

Government Orders

This scenario has major ramifications as regards the security policy. The economic crisis resulting from a sharp increase in oil prices could seriously destabilize the political scene. This instability could jeopardize fragile new democracies in eastern Europe or cause disturbances in developing countries, in addition to the problems these nations are already faced with. Violent conflicts could then occur.

Another potential source of political instability is refugees and uprooted foreign workers, whose desperate situation is increasingly apparent. It is well known that this is a major problem in a country like Jordan. In fact, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced a few months ago that Canada will provide assistance to the countries faced with this serious problem.

The response of the international community to the invasion of Kuwait is very encouraging. It carries the promise of better prospects for collective security as an integral part of the new global order. The potential for such cooperation on security issues is really the kind of peace dividend we were hoping to achieve with the end of the cold war.

Saddam Hussein attempted to darken these wonderful prospects by brutally invading Kuwait. The international community is determined to prevent him from succeeding. The situation in the Middle East is the first test for the new global order which is emerging.

Peace logic, war logic: The hour of truth has come. Like their glorious predecessors, the Canadian servicemen and women are prepared to do their duty with courage and honour, alongside the troops from 30 or so countries advocating the rule of law, civilized standards, and a new international peace order. Canada is with them in heart and in spirit. We want them to know that we are proud of them and that we depend on them. This is the message we have for them in this grave moment for our country and for the rest of the world.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglington—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for the hon. member. I would like to get back to his reference to the sequence of events in the Middle East. I will proceed in English.

[*English*]

Both in reference to what he said and to what the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated is that Canada had exercised great influence on the world community starting on August 2. I think that the Secre-

tary of State for External Affairs indicated that it was thanks to our Prime Minister that the Americans decided against the surgical strike in the Middle East. That augurs well for Canada because it suggested that we have enormous influence.

It also suggests that Canada, if it is going to act with any kind of balance and authority, has as well a credible plan in place in order to ensure that the kinds of actions that it is asking this Parliament to embark on are going to bear fruit for the international community and bring credit to Canada on behalf of long-term peace and stability, not only in the Middle East but elsewhere. These are factors that both the minister and the hon. member who just spoke have acknowledged.

The Canadian government is obliged to inform the House what the necessary steps are to ensure that we win peace, whether it comes about as a result of the government's initiative after midnight, or whether it comes about as we would propose, that is, by sanctions.

We have a right to know, and the Canadian public has a right to know. If it is going to consider seriously the motion that the government is putting before the Canadian public, what will be Canada's role in the process, both in terms of lives and in terms of resources.

For example, after midnight, will the Canadian government honestly tell the House whether it intends to use its forces in their current state and whether in fact they will continue blockading? Will it shift the commitment to provide defensive cover for front-line forces or will aircraft be used in an offensive and aggressive mode in the Middle East?

What will be done to ensure that Iraq will no longer be able, after our intervention, to take control of Kuwait again, to threaten the oilfields, or to threaten the Middle East and bring it to the brink again.

If a military intervention is what the government says is absolutely indispensable to the resolution of problems and to ensuring long-term peace after the destruction of Iraq, both in terms of its leadership, its economic capability, and its military, will the government tell us what intentions it has to maintain order, to feed the people that will be deprived of resources, and to prevent a power vacuum? How will it deal with the estimated 1.5 million refugees that will emerge from the conflict? The Canadian public needs to know the answers to these questions.