

*Government Orders*

the Iraqi negotiators walked out of the negotiations, Iraq launched its massive invasion of Kuwait.

Since that time Iraq has proclaimed a comprehensive and internal merger between Iraq and Kuwait, offering a series of justifications for its behaviour.

I have heard members from the opposition talk about the action of the United States in Panama. I suggest to them that the United States is not and has not annexed Panama. I suggest to them that the United Nations has withdrawn from Panama. I could suggest to the hon. members that they are comparing apples and oranges and that their visceral distrust and their visceral hatred of our friends across the border sometimes allows them to be carried away with their rhetoric.

But what kind of a nation are we dealing with when we are dealing with Iraq? The hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception just spoke. He identified four points around which he built his argument as to why the sanctions should be allowed to continue and why he believed that they would work in the long run because, as he said, he would accept the use of force reluctantly if there was more time to apply sanctions.

• (2110)

I suggest that his argument would have some justification with a lot of countries and a lot of regimes. But I think the third point in his argument was that they must have a shaky political regime. He suggested that that was the case in Iraq.

Perhaps that would be the case in ordinary circumstances but when you have a leader who uses chemical weapons on his own people; when you have a leader who entered an eight-year war, where a whole generation of teenagers between the ages of 16 to 25 were removed permanently from the population; when you have a leader who refuses to recognize the well-being of his own people; when you have a leader who dominates and controls his people by summary execution; when you have a leader who does not rely on what we would consider to be ordinary norms, then I would say that unless the hon. member really believes Saddam Hussein has a greater feeling for the Iraqi people than he does for the occupation of Kuwait, he cannot accept the fact

that sanctions will work on Saddam Hussein as they would on other people.

I draw this to his attention because I know the member understands force and he understands and has said that he would reluctantly accept the use of force if there had been a proven time for sanctions to work.

It is important to understand what we are dealing with. There has to be some limit to the drive that we have seen for the military dominance of the region by Iraq. There has to be a demonstrated willingness by the rest of the world to put a stop to it.

There is a calloused disregard for human life that is not to be accepted in our society or other societies. These 10 resolutions are the most powerful statements of the United Nations Charter since its inception. I believe what the Government of Canada and like-minded nations have done has added to the support and the strength of the United Nations.

For the first time since its inception, the true characteristics that were enunciated in the United Nations Charter to provide peace, security and stability in the world have been enunciated in those 10 resolutions against Iraq.

I want to go on about our own response. Canada's response has traditionally been to provide forces to multinational organizations, and always in the pursuit of a more peaceful and stable world. That is what we debated in this House earlier. That is what the majority of the members of this House agreed should take place.

I would suggest that the speed in which Canada responded, both with its naval and air operations, which were set up under very challenging circumstances, are an appropriate response for a middle-sized power such as Canada.

Members of the House and the public should be aware that although our naval force in the Gulf makes up only 3 per cent of the naval assets in the Gulf region, it is doing 22 per cent of the work. As of yesterday, they had been involved in some 1,000 interdictions and hailings and they have been involved in some 8 boardings. The men and women who are serving there, not missing one day on station, are doing a superb job and they are doing it with the professionalism that we all expect of them. When one looks at the CF-18 squadron, which is located in Qatar, one recognizes its ability to change its daily