

Government Orders

tacked. It is the same right we maintain here in Canada. We also reject any linkage of Iraq's aggression to other situations in the Middle East.

We all truly regret the way events seem to be propelling themselves at this hour in the Persian Gulf. I fear, as do so many Canadians, that we are on the threshold of a war that nobody wants.

Finally, it is with sincere regret that we face the prospect of warfare in the Persian Gulf. I do sincerely wish that sanctions had had their desired effect before this time. I hope to God it is not too late. I hope the United Nations coalition will hold and will work.

• (2020)

All Canadians wish that we were not facing conflict, but most of all I wish that Saddam Hussein had listened to the world after these many months and had realized that his aggression would not be allowed to stand.

Let us not forget that, if war should come it comes chiefly from the intransigence of Saddam Hussein and his steadfast refusal to heed world opinion and retreat from Kuwait, and from his brutal assault on a small, unsuspecting neighbour. This small, unsuspecting neighbour—which was not much of a democratic state, itself—will, I hope, be returned to a life that would include a democratic life-style. I would hope that the untold atrocities of this man and his ilk will not be forgotten. I would hope that, where there is no sign of remorse and regret, the world will move to act.

There are no winners in a war. This one is just too horrible to contemplate. That being said, there is no question that, at a given point, one has to say that enough is enough. Circumstances, at a given point in time, will not allow us to contemplate idly such injustice without action and we should certainly not expect that Kuwait should be the Czechoslovakia of 1991.

At this moment, I share with Canadians their concern and apprehension in these hours before the UN deadline. Instinctively, Canadians are all opposed to war. Intuitively, Canadians are peaceful people. Our frustration in this hour is real, the discouragement is genuine, and the concern is certainly grave. Along with all Canadians, I wish that this entire affair had not occurred, but we cannot change that. Short of that, Canadians, being a peaceful people, hope and pray that peace is swiftly returned to the Persian Gulf.

It seems insane that war should be the only solution should this world enter into the unknown—a nuclear holocaust, bacterial warfare, or chemical warfare. As a representative of thousands and thousands constituents who have suffered at the hands of Stalin in the Second World War, I am in a position to understand that intense desire for justice, a sense of desire for revenge, and the desire to go to war. People cannot stand the thought of the rape and pillage on the one hand and letting those who ravage go free on the other. Yet, I just cannot counsel war as the first option at this moment.

If the initial United Nations resolution and its evaluation has contained Hussein in his ill-conceived aspirations for leadership and power, perhaps just a little more time will allow the United Nations to verify how the sanctions are working and will allow Hussein to back off. It is the moral duty, however, of the international community to stop him. The question is, how soon if he still does not budge?

I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that if ever we have to revert to a more aggressive action it is because there is no other way. God willing, let there be no war.

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the member a couple of questions relative to her comments on linkage. Linkage has to be addressed in the sense of history and I address this to my colleague with some thought of history.

Currently, Syria has said as one of the members of the United Nations group that, should Iraq attack Israel and Israel responds in defence, Syria will walk out of the alliance. Is that the kind of Canadian partner that we are talking about when we hear the Prime Minister talk about Amnesty International?

The President of Egypt said in a recent interview that, should the Israelis respond to an unprovoked attack by Saddam Hussein, he too would consider leaving the alliance, although after that interview was published he softened his position.

They speak of linkage. They have already made linkage conditions to part of what we are playing. Let us understand that nobody's hands are clean in this whole area. They have put conditions on their partnership that this government has not talked about, nor has the United States. Where does that leave Israel? It is a good question to contemplate.