

[*English*]

I also want to take this opportunity to express on behalf of my colleagues our condolences to the families of those senior leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Saleh Khalef and Hayel Abdel-Hamid, who were murdered yesterday. The cycle of violence continues in that region. All of us are devastated by that and certainly we would want to convey our sympathy and our regret to their families and as well to recognize—I think it is important to do this—that the effect of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait tragically once again is not to help the Palestinians, despite its protestation to the contrary.

The plight of the Palestinians in side and outside Kuwait, Kuwait, particularly in the occupied territories, is far worse after that invasion. That reinforces the importance of coming to an equitable solution to that tragic conflict.

The final point that my leader made in terms of our alternative to war is looking at collective means of resolving this dispute that falls short of war, for example, international arbitration through international agencies such as the International Court of Justice over questions of borders. Yes, there are disputes about borders, international arbitration, and Arab-Arab discussion and agreement over oil disputes. Yes, there were legitimate concerns about over production and under pricing, not just by Iraq and Kuwait, but also by the United Arab Emirates.

Certainly as a community of nations we must recognize the mad arms trade which fed this conflict. Remember that the Soviet Union, France, and other western countries were the major suppliers of arms to Iraq in its war with Iran and that Germany and German companies were the major suppliers of chemicals for chemical warfare. That arms trade, which has led to the possibility of chemical and biological warfare and of course the risk of nuclear weapons, must be confronted as well in that region if there is to be any lasting peace.

The people of Canada are deeply concerned about the prospects of this nation being drawn into a war. There have been demonstrations, rallies, letters, phone calls and telegrams. Particularly in extraordinary numbers are the young people at the rallies which I had the privilege of attending in Vancouver and Montreal. My colleagues

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spoke in other locations such as the hon. member for Victoria in Ottawa and others across the land. We met as well with representatives of peace groups, a wide cross-section of peace groups in Canada, including the Canadian Peace Alliance, the Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament—

[*Translation*]

—artists for peace, people who belong to the *Échec à la guerre* group and who led the fight in Quebec against the folly of war—

[*English*]

—the Anti-Arms Race in British Columbia, Greenpeace, World Federalists, the Mennonite Central Committee, Project Ploughshares, Oxfam, the United Nations Association, the Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. All these groups spoke with one voice to us and through us to the government of this country. These groups are saying no to war, that we must give peace a chance. That is our plea today.

War is wrong from every possible perspective. From the human perspective, there is the risk of a loss of literally hundreds of thousands of innocent lives. The Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have documented that very eloquently. My colleagues will be speaking on the possibility of environmental disaster, particularly the member for Saanich—Gulf Islands and Skeena. There will be devastation of the environment and economic destruction of many parts of the world. The price of oil increasing dramatically will hit hardest the poorest countries, including those countries in eastern Europe that are struggling to rebuild their economies.

The toll on refugees would be incalculable. We know already that if the Red Sea is blocked, the consequences in getting aid to the Horn of Africa are devastating. We cannot take that risk. That could lead to impoverishment and famine for millions of people.

There are the geopolitical consequences of a war. What would the region look like after Iraq has been bombed into submission? Who would be the key players in the region? Iran? Syria? Imagine the consequences of a region dominated by those countries with the rise in fundamentalism in those countries.