

Government Orders

a huge majority that was necessary to reach this kind of decision, and everyone was hoping it would not come to this.

We learn from what we are taught, we learn theory, and we also learn from experience. It seems to me that past experience has not helped us avoid such conflicts but it would also seem that aggressors, that invaders like Iraq have failed to realize that their predecessors in similar situations were not successful.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that in the present situation, we will be able to use this organization, an indispensable instrument for the development of world peace, to draw from this unfortunate experience any benefits that are to be had.

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member. I would like to hear his reaction to this quote from an article by Alain Dubuc published in *La Presse* of January 14, 1991, under the title: "Canada should remain an ambassador of peace", in which he says: "Why should we send our young people over there to be killed? Why should we let the federal government spend billions of dollars to finance this undertaking? This reluctance is also understandable because of some deeply rooted traditions. Canada is not a military power, and the modest role it has always played on the international scene has tended to be that of a peace ambassador". Do you agree with this quote?

Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the distinguished editorial writer of *La Presse* is entitled to his opinion.

However, as I just said, Canada's present actions are no reason to conclude it is a warlike country. We must conclude that Canada is acting consistently with its military traditions. It is true that Canada is not a military power, but Canada is an intermediary power, and for some of the countries I mentioned earlier, the small powers, it has been a country that was able to support their claims. In this case, it has put us in an unfortunate situation, but that does not make us a warlike country.

Canada is not a neutral country. Canada is a country with honour, a country that is able to defend principles, alone and with others. And the principle applies, in this case, to Canada and to the global community. The resolution was passed. A consensus was finally reached

in the Security Council. It was backed by 159 member States, none of whom appeared to make any objections. Basically, the whole world was in favour of this tactic, if I may use this term, but some countries were hoping we would not have to go that far. However, these things do not operate in a vacuum. There is also the aggressor. You see how things develop. It was with that in mind that the resolution was passed in November 1990.

Canada is not a military power and it is not a warlike country, but Canada was there in 1914 as it was in 1939, in 1950, and again today. It is a member of the United Nations and when you are a member of the UN and there is a consensus like the one we had on November 29, you cannot pick up your chips and leave when going gets tough. We have to be consistent, the same way that Canada as a country is consistent.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member. What is his attitude to the Middle East problem and the possibility of a peace conference that would of course include Israel, the Palestinians and now also Iraq and Kuwait? Would he be in favour of such a conference?

• (2010)

Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, without this conflict with Iraq, the international community would probably be holding this conference. Canada supported it from the beginning. It had the support of virtually the whole world, with the exception of one power. However, it is true that both situations need not be linked and there is still the need for such a conference.

We all hope this conflict will be short and that it will soon be followed by such a conference, since the United Nations have now the credibility allowing it to claim to be the forum that will bring about a solution to Middle East's problem.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso. I apologize, I forgot the hon. member for Lotbinière spoke only for 10 minutes and I recognize the hon. member for Ontario.

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I certainly have to compliment the hon. member for Lotbinière for his excellent presentation of what is obviously a very