

Australia and Spain have played an active part in the 29-country coalition established to apply the sanctions.

The diplomatic community has never, in the modern era, seen such a feverish and intense period as that between last August and mid-January. Every possible effort was made to avoid war. Every available means was sought to obtain the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. The disappointing and painful recourse to force is the result of our having reached the limits of diplomacy -- not the absence of efforts to apply it. The blame for this failure can be placed squarely on the shoulders of the Iraqi President.

Why, you might ask, were the sanctions not prolonged? The answer is simple: we tried, but we had to face facts -- sanctions could not succeed where diplomacy had failed. For the entire period during which they were in force, he was also pillaging Kuwait, building up huge reserves for his forces and compelling the Kuwaiti population to take flight. Within a short time, the coalition would have liberated nothing but a desert and a few inhabitants in total subjection to Saddam Hussein.

No, the United Nations had no choice, under the Charter, but to use force in the interest of justice and thus begin an operation to restore peace and international security.

The Canadian forces are an integral part of this operation. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women, Quebeckers among them, who are doing their duty with such a noble attitude over there. I know they can count on your confidence and your encouragement. Their commitment will be a source of pride and inspiration for generations to come.

The soldiers who are courageously discharging their mission are entitled to expect the politicians to do everything possible to prevent us from finding ourselves in such straits in the future. They are perfectly justified in this.

THE BUILDING OF PEACE

Paradoxical as it may seem, this war expresses the firm desire of the international community to build a better world founded on justice and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. This determination must go far beyond the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty. We have waited too long for this kind of attitude, this demonstration of responsibility on the part of the United Nations not to feel collegially committed to ensuring that this