

bring Mr. Hussein to his senses. These actions were taken in the name of human rights, dignity and maintaining the freedom of smaller country.

What is the basic difference between the situation which exists now in Yugoslavia and that which existed in Kuwait, when we did not hesitate at all to engage in measures to bring that tyrant to his senses? What is the profound difference? Why are we so hesitant in the face of outrages far worse than those which existed in Kuwait? Why are we so hesitant to intervene in a tough way in this case?

Time after time, agreements have been broached. There is obviously no interest at all in observing the spirit and letter of those agreements. Another UN emissary is in Belgrade today, pleading with the leadership there to please abide by the latest agreement.

Why are we having such a difficult time, and engaging in this moral agonizing over what we should do, when in the case of Kuwait we went in and the job was done with the full cooperation of the Canadian Armed Forces?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, the differences are many. I hear some honourable senators opposite saying the difference between the situation in Kuwait and the present situation in Europe is one of oil. The fact of the matter is that the basic difference is the realistic evaluation by all countries on the Security Council and elsewhere as to the effectiveness of armed intervention of that kind on the part of the United Nations.

• (1450)

Senator Perrault: It seems to me that somehow Kuwait represented a smaller problem, that it was easier to handle militarily, which is why we did not hesitate to move in. In the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia it seems that somehow that may entail a greater effort and sacrifice on behalf of the West.

I think that we have been somewhat cynical and hypocritical in the position we have taken in this matter. I am not accusing the government of dereliction of its duty at all. After all, we are all Canadians as far as this issue is concerned.

I was at a meeting the other evening where there were some recent refugees who had just come from Bosnia. The stories they told were absolutely and horribly scandalous. We have permitted this conflict to go on and all we can engage in is a ceaseless round of hand-wringing instead of action.

Senator Murray: The UN Security Council has imposed sanctions, and we, Canada, would support further sanctions if they could be effective. This is not a situation on which one should extemporize.

The fact of the matter is that Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance have developed a plan which, possibly, would bring some stability to the region and effectively provide for its

[Senator Perrault]

cantonization. We are dealing with conflicts that saw their origins many centuries ago.

If a simple intervention by a UN force could solve the problem, or even if we could be certain that it would achieve something, then it could be considered. At the moment, it does not seem likely to happen.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AID TO RUSSIA—IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I should like to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate in order to clear up what seems to be a contradiction.

On March 23, the Prime Minister announced that food shipments, especially of wheat, to Russia would be resumed immediately. As a result of an interview with the minister responsible for grains and oilseeds, the Honourable Charlie Mayer, there have been some press reports stating that they were not to resume shipments because of some difficulty caused by the fact that payments were not being made. The point that the minister emphasized was that Canada is entitled to payment, in light of the fact that they pay other countries for their arrears.

It may be that that interview was conducted before the Prime Minister made his announcement and only reported on afterwards. The question I ask is this: Are we now to resume shipments of food, particularly wheat, to the Soviet Union notwithstanding the other qualifications?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the short answer to that question is yes. The Prime Minister has spoken with President Yeltsin. The Prime Minister says that they have resolved the problem, and I have no doubt that they have. That is his statement. I think there are some details that have yet to be ironed out, but we have every confidence that they will be.

Senator Olson: So "immediate" doesn't quite mean "immediate".

YUGOSLAVIA

CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING TROOPS—EQUAL STANDING FOR RESERVISTS AND REGULARS—STATUS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. My colleague, Senator Perrault, referred to the unfortunate incident yesterday in Yugoslavia in which two Canadian soldiers were severely hurt.

There have been previous incidents. In fact, last Saturday two other Canadian soldiers, who happen to be from Winni-