at this time as to the impact of the Persian gulf crises upon our resources. Once again, I would like to assure the hon. member and other colleagues that the resources necessary, to ensure that the men and women who are serving Canada are able to serve it in a way which would make the risk acceptable, are in place at this time.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I ask the question because I fear we may be getting to have a negative impact on the operation, and this concerns me very much.

I had several telephone calls over the weekend. From the calls I understand that certain defence contracts have been terminated for lack of funding. As a result, weapons maintenance for the Persian Gulf force may be or will be impaired. Can the minister give the House the assurance that the Canadian task force in the Persian Gulf consistently gets the best support that money can buy?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to the first part of the hon. member's question, if I could, because it is important.

There have been statements made in the press by a certain individual, Mr. Gerry Lanigan, which are totally inaccurate. The hon. member does not have to take my word for it, he can take the word of the president of Mr. Lanigan's company who has apologized for those statements and himself said that they are inaccurate.

I can assure the hon. member that we are providing the resources to do the job. We are trying our utmost to assure the people of Canada that the men and women who are serving and performing on behalf of the people of Canada are being provided the equipment that we can provide at this time regardless of the cost in dollars.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We have information that the multinational force in the gulf region has approximately 27 ships and submarines which are equipped to launch between 375 to 500 nuclear missiles. Considering the serious risk of war and the state of tension in the gulf, would the minister take action through the United Nations to have the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union remove all nuclear weapons from the region immediately?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member as he normally does chose his words with care. He used the words "equipped to launch". He then made a logical leap to suggest that there was some intention to launch. He knows that is not the case.

He also knows that it is the policy of the Government of Canada, and indeed of the various governments that have come together in this remarkable show of opposition to the aggression of Iraq in Kuwait under the auspices of the United Nations, to act under those auspices as much as that is possible.

He will know that there are discussions going forward now to see if there is some way in which the United Nations mandate may be extended. He will also know that it is the hope of Canada and of the other countries involved that this matter will be resolved without the use of force and that Iraq will withdraw from its unacceptable invasion of a neighbour. We can then get on to the serious question relating to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region, that is to try to have some means in which the stores of Iraq and those of other countries can be gradually controlled and eliminated.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the minister knows the awesome destructive power of nuclear weapons.

In those circumstances, would he not urge our allies in the gulf to pledge publicly a no use policy of all nuclear