

can act as was intended, a UN which can now be a focus of hope and not a factor of frustration.

That is another change which the Gulf War represents. There are others. One is the unprecedented determination and unity with which the world sought peace before it joined this war. The world did not lurch into conflict. The world gave peace a chance. There has never been a diplomatic effort like it, an effort mounted by countries from North and South, East and West, Arab and non-Arab. That diplomacy was not Western diplomacy. It was global diplomacy. From the beginning, Canada sought to consult with others around the world to find a peaceful way to get Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

Canada enjoys a unique standing in the world. We are one of the strong economies of the developed world -- a member of the Economic Summit -- but we are also extremely active and respected in the developing world, with our aid program and our leadership in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie.

We knew that certain messages to Saddam Hussein would be better delivered by developing countries, by Islamic leaders. So, in September, the Prime Minister proposed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that a small delegation of Third World leaders go to Baghdad to express directly to Saddam the terrible suffering he was causing to the developing world, including Muslim countries. Mr. Mulroney then met, in Ottawa, with President Diouf, of Senegal, a past President of the Organization of African Unity, incoming President of the Islamic Conference, and President of La Francophonie. As a result, President Diouf put together a delegation of Asian and African leaders to go to Iraq -- leaders from Bangladesh, Mali and Nigeria. President Diouf was on his way to Baghdad and stopped over in Paris. My senior official responsible for Africa and the Middle East, Marc Perron, went to Paris to pass on our final views to him.

On December 5, at 4 p.m., Paris time, in the Embassy of Senegal, President Diouf was conferring with Mr. Perron when they were told that Saddam Hussein had cancelled the trip, saying he wished it to take place after the first planned meeting between Foreign Minister Aziz and Secretary Baker. Saddam Hussein did not allow that meeting to happen. And so, the plane that was ready to leave Paris for Baghdad the next day had to return home.

But the Prime Minister did not leave it there. He spoke to President Traore who offered to send his Foreign Minister to Baghdad to see if movement was possible. He then came to Ottawa and reported to us on his mission. That ended up being yet another door which Saddam Hussein slammed shut.