

Some have suggested that we have widened the war aims, that the objective is now "to get Saddam Hussein," or to crush permanently any Iraqi military capacity ... and so on.

From the very beginning, we have made clear that our objectives -- Canada's and the objectives of the Coalition -- are those established by various Security Council resolutions, and that there are no wider aims which go beyond the intent of those resolutions. Some of the commentary suggesting that the Coalition has a hidden objective to eliminate Iraq's military capacity for non-crisis reasons, is, of course, academic at this stage, given the critical requirement to deal with Iraqi military capabilities simply in the pursuit of the liberation of Kuwait. It would be sheer folly and it would cost a lot more lives if Saddam Hussein's Iraq-based arsenal was ignored in favour of a constrained campaign pushing his forces out of Kuwait without reducing his capacity to protect his position from Iraq.

As the Prime Minister has made clear and as I have repeated time and time again, what we are doing is enforcing compliance with the Security Council resolutions -- no more, no less.

Avoiding that enforcement through military means is in the hands of Saddam Hussein. He knows this and he has known it since the beginning of this crisis, which he created with the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. He is simply not interested in responding, or, if he is interested, he has given no indication of that to date.

Another major development of this past week has, of course, been the release by Iraq of huge amounts of crude oil into the Gulf. This is a grim and shocking development which indicates again the lengths to which Saddam Hussein will go to pursue his objectives as he victimizes an entire ecosystem to cut off usable water supplies to the people and industry of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. The Prime Minister has indicated our willingness to have Canada help clean up this spill and we have had discussions in this respect over the last couple of days, both in the context of multilateral conversations and bilaterally, with some of the countries affected.

We have offered some equipment and some expertise and I expect that we, along with a large number of others, will be involved in the clean-up. It is a massive task. This is a massive problem that Saddam Hussein has created with his use of the environment as a weapon of war. The real message is that we have to pursue our original objectives until Iraq no longer controls Kuwait oil facilities, which it is evidently willing to use as an instrument of environmental terrorism.