

I wish to speak to you about three topics today: first, the successful conclusion of the war in the Gulf; second, the difficult problems of unity that face Canadians today; and, third, the Plan for Economic Recovery contained in the recent federal budget. These are three diverse topics, but they are united by a common theme, that this government can and will take the tough decisions to meet the hard realities of today.

Let me begin with the situation in the Persian Gulf. Like all Canadians, I am relieved that the fighting has ended and that victory has been secured. Coalition objectives have been achieved. Kuwait has been liberated.

Our thanks go to the courageous men and women of the Canadian forces who helped achieve this victory. They put their lives on the line and they performed with outstanding professionalism, in the best traditions of the Canadian forces. There have been no Canadian casualties and all Canadian personnel will be returning home as soon as possible.

Canadians can be proud that our country stood with the 30 other countries of the Coalition. This has been a victory for international law and for the United Nations. The principles of the UN Charter have been upheld and the value of collective security has been proven. The UN Security Council is now dealing with the terms of the cease-fire and the disposition of its resolutions against Iraq.

We must now work to build a just and durable peace. The first steps are to provide for the continuing security of Kuwait and its neighbours, for the humanitarian needs of the victims of war, for reconstruction of Kuwait and Iraq, and for restoration of the environment. The opportunity also must be seized to address on-going problems in the region, especially to bring an end to the arms race there and to resolve the Arab-Israeli issue.

Mr. Clark will meet the UN Secretary-General this week in New York to put the services of Canada at his disposal. Mr. Clark will also meet with U.S. Secretary of State Baker soon and will make a visit to the region shortly to meet leaders of coalition countries and visit Kuwait. Canada will play its full part in securing the peace just as we did in winning the war.

As a final point, I would recall what was, in retrospect, one of the critical meetings of the Gulf conflict. In August 1990, leading Americans were counselling President Bush to go it alone and launch an immediate limited attack. At their meeting in Kennebunkport, Maine, the Prime Minister opposed this and encouraged President Bush to act through the United Nations. The President did so, and the prospects for peace and security today, both in the Middle East and globally, are far better for it.