

reasons: first, international peace and security are in Canada's national interest; second, the maintenance of the international rule of law is in Canada's national interest; and, third, the United Nations is the best and one vehicle for the attainment of international peace and security and the rule of law.

As the former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition said so eloquently in this House yesterday, Canada has never failed to stand by and support the United Nations. It would be an abandonment of our history for Canada not to stand by the UN in this great moment of need.

I commend the current Prime Minister and Government of Canada for having the integrity and courage to do what is right for Canada, the United Nations and the world. May the conflict end quickly with minimum casualties and may all Canadians stand by and pray for our forces and their families.

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GULF CRISIS

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, during the last few days members of this House have had the opportunity to make speeches and debate the issue of Canada's role in the gulf. I would like to add to the debate the voice of children from L'École Intermédiaire Sacré-Coeur in Timmins and St. John's School in Sault Ste. Marie. Our youth, whose future is at stake, must have a say in this matter.

[Translation]

Katrine Sauvé from Timmins tells us: "War is destructive for everyone. What is going to happen to us, the young?" "The thought of war is scary and troubling as I think of my future and that of others. Please, make peace, not war", says Christine Savage.

Vicky Saint-Denis is 13 years old. She says: "No war. The alternative is peace, love and justice. War frightens us. It gets us killed, decimates our families and our homes. Please, let there be no war. Let us have peace instead."

[English]

Candice Day from Sault Ste. Marie wants us to know that she is 13 years old and that she would like to live until she reaches the age of 14. She tells us that, "If there are cures for diseases, why are there not cures for war?"

Time is lacking for me—

Mr. Speaker: I think that the hon. member's time has expired.

[Translation]

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PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, the past few hours were a time of fear and uncertainty all over the world. Canadians are stunned and afraid to see Canada engage in war. I find it hard to understand the need to come to such dramatic decisions as declaring war in order to restore global order and bring about peace.

I never thought I would have to take part in making such a decision in my political career. However, deep down inside me, it is clear that Canada must be alongside its allies. Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to endanger the fragile world balance. No state or head of state has the right to take a neighbouring country by force. Saddam Hussein must understand that he has to get out of Kuwait.

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• (1410)

[English]

GULF CRISIS

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for Canada. Canadians know that my party wanted our troops withdrawn if war with Iraq were to begin. We lost that debate.

Now that the government has decided to involve our troops in military action, we will do everything in our power to support our men and women who are now in this war, thus ensuring their security and safety. However, my party stands united in considering this an unnecessary war at this time.

What do we do now? Stop the war as soon as possible. Seek a peaceful solution to this conflict. Anticipate the problems that the war will create, such as care for the injured, the emotional trauma which will be suffered by combatants and non-combatants, the economic and social insecurities which will be brought to that area of our planet, the environmental impact of the war, and averting other wars and conflicts.