

Government Orders

What I was most interested in is the fact that for years, more specifically since 1947, the United Nations have had resolutions concerning the Middle East, especially Palestine, Lebanon and Cyprus. Has the hon. member a double standards? Is there justice where there is oil, such as in Kuwait which owns 10 per cent of the world oil reserves but which is not a democracy, compared to Lebanon which was a democracy, with a population of three million and where 600,000 people worked as slaves to support the sheik's high standard of living. It is also a country where the Parliament was abolished three years ago. It was a dictatorship, while Lebanon, which was invaded, was a democracy. Why did they not take action in the case of Lebanon? Why take action in the case of Kuwait?

There is also the case of the Soviet Union which has attacked Lithuania and wants to abolish its duly elected government. Will he also be sending Canadian troops to protect the Lithuanians?

Mr. Marc Ferland (Portneuf): Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for his excellent question. However, concerning the first part of his question, I must say that I do not agree with him at all when he says that Canada tags along with the U.S. I find it ridiculous that in Canada, parliamentarians continue to make people believe that Canada is always trailing behind the United States. If he had listened carefully to the speech given today by the hon. Joe Clark, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, he would know that Canada has had a great influence on its southern neighbour, convincing him, for once, not to repeat the traditional blocks pattern but to play its rightful role within the United Nations, like all the other countries of the world.

With regard to Lebanon, Lithuania, and all those countries, we could also talk about many others as Czechoslovakia, and Afghanistan. When Lebanon for instance faced those problems, and was invaded, the UN could not do anything at that time because we were in the middle of a cold war. There were two block, two giant powers facing each other. If one said: "I am going in there," the other would say "OK, go ahead, I will go in another area soon but do not come and bother me." The cold war is over and it must not come back.

The reason why it is important for Mr. Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait is that we will be in position from now on to tell the Lithuanians and the Lebanese that we

will be there as an international body to help them out of their troubles. That is the role of the UN, the role it will play in the future, a role which Canada has been wishing for that organization for the past 45 years. And I, for one, will not accept that one Saddam Hussein perverts the rules of the game today at the beginning of the year 1991. We are going into the 21st century. I want my son to enjoy the same freedom I have enjoyed myself for 46 years. I want more for him. I want him to live on a planet where life is good everywhere, where people of all colours and creeds can feel free and at home under a democratically elected government. That is what I dream for every country of the world.

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, I want to start by making it absolutely clear that we in the Liberal Party fully support the charter of the United Nations and we fully support the role of the United Nations in preventing and resolving international conflict. We support the United Nations in its peace-keeping and its peacemaking roles. But just because we support the charter, this does not mean that we support every UN resolution and we certainly do not support Security Council resolution 678, which is the resolution which authorizes offensive military action against Iraq in 22 minutes from now.

The reason that we do not support that resolution is that we do not believe, as many others in the world do not believe, that it is the proper time. We maintain, as was pointed out by my leader this morning, that not enough time was given to the working of the economic sanctions, which in themselves were put forward by the United Nations in a Security Council resolution, not enough time for those sanctions to bite, and not enough time for diplomatic initiatives.

For the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to suggest that we do not support the United Nations simply because we do not support this or any other resolution is total nonsense. There are all sorts of UN resolutions that have not been implemented. There were many cases before the United Nations of aggression against other states which were condemned by the United Nations but for which there never were any economic sanctions or threats of war. My hon. colleague from Calgary just mentioned one of them. Lebanon was invaded by Syria and by Israel and nothing was done.