

Government Orders

Ever since its first resolution, the Security Council has constantly reaffirmed its will to force Iraq to leave Kuwait. This will was reaffirmed in a number of other resolutions whose purpose was to give force and effect to the initial decision. Clearly, the world community speaks as one when it asks Iraq to fully respect the decision of the Security Council.

The impact of the Iraqi invasion extends far beyond Kuwait's borders. Saddam Hussein has caught in a trap thousands of third country nationals and created long lines of refugees. For weeks on end, we could watch on television Egyptians, Sri Lankans, Pakistanis, Filipinos and many more leaving Kuwait. We especially witnessed the suffering inflicted by the Iraqi invader upon these people who, having lost their jobs, houses, possessions and savings, were forced to return to their respective homelands to face an uncertain and precarious future, even darker days.

To these human tragedies was added, for all the countries involved, an economic and social burden which they can hardly carry. Most of the refugees had in fact come from developing countries already grappling with poverty and a lack of resources. The return of these refugees adds to the hardships already suffered by these economically weak nations.

Fortunately, the community of nations was quick to respond to the refugee problem. As a matter of fact, Canada was one of the first nations to financially contribute to the repatriation operation. Later on, our Prime Minister announced that for humanitarian purposes, an additional \$75 million would be provided to the countries most affected by this influx of refugees.

However, the Iraqi aggression made other innocent victims among other third party nationals whose situation in a way is far worse than that of the refugees. Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the hundreds of people, including Canadians, who are forbidden by the Iraqi authorities to leave either Iraq or Kuwait. These people, who had done nothing to deserve such a treatment, are detained against their will by the Iraqi authorities.

These human beings are nothing but pawns in Saddam Hussein's hands. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the hostages may be free to travel anywhere in Iraqi territory but they cannot leave and are thus used as human shields. Some of them—not Canadians—are held in strategic sites and

this is an obvious attempt to discourage any attack against these military facilities. The international community has strongly condemned Iraq's use of hostages and the Security Council has asked that these people be released immediately.

• (1800)

Mr. Lapierre: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I have been listening closely to the remarks read by the hon. member and I seek your guidance. Is there a Standing Order to the effect that a member must make a heart-felt contribution to the debate on the basis of personal knowledge rather than be content with reading a text which has obviously been prepared by others? Would you enlighten me on that rule?

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In this House we do have an opportunity for a person to reflect on notes used in debate and we have done this continuously. I think I recall that the hon. member at one time had an opportunity to do that too. The hon. member for Bourassa has the floor on debate.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Gibeau: Mr. Speaker, all the more so since my heart was so moved that I would have been hard-pressed to say everything I want to say within the time allocated to me. So I will continue to read my notes. Thank you very much, dear colleague.

Iraqi officials recently announced that they would free all hostages between Christmas and March 1991. If they can free them then, why can they not do so now?

In fact there should never have been any hostages. Iraq will have to own up to this despicable gesture and admit that the Security Council made a wise decision when asking that the hostages be released unconditionally and forthwith. Iraq's stubbornness in not coming to its senses makes the injustice of its attack against Kuwait still more flagrant.

The United Nations organization was set up at the end of World War II to protect the international community against acts of aggression and to maintain peace and stability in the world. Canada is one of the UN founding