

The world was challenged by Saddam Hussein's aggression and the world has been changed by our response to it. We must ensure that change remains positive. Securing respect for international law has been our immediate goal. Securing a lasting peace must be our long-term aim.

That is why we could not accept the conditional response from Iraq, particularly one that would have left open Iraq's claims to Kuwait, or limited the United Nations' ability to keep some sanctions until we had assurances about Iraq's weapons.

And that is why Canada has placed so much emphasis on what the world does after this war -- both to deal with issues like arms that we have ignored too long, to help reconstruction in the region, to foster long-term economic co-operation and to continue to strengthen the United Nations.

There is a particular and immediate challenge of economic reconstruction, particularly in Kuwait, and of environmental clean-up in the Gulf. We have already been active in responding to the latter.

Many of the requirements of rebuilding Kuwait are in fields of significant Canadian expertise. Our Ambassador to Kuwait, Larry Dickenson, returns to our Embassy in Kuwait City today, and we are already moving to connect what Kuwait needs with what Canada can provide. I expect to be back in the region myself, next week, to help make that connection, and am meeting here this afternoon with Albertans whose advice and co-operation we need.

The world did not unite in opposing aggression in Kuwait to have that region erupt again in yet another war in the months and years ahead. The world cannot let a victory become a truce, an occasion for nations to rearm, regroup and return to battle. The peace which now beckons must be more than a pause; it must become a pattern -- a period in which that region and the world absorbs the lessons of the past seven months and acts upon them -- boldly, with conviction and with imagination.

I want to talk to you today about Canada's efforts to prevent this war, to help secure victory once war became necessary, and, now, our commitment to construct a durable peace.

What is most remarkable about this war is what preceded it. The world did not lurch or leap into war. Individual nations did not respond unilaterally and with force. Instead, aggression was met with the united will of the world expressed through diplomacy, through the United Nations -- with 12 UN Security Council Resolutions, most passed without dissent, and an explicit pause for peace which gave Saddam Hussein every opportunity to reverse his course.