

Oral Questions

ground troops available to render immediate assistance to the arms of the South Koreans themselves”, and I think it is important to underline this. Mr. St. Laurent said: “they have done it in such a magnificent and heroic manner that it makes it, I think, all the more encouraging for other members of the United Nations to follow under their leadership”. That is what Mr. St. Laurent said.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): The UN flag.

Mr. Mulroney: The UN flag. Mr. Pearson said in regard to the United Nations command: “We know of course that the most important member of the United Nations in this particular matter is the United States. It is the country best able to intervene in this matter as an agent of the United Nations and it has already acted effectively”.

That was Mr. Pearson’s position. That was Mr. St. Laurent’s position, and that is the position of the Government of Canada.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Since the long-range goal for the gulf region must be peace and stability, it is essential, even in war, to prepare an environment which can produce that peace and stability after the conflict.

Consequently, I want to ask the minister: What is the government doing to minimize attacks on civilians and the destruction of civilian targets? Has the minister conveyed this view to the United States and to other allies in the coalition?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I may make two quick comments in response, one is that again I think that while it is perfectly appropriate for us to debate the consequences of some of these matters in a House like this, none of us would pretend to be military commanders. Decisions have to be taken as to the most effective way in which an end can be brought most quickly to an aggression.

Second, I would remind the member and the House that the victims of this aggression in Kuwait were very clearly civilians. They still are. I laid upon the table of the House yesterday a report of Amnesty International,

now old, which is to say that it has not caught up to date with some of the continuing atrocities involved with the occupation by Iraq of Kuwait.

I certainly agree with the member. We must do everything we can to bring this to an end as quickly as possible. That means a very effective military action. That has begun. It also means that the world must be ready very quickly to move to re-establishing a peace when that opportunity arises. It was precisely that that I discussed with the Secretary-General of the United Nations when I called him earlier today.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I did not find the minister’s answer very assuring. Two wrongs don’t make a right. I hope that everything possible will be done to minimize the killing of civilians and the attacks on civilian centres.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, considering our hopes for a speedy end to this unfortunate war, is the government, together with the United Nations, prepared to initiate a plan for peace for this area, a plan that will guarantee development and justice for these peoples once the war is over?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is not quite clear whether the hon. member is referring to the gulf area. That is the area we are talking about? Fine.

Yes, we are prepared to consider ways to ensure peace and provide a basis for prosperity, if these countries are willing to support a more democratic system of government in the area. I think everyone will understand that after the war, this area will undergo profound changes, whatever the nature of the resolution may be. In future it will no longer be possible to maintain the kind of regime that existed in certain countries in the gulf. Canada is prepared to play an active role in bringing about those changes.

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday in the House, the hon. member for Abitibi spoke eloquently about a demonstration in Val d’Or for peace in the Persian Gulf. This demonstration attracted over 500 participants, including Quebecers represented by this Conservative member, people who are against war and against this one.