

*Government Orders*

Canadians, historically, have been at the cutting edge of the practical measures which have won respect for the United Nations. We helped draft the charter. Professor John Humphrey of McGill was a principal author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Lester Pearson guided the ideal of peacekeeping, against Canadian critics who said it was an inappropriate use of the United Nations, and 83,000 Canadians wore and wear today the blue beret, with pride and with effect, to build peace and to maintain peace.

Now we are at a new step in the evolution of the United Nations, a time in which at last the members of the Security Council are working together on resolutions which involve enough compromise on all sides to allow this diverse world to act together to keep its house in order. And yet, at the same time as being prepared to compromise to come together, the Security Council of the United Nations has taken actions which are clear in their intent and respected in their application. It is hard to think of a time when the United Nations worked better and we, Canada, want to keep it working because that is the only way to advance peace and prevent war.

Since the beginning of the crisis the United Nations has shown that blatant disrespect for international law can be met with a response that is firm in its resolve and unbending in its respect for international order.

For Canada, some of the basic precepts in which our foreign policy is deeply rooted are being challenged by the gulf crisis and they just may be vindicated by its resolution and its aftermath. The rule of law and the establishment of a stable international environment have been key objectives of ours since the end of the Second World War.

*[Translation]*

Since the beginning of the crisis, the government of Canada has kept the same objectives in constant view: to make clear the unacceptability of Iraqi behaviour and Canada's determination to play its part in the collective response; to reinforce the rule of law in international affairs and support a renewed United Nations in its first post-cold war response to a gross violation of its charter by a member state; and, of course, to protect Canadian lives and Canadian interests put in jeopardy by the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Following from those objectives, we have been trying for three months, in co-operation with the other countries joined in a united

stand against Iraq, to ensure that the UN-imposed sanctions are made as effective as possible; that the international consensus is sustained; that the humanitarian and economic problems created by the crisis and the sanctions are addressed quickly and sympathetically, both as an intrinsically important goal and one supportive in sustaining the international consensus; that the international community explore peaceful means to end the dispute, while enforcing the UN resolutions.

• (1550)

*[English]*

Well, Sir, where are we today? Iraq is still occupying Kuwait, in spite of universal condemnation and the near universal application of sanctions.

We, of course, hope that sanctions will help to persuade Saddam Hussein to withdraw. We continue to believe that they help make clear our resolve, but we also now recognize that sanctions in and of themselves are not sufficient to force a withdrawal, if the Iraqi government places a higher priority on holding onto its territorial gains than on the resumption of normal life for its citizenry. We simply have to face that fact.

The government in Baghdad, as the House knows, has been using innocent civilians of third countries, including Canada, in its efforts to wrest concessions from the international community and to try to win propaganda points with its own supporters. It has proceeded at the same time with a ruthless program to annihilate all traces of Kuwait's separate existence. In short, Iraq has repeatedly ignored the demands of the international community in successive Security Council resolutions passed since August 2. It has failed to comply with the obligations incumbent upon it on the basis of international law, on the basis of the principles of civilized behaviour, and on the basis of its own membership in the United Nations.

I have, as I said, Mr. Speaker, in the last several days been in the Middle East. That trip followed intensive talks that both the Prime Minister and I had with the leaders of the Soviet Union, the European Community, and the United States. In the Middle East, I spent many hours in discussions with Iraq's neighbours, including the President of Turkey, the King of Jordan, the Prime Minister of Israel, and with the ministers of foreign affairs of those countries. I also met at length with