

Moreover, it is merely inconsistent to bemoan at one and the same time the profusion of national contributions and the leading role of the United States. Obviously a unilateral US operation would be the easiest of all to coordinate.

For the future, it is time to begin working seriously toward implementing the unused provisions of the UN Charter to prepare and plan for joint enforcement actions, with standby contingents and an operating Military Staff Committee, but it is difficult to imagine this being introduced now in the midst of a full-fledged crisis.

INTERNATIONAL AIMS AND CANADIAN CHOICES

The most important substantial concern related to the dominant US role in the Gulf effort is linked to the basic question of what the aims and procedures of the whole operation really are, and who will set them. Once again it must be stressed that there is no easy answer -- we are into unexplored territory in trying to coordinate an effective and legitimate response by the whole international community to aggression. The territory is not uncharted, though, in that the United Nations Charter does outline in Chapter VII a sequence of measures to identify and respond to "threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression" and to help maintain or restore international peace and security.

The steps involve identifying a threat to peace; recognizing that aggression has occurred, calling for parties to comply with its Resolutions; employing measures not involving the use of armed force to give effect to its decisions (including sanctions); implementing blockades; and, if all these measures fail to achieve the intended result, to "take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security". This progression has never before been followed as faithfully or as far by the international community as it has in this case, and the clear objective of all must obviously be to achieve the reversal of the Iraqi aggression without reaching the final stage.