

Mr. President,

It is just over two months since we foreign ministers first addressed the Security Council in its consideration of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That historic occasion, presided over by our distinguished colleague, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, was a clear sign of our collective resolve in the face of a terrible transgression of international law and a challenge to the fabric of our international order.

Today, Mr. President, we have gathered for a second time in this crisis, this time to adopt a resolution which demonstrates that our collective resolve is unshaken.

We remain determined to respond to the Iraqi challenge, which goes to the heart of all that we have been trying to do at and through the United Nations for the past 45 years: the building of a workable world organization able to prevent or reverse the most blatant and dangerous of international offences: the acquisition by force of another country's territory and, in this specific case, an effort to extinguish a UN member in its entirety.

As the Prime Minister of Canada stated in a speech he delivered before Parliament this morning, "Canada ... stand(s) with the overwhelming majority of the world community, including our partners on the Security Council, in giving Saddam Hussein an opportunity to reflect carefully on the consequences of his action and a reasonable timetable to withdraw from Kuwait. President Hussein appears to be quite prepared to see his people endure hardship indefinitely if he can hang onto Kuwait. We see no contradiction between continuing to apply pressure through economic sanctions -- giving diplomacy a chance -- and giving President Hussein a period of time to withdraw from Kuwait."

Today's resolution is the 12th this Council has adopted since Iraq's brutal and completely unjustifiable invasion of its smaller neighbour, the sovereign state of Kuwait, a member in full standing of the United Nations. It is a resolution with a clear and unequivocal message. In the face of Iraq's continuing refusal to comply with earlier resolutions adopted by this Council, it makes clear that time is running out.

This resolution is also, however, tempered by a deeply ingrained sense of justice and the most profound desire for peace.

In this resolution, Mr. President, we have done more than simply reiterate our commitment to the earlier decisions we have taken. What we are saying is that should the Government of