

*Government Orders*

happened in such a few short months? How can we be part and parcel of the American military camp?

We belong with the community of nations, under the flag and auspices of the United Nations, resolutely determined to use all efforts to prevent war, to maintain international law, to use sanctions, embargoes, diplomacy, pressure from all quarters to bring sanity to the surface, to wear down the aggressor, demoralize the aggressor, and to deprive the aggressor of any means to continue or maintain any course of aggression. That is where we belong. That is where all peaceful nations belong.

The crisis in the Middle East is not unexpected. There have been years of turmoil and injustice, and God knows there has been injustice. As my colleague from Western Arctic mentioned, if there were to be a conflict or war in the Middle East, we would see the emergence of other Saddam Husseins to bring vengeance on what has happened. That is obvious.

Consider the injustice and the struggle to control that oil resource in the Middle East. There was the setting up of arbitrary borders in the past, the maintaining of undemocratic regimes of kings, princes, and emirs who monopolized the wealth for their own private benefit, much of which finds its way into the American treasury in the form of bonds, European banks, and investments in other countries—but not for their own people. We are supporting leaders like that.

Canada now faces a crossroads in our history. Are we now part of those nations that risk conflict abroad, citing national interests as a reason? We do not belong in that group. We see ourselves as peacemakers and we are not powder monkeys.

[*Translation*]

History taught us that when there is a conflict, the threat of war is not a solution. As some of my colleagues pointed out, in a war there are no winners, only losers. Some lose less than others, but there are only losers. In this Middle East conflict, I hope everybody will come back to their senses once they realize that sanctions are the best way to put an end to an aggression.

For once in the history of humanity, we have the chance to prove that sanctions are effective. That is the biggest step forward we can make in our civilization, to prove once and for all that there is no need to start wars,

to launch attacks, and to make innocent victims. Too many innocents have died in the Middle-East. Must we recall the sacrifice foreign armed forces have inflicted upon Lebanon? Must we recall the suffering of Palestinians who have been treated unfairly for years and years? Nothing was done for them.

**Some hon. members:** We are still doing nothing.

**Mr. Assad:** That is right, we are still doing nothing. But, if a country produces oil, however little, we are there in the national interest. That is the worse case of hypocrisy I have even seen.

Canada has had an established reputation in the world for years, under Pearson, Saint-Laurent, Trudeau and even under John Diefenbaker who, admittedly, made sure that Canada had its own foreign policy completely independent from that of the United States.

In closing, if ever I wished and prayed for something in my life, it is that Canada agrees to tell the United States and any other country joining it: "We will give the sanctions time to produce their effect, even if it takes months or a year." The experts say it is a matter of time. We have plenty of time. We have behind us 5,000 years of wars, injustices, sacrifices and killings. Why not wait another six months and allow civilization to take another step forward?

I would like our country to be among those who told the world: "We are for sanctions and against any conflict that could lead to war. We believe that in time, with the support of other nations, we will achieve our goal and preserve peace. For the first time in the history of humankind, we will put an end to armed conflicts and finally eliminate aggressors from this planet.

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, first I would like to congratulate warmly my colleague, an authentic Quebecer whose mother was a French Canadian from Quebec and whose father was Lebanese will. He is able to reason and understand as many men and women in Quebec what is going on in the Middle East.

I will not make a speech or comments in this period of response to my colleague's speech, but will rather will ask him a direct question. I want to congratulate him for his attachment and also his sense of continuity since coming here in Parliament. He is not a man who changes his mind from one day to the next. I want to congratulate