

to find a new world order in which hopefully, please God, we will be in a position to move forward with some other kinds of answers. No one wants to see military force used here but it may well have to be. The sounds of war can be heard all around us. Hospitals right here in Ottawa have been put on alert. All of this is part and parcel of this very imperfect world in which we find ourselves.

Though imperfect, there has been some improvement since the last world war. There has been some improvement since the time of the League of Nations. We now have before us the United Nations where for the first time we are seeing the use of a collective action, the sense of a collective role and responsibility and that gives me some modicum of comfort, not total comfort, in this imperfect world.

I recognize that circumstances are different today. We have, as I have said, the support of most of the world's countries. We do have 30 countries out there in the gulf working together to apply those sanctions, to set that embargo in place and to maintain it. This is not World War II or just prior to it with the disintegration of the League of Nations when Lester B. Pearson decried the abandonment of economic sanctions as a lever to effect change.

But there is a sense of history here too. There is a sense that there are lessons to be learned. I hope that those lessons were learned and those economic sanctions will help.

I have to put into the hopper very serious concerns which are best expressed in a letter I received among the many faxes and phone calls I have received. I want to read excerpts of this into the record. It reads:

Dear Sheila:

I recall as a young boy, standing on a Saturday afternoon near the Rhine Bridge in Cologne, watching units of the Reichswehr marching across the Rhine River in defiance of the Versailles Treaty. That was the beginning of the West's subservience to Hitler, to be followed by the *anschluss* of Austria, the takeover of Czechoslovakia, the unprovoked attack on Poland and, subsequently, the Second World War with its loss of 25 million lives, including one-third of the world's Jewish population. I was witness to all this history, and will never forget it.

Saddam Hussein's rape of Kuwait and his arrogance and blood-thirsty assault on world peace is a striking shocking parallel of past history.

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His hypocritical effort to manoeuvre the world into the issue of linkage with the Palestinian problem is, unfortunately, being bought by so many in the west and, naturally, in Mohammedan countries.

It is very evident that nothing seems to move Saddam Hussein to back down on his position. The likelihood of the coalition holding against him long enough to have sanctions work would appear very slim.

I hope, Sheila, that this lesson of history will be on your mind in tomorrow's debate on the gulf situation.

Yours truly,

Kurt Rothchild

I understand Kurt Rothchild and I understand the millions and millions of Canadians who have lived through this horror, who lived through the Holocaust and for whom this must be a very difficult moment.

But there were no sanctions then. I would hope that in supplying sanctions, we are not giving in and we are not giving up on the United Nations and on its resolutions. It is a matter of timing. I should say we do respect the United Nations. We adhere to the United Nations' principles, and we do respect the charter.

If we are on the brink of war, we can surely admit that mistakes were made along the road that got us here. Those mistakes brought us too quickly, to the brink of a conflict nobody desires. Those mistakes were real. They may very well have forced the hand of the United Nations coalition into the pending battle.

Of course, the first and most enormous mistake was Saddam Hussein's aggression in the first place. But were sanctions given enough time? I do not think so. Was adequate time given to search for peaceful resolutions while avoiding linkage with other issues? I do not think so.

With respect to Israel, as we look at the Middle East where the world's eyes are now focused, we see a region which has known more war than peace in recent times. My eyes, both as a Canadian and as a Jew, are also drawn to Israel. Naturally, Canada is a good friend of Israel. It, too, is watching Iraq's actions very closely. Israel has clear and definite security interests, but Israel has not sought to confront Iraq, nor attempted to enter the present crisis in the Gulf. Israel does not want war. Israel wants to see this aggression peacefully resolved as do we here in the House and as do all Canadians.

We are, however, aware of Iraq's stated intention to attack Israel if war breaks out. This kind of action would be unacceptable to Canada and Canadians. We share in the conviction of Israel's right to defend itself if at-