

Canadians want to know when the Government of Canada is going to exercise its constitutional jurisdiction and its fiduciary obligation to protect Quebec's natives from the Quebec provincial police. They also want to know if the government is going to permit the SQ to acquire the kind of weapons which will transform them from a police force into a military force.

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[Translation]

UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, today the whole world is holding its breath, faced with the imminent risk of armed conflict in the Persian Gulf. A world that a few months ago had found new hope after the end of the Cold War now faces the difficult task of restoring order and security, after the serious violations of international law by Iraq.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the United Nations has been the preferred instrument of consultations on a world scale, aimed at restoring peace and order by peaceful means. The fact that the nations of this world are prepared to work through the UN, to decide on ways in which peace can be restored, is a sign that there is still hope for a world based on mutual assistance and co-operation.

If we are to build a new world order, the efforts of the United Nations must be successful. The whole world shudders at the spectre of war, but failure to respond to this act of aggression conjures up an even worse spectre, that of a world dominated by misunderstanding and injustice, a world in which our hopes for peace and freedom would be dashed forever.

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[English]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, clearly the majority of Canadians believe that Canada should not go to war, that there is still a chance for a peaceful resolution of the gulf crisis. Canadians also believe that our troops should be supported in their present role of enforcing sanctions. Until an impartial study concludes that sanctions have not worked, there is

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no need to engage in war. Experts tell us that sanctions may require at least 12 months to starve Iraq's economy and its capacity to wage war.

We on the Liberal side therefore believe that we are a long way from the point when a war effort would be required. Should such a time come, such effort should be under the United Nations flag. While the artificial deadline has passed, there is still time for Canada to take initiatives to pursue a peaceful solution. Every day, every hour, every minute counts. It would be a terrible mistake to assume that war is still inevitable.

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PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, some journalists have been speculating already about the possibility of a draft of young Canadians to participate in a gulf war. Such speculation can only be described as unnecessary and inappropriate fear mongering.

Let us consider the facts. Some 2,000 Canadians are now in the gulf. There are another 83,000 regular and 30,000 reserves in the Canadian Armed Forces, a substantial number of whom have already volunteered for gulf service.

Twenty-five thousand Canadians served in the Korean war. They were all volunteers. Over one million Canadians served in World War II. In 1944, after four years of hostilities, the King government, after a national referendum, instituted conscription and eventually some 13,000 conscriptees went overseas, though not all of these people saw action. Similar numbers exist for World War I and, of course, only volunteers served in the South African war.

We still hope to avert a gulf war. However, there will be no conscription for a gulf war if it comes. No talk or speculation of such is warranted or helpful.

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IRAQ

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs inaccurately apply remarks made by the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. They stated yesterday "that Mr. Pearson always maintained that once talk was over, et cetera. What a careless depiction of his wisdom.