

by factories or civilians, it is occupied by an army. We know now that during the pause for peace Saddam increased the food for his troops and reduced the food for his people. That proves his priorities. It makes clear that his Iraqi people would have suffered horribly and Saddam's army would still not suffer.

These, then, would have been the risks involved in giving Saddam Hussein yet another pause for peace: a Kuwait further pillaged; an Iraqi army further strengthened; a potential casualty list lengthened; a developing world and an Eastern Europe impoverished; and an incendiary region made even less stable. Those would have been terrible risks.

This is a man who gassed his own people, a man who took hundreds of hostages, a man who sends rockets to kill innocent civilians, a man who now threatens to use prisoners-of-war as human shields. This is the man who did not move for 168 days. Would more time have made this outlaw a man of reason, a man of peace?

This Government -- indeed no government -- saw any information which would convince us that those risks of delay were worth bearing. I believe that Canadians, now confronting the costs of conflict, should have confidence that peace was indeed given a chance.

This war, then, is both a war of principle and a war of last resort. But our concerns must not stop there. It is not enough that we simply concentrate on the choreography of conflict. Wars are only worth fighting if the new peace they usher in is preferable to what went on before.

Wars have causes. Peace has prerequisites. That is true in the Gulf as it is true everywhere.

Saddam Hussein's aggression is without justification. But Saddam's aggression occurred in a region of the world more volatile than any other, a region of hatred and extremism and ideology and terror. It is those forces which helped bring Saddam Hussein into power. It is those forces which sustain him. It is those forces he now seeks to manipulate as he tries to make the Coalition crumble by spreading terror across the region.

No one can look at the Middle East or the Persian Gulf and be proud or sanguine. This is a region where the success of diplomacy has been known largely by its absence. This is a region where weapons of mass destruction are stockpiled, weapons developed because of insecurities and ambition, weapons which the West played a role in building.

Canadian arms exports to this area have been closely controlled. But this is a region which has been a boon to the