

move towards democracy. Its system of government has not been one we would choose ourselves. But protection against aggression can never be the privilege of those people lucky enough to live in democracies. The Charter of the United Nations is a universal document. It is there to be universally applied. If it were partial, it would be prejudiced.

And this conflict is not about a superpower agenda.

The House of Commons inspires bizarre accusations, and I have received my share of them, and even uttered a few. But one of the strongest exchanges in that House was when an Opposition Member of Parliament called Canada a "lapdog of the superpowers" -- "superpowers" in the plural -- because we supported the Resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The implication is that, because Canada agreed with Moscow and Washington, and Beijing, and London, and Paris, they were exercising independent judgment, but we were not.

Nor, since most of the Security Council Resolutions were unanimous, was Finland thinking for itself, nor Colombia, nor Zaïre, nor Malaysia, nor the other countries who, with Canada, were Non-permanent Members of the Security Council when these Resolutions were debated and amended; and often after difficult compromise, all around the table, finally adopted.

The logic of these accusations is also that the 28 countries with forces in the Gulf -- the 28 Members of the Coalition -- suspended their judgment too, to fit the lap of the superpowers -- countries like Czechoslovakia, Australia and Argentina.

That is absurd, but it is also dangerous, because it advances a phoney rationale for rejecting the authority of the only body, with global responsibility for peace, whose authority we have spent decades seeking to assure.

The world has too much experience with a UN that would not decide and thus could not act. We had that experience with the Berlin crisis, with the takeover of mainland China, with the Cuban missile crisis, with the Soviet invasions of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan and the five wars in the Middle East. Tens of thousands of lives were lost and millions of futures blighted because the UN did not work.

Canadians are not used to war. The conflicts the UN was not able to solve did not happen here. We have not fought a war for over four decades. In times of conflict, there are always differing views as to who is right and who is wrong -- differing views which we must respect as an integral part of our