

*Government Orders*

That this House authorize the broadcasting, pursuant to the principles and practices governing the broadcasting of the proceedings of the House of Commons, by the electronic media as represented through the House of Commons press gallery, of the meeting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, Thursday, January 17 at 3.30 p.m.; and that such broadcasting be at the discretion of the chairman of the committee and that the decorum of the meeting be preserved.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Does the hon. parliamentary secretary have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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### PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

#### SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Clark (Yellowhead) (p. 16984) and of the amendment of Mr. Chrétien (p. 16995).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Resuming debate. I will now recognize the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance).

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the subject before the House today is one that is extremely important, not only for the Middle East but for Canada and the whole world. Today there has been general recognition of the fact that the stakes are far too high and the potential consequences far too tragic for this debate to be coloured by political partisanship.

Although widely divergent views and philosophical principles are being expressed in this debate, which is perfectly normal, I hope we all agree on one thing, and that is that no one in this House is in favour of war. On opposition and government benches we find only peace-mongers. What unites us as Canadians is our love of peace and order. In fact, peace and order are the cornerstones of our Constitution and our society.

To be a Canadian is to support peace and order. It is one of the glories of our history. It has been our goal within the family of nations and it continues to motivate our international initiatives. Today, Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a situation that may have tragic repercussions on a world scale.

Consider the facts. Iraq, a local, aggressive military power decides to invade its neighbour, Kuwait, a small country which, despite its rich oil reserves, is unable to defend itself. The events on August 2 were another unfortunate example of the law of the jungle.

According to numerous accounts by refugees and information from agencies such as Amnesty International, the Iraqi forces were not content to occupy their neighbour's territory. They have subjected it to the worst horrors of war: plunder, theft and rape. As we speak, those unfortunate men, women and children who were unable to leave Kuwait live under a reign of terror at the mercy of the Iraqi forces. We must not forget that it was Iraq that opted for war and aggression.

**An hon. member:** That's true!

**Mr. Loiselle:** Faced with these acts of violence, the international community cannot be satisfied with declarations made at the United Nations or elsewhere, no matter how strong they might be. We have to go beyond mere economic sanctions if they only make life more miserable for the Iraqis without changing the bad faith of the régime in Baghdad or putting an end to the occupation of Kuwait.

The impact of actions taken by the Iraqi government reaches far beyond the frontiers of Iraq and those of the Middle East. What are the countries most likely to be the victims of such violence? Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the weakest, the most destitute, and the most vulnerable in the world.

Soon enough, the situation in the Persian Gulf will have a destabilizing effect on the world economy, and especially on the economic well-being of Third World nations. More than ever they will have difficulties to find the funds required to build schools, develop their agricultural sector, improve their health care system, and upgrade their economic infrastructure.

• (1800)

In addition, an unstable world economy will make it even more difficult for these countries to lighten the weight of their international debt.