

*Government Orders*

• (1540)

The tremors of the Gorbachev reforms have allowed profound change through eastern and central Europe that not only helped end the cold war, but set the stage for the CSCE summit in Paris last week. In some respects, that summit marked the formal end of the Second World War.

I would like to communicate, in passing, one of the remarkable moments of that CSCE conference. Václav Havel, prisoner, playwright, president, sitting at his desk in that debate, said to others around the room and around the world that this summit was the pre-eminent moment in his life because it brought to pass so much of what he had struggled for through all of those years. That was the context in which we met to bring in effect a formal end to the Second World War.

The Paris summit should have been an unqualified celebration of the new possibilities before us, of our shared determination to build a new European common home, to be secure from Vladivostok to Vienna to Vancouver, as Eduard Shevardnadze has said. It should have been a celebration of the growing willingness to use the United Nations in the way it had been intended, to bring peace and to bring greater security to this world.

But the celebration in Paris was muted, because we all understand that a terrible breach of faith and a breach of law and a breach of order has happened: an act of war by Iraq which imposes on the world community the burden of a great challenge. If new and more hopeful vistas for world peace are at last to open, we as the United Nations have to be equal to the challenge which Iraq's invasion of Kuwait represents clearly to all of us.

This challenge goes to the heart of Canadian interests and Canadian diplomacy, not just now but for 50 years: the building of a workable world organization able to prevent or able, if necessary, to reverse the most blatant and dangerous of international offences, which is the acquisition by force of another country's territory and, in this specific case, an effort to extinguish a UN member in its entirety.

The challenge has gone even beyond these transgressions of international law, as Iraqi authorities have threatened the use of terrorism and of chemical weapons

which they have used in the past, with terrible consequences, even against their own people.

That is the evil that countries historically arm themselves against. That is the evil that causes proliferation, which is responsible for an arms race which in large part diverts the resources that should be going to the poor of the world and denies people in developing countries the right to live decent lives.

That this evil has occurred in the most heavily armed and the most volatile region in the world only amplifies its gravity.

I have just come from the Middle East. The potential for death and for destruction in the Middle East is very real. Members of this House of Commons should have no illusion about the danger, nor about our obligation to try to moderate that danger. Most of Israel's neighbours remain in a state of war against her. The Palestinian people, despite the *intifada*, despite their acceptance of resolution 242, live in a pressure cooker of frustration with thousands of new migrants forced home from the gulf. There are the larger questions of democracy and decision-making in the Middle East. There are quarrels between families and regimes who each want to leave the Arab world. There are shocking gaps in income between opulent wealth and the most terrible poverty. There are chemical weapons, biological weapons, almost certainly some capacity for nuclear weapons, and there is the steady flood of conventional arms.

In the midst of all that, in a region where the institutions of modern government have shallow roots, there is generally the common link of the noble religion of Islam which, if it became radicalized, could have devastating consequences around the world. President Gorbachev—the Prime Minister and I know from our conversations with him—is aware of those consequences. King Hussein is aware of them. Presidents Ozal and Mubarak are and, of course, Prime Minister Shamir understands the threat of Islamic extremism.

That the Iraqi aggression affects security of access to the most vital of commodities further compels our attention. But make no mistake about the importance of the principle we intend to defend, the principle of international order where international law is respected, and the United Nations is used and the United Nations works.