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Surely the most fundamental obligation we have as elected representatives is to speak the truth and from that truth to draw the conclusions that surely must follow. What are those conclusions and what should Canada be doing at this time that we are being tested as a nation? What has this new world order meant for the people of Dubrovnik, what has it meant for the people of Vukovar, what has it meant for those who are hungry in Zagreb, what has it meant for the children who are among the 350,000 refugees fleeing from the madness of this war, what has it meant for the eight year old boy in Vukovar who talks about the people in the refugee centre who cannot understand how today people are trying to resolve this conflict through violence?

What in fact should the response be? If we accept the fundamental principle set out in the CSCE documents of self-determination, surely we should recognize that the people of Slovenia, the people of Croatia have spoken loudly and eloquently for independence, for freedom and for democracy.

At the same time the European community has recognized, and indeed the leaders of Croatia in particular have recognized, the importance of respect for the rights of minorities. In fact, President Tudjman of the Government of Croatia has expressed himself very clearly as being prepared to grant to all people who reside in Croatia every internationally respected right for minorities, to do so under international monitoring and to recognize also that it may be that there is an important need for arrangements under international supervision with human rights guarantees, to respect the rights of minorities. We know that the historical fears do run deep, that the 600,000 Serbs in Croatia, looking back on history have those fears.

At the same time, we must not be mired in the death and tragedy of the past. We know that the Albanian majority in Kosovo has been brutally repressed for too long. Our obligation as parliamentarians is to recognize that we must in the absence of leadership from this government provide leadership on behalf of the people that we have the honour to represent.

What does that mean? It means for example that there must be a role for the United Nations, for peacekeeping forces from the United Nations, but not, as has been

suggested by the President of Serbia, in a *de facto* greater Serbia. Troops that are set up within the territory of Serbia would in fact achieve the objective that has been set out by Serbia, to carve out chunks of territory. The United Nations must not be a part of that scheme.

The international community and Canada must state very clearly to the Yugoslavian army in no uncertain terms that they will not yield one inch of territory to violence, brutality and bloodshed. The Yugoslavian army must be called upon to withdraw beyond the boundaries of Croatia, to stop the violence, the death, the injury, the destruction, the creation of hundreds of thousands of refugees. We have heard the desperate appeal from the mayor of Dubrovnik, Pero Poljanic, who says: "We are desperate, dear friends, we need you. At times we think we are crying in the desert." This historical jewel is being utterly devastated by shelling.

We must understand and we must accept that it is not a question of when Croatia will be independent; it is a question of how much blood will be shed before that independence has been recognized. I say on behalf of my colleagues that too much blood has been shed and Canada has been silent for too long.

Some say that Serbs and Croatians cannot live in peace. The reality is that until this conflict they have done precisely that. Families have intermarried. There has been that relationship of trust. Yes, it has been devastated, it has been torn, but that can happen.

Ultimately Canada must lead in the call for an unconditional withdrawal of troops, to urge that there be United Nations peacekeepers, not within the territory of Croatia, but in fact on the border between Croatia and Serbia. We must lead in the call for an end to the brutality that led to the woman from Croatia who came to my office and brought in a piece of shrapnel from her front yard. She was able to escape from that scene of terror. I hope that Canada will be very generous in granting visitor's visas to those who are trying to escape from that terror as well.

We must impose tough economic sanctions. We should have done it a long time ago. My colleague from Victoria on October 8 spoke on behalf of this party, urging those sanctions, urging an oil embargo. What have we done? Finally, a month later, economic sanctions. But what about the oil embargo? No action there at all.