

Mr. Speaker,

Over the last seven and a half months, the Kuwait crisis has riveted our attention and has engaged much of our debate.

Today, Kuwait is again a free country, though deeply scarred by its ordeal.

I visited free Kuwait five days ago. I raised over the Canadian Embassy there the flag our diplomats so reluctantly took down when they were forced, by lack of food and water, to leave on October 19th.

I wish now to report to the House on that trip which began, deliberately, with a call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York and which took me to Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Iran, as well as Kuwait and the United States. I met with the leaders of those countries, and with the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Italy, and leading Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In Jordan, I visited the headquarters of UN agencies working with the casualties and the consequences of the conflict. The Canadian government is contributing to many of their activities, but I want to draw the attention of the House, and Canadians, to the fact that we contributed \$550,000 to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for humanitarian assistance for the children who are victims of the conflict.

My colleague, the Minister of National Defence, and the Chief of the Defence Staff, also visited Bahrain, Qatar and the field hospital at Aljubayl, to express the gratitude of Canada to our troops and to other countries which hosted them.

My purpose was to look beyond the liberation of Kuwait to the issues this crisis has underscored. The fundamental problems remain, but there are now new possibilities which need to be nurtured.

My interest, as the Foreign Minister of Canada, was everywhere understood and welcomed. As a member of the Coalition of countries who, through the United Nations, came to the aid of Kuwait, Canada's commitment to the liberation of Kuwait was clear.

But Canada also represents a lifetime of commitment to the United Nations. My primary mission was to try to ensure that the sort of world consensus which emerged to free Kuwait be further mobilized to prevent such aggression in the future, and to strengthen the chances of enduring peace and security. That is the first lesson of this crisis.