

*Government Orders*

that hand. But I believe that the same strength of conviction, determination and skill is required from both postures and I believe that traditionally Canada, with the skills of our armed forces which cannot be surpassed, I do not believe, by any force anywhere in the world, that our position has been to offer the open hand of negotiation and peace and not the clenched fist. That is what I will personally support.

In the motion of the government, I believe that the government does not give through that motion the necessary respect to our forces supporting only UN resolutions, but leaves a door open for our troops to become engaged in conflict beyond anything envisioned through the UN resolutions at this point in time.

I understand from the speeches that have been given on the other side of the floor that the Canadian forces are present in the Middle East under Canadian command. I believe, given the risk and the insecurity that exists in the situation in the Middle East at this time, that there should be a UN command for the forces in the area. If that is difficult to achieve, we should at least have a joint command in that area so that there is a co-ordinated effort in the area come whatever may come. I certainly pray to God that we can resolve the situation in the Middle East peacefully.

I also believe that if you look at the past history and the recent past history of what has happened in the Middle East, we as Canadians bear responsibility for some of what is happening today. It has been known to us that during the eight year war between Iraq and Iran that Saddam Hussein of Iraq used chemical warfare against troops in that war. In fact, we know that he used chemical weapons against his own Kurdish population within the country of Iraq.

I do not believe that we did everything possible to stand up and condemn those transgressions of all international law. As well, we have been aware of many other human rights abuses in Iraq and in and about the Middle East area. And yet, we have continued to benefit, as a nation, from arms sales to that area.

At the present time in our world's history, we are seeing many precedents being set. We have the end of a cold war, which we all welcomed, and we see in the Middle East crisis new alliances which we would never have imagined possible. We must be doing everything

possible to support the United Nations in a process of condemnation of Iraq for its activities and in trying to improve what has been accomplished today by the United Nations through the resolutions that have been supported in relation to the Middle East crisis. We are all encouraged by what has been achieved so far in that forum and we must do everything possible to protect that process and enhance it.

I believe by expressing support for actions outside of UN resolutions, we set the foot for destruction of what has been achieved to this point in time by the United Nations. Alliances could change very, very quickly in the Middle East if conflict were to open up. I think that we set ourselves up for a holocaust of proportions that we do not want to imagine and that I personally cannot countenance. As a Canadian member of Parliament, I believe that every life is important, particularly Canadian lives, but the lives that have been lost already as a result of this man who runs the regime of Iraq are also important to me.

The lives of everybody involved in a conflict in the Middle East are important to me and we must focus constantly on the faces of those people who are in the region, who are there to protect our peace and our democracies and systems of government that represent the peoples of the world everywhere. We must be aware and conscious of the importance of those people's lives, their dedication to maintaining peace on our behalf. We cannot become involved in a conflict whereby we can start counting how many lives we are willing to lose in order to achieve other objectives. I believe that it is possible, but it is not easy with our forces there who are prepared to maintain a peacekeeping role. It is important to achieve the same objectives through dialogue and negotiation and peacekeeping that is possible. I believe it is more possible to achieve those objectives than it would be through open conflict and warfare.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore have to say that I support totally the amendment proposed by the Liberals on this side of the House that says yes, we do support Canada's role in enforcing United Nations resolutions, but we censure the government for not recalling Parliament at the earliest opportunity to fulfil its legitimate function of consultation and debate as to what role Canada should play in the resolution of the present crisis and that upon adoption of this motion the said motion shall be deemed