

Statement

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Déclaration

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,
TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE GULF CRISIS**

**NEW YORK, New York
November 29, 1990**

Mr. President,

It is just over two months since we foreign ministers first addressed the Security Council in its consideration of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That historic occasion, presided over by our distinguished colleague, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, was a clear sign of our collective resolve in the face of a terrible transgression of international law and a challenge to the fabric of our international order.

Today, Mr. President, we have gathered for a second time in this crisis, this time to adopt a resolution which demonstrates that our collective resolve is unshaken.

We remain determined to respond to the Iraqi challenge, which goes to the heart of all that we have been trying to do at and through the United Nations for the past 45 years: the building of a workable world organization able to prevent or reverse the most blatant and dangerous of international offences: the acquisition by force of another country's territory and, in this specific case, an effort to extinguish a UN member in its entirety.

As the Prime Minister of Canada stated in a speech he delivered before Parliament this morning, "Canada ... stand(s) with the overwhelming majority of the world community, including our partners on the Security Council, in giving Saddam Hussein an opportunity to reflect carefully on the consequences of his action and a reasonable timetable to withdraw from Kuwait. President Hussein appears to be quite prepared to see his people endure hardship indefinitely if he can hang onto Kuwait. We see no contradiction between continuing to apply pressure through economic sanctions -- giving diplomacy a chance -- and giving President Hussein a period of time to withdraw from Kuwait."

Today's resolution is the 12th this Council has adopted since Iraq's brutal and completely unjustifiable invasion of its smaller neighbour, the sovereign state of Kuwait, a member in full standing of the United Nations. It is a resolution with a clear and unequivocal message. In the face of Iraq's continuing refusal to comply with earlier resolutions adopted by this Council, it makes clear that time is running out.

This resolution is also, however, tempered by a deeply ingrained sense of justice and the most profound desire for peace.

In this resolution, Mr. President, we have done more than simply reiterate our commitment to the earlier decisions we have taken. What we are saying is that should the Government of

Iraq continue to choose to ignore its obligations under international law and under Security Council resolutions, the member states co-operating with the Government of Kuwait are authorized to use all necessary means to uphold and ensure the implementation of these resolutions. These means include the use of force.

Does this then mean that force will be used? That is up to Iraq. It is not yet too late.

We have offered the Government of Iraq in this resolution a pause of goodwill, a period of time which we all hope it will use not only to reflect upon the decisions of this Council and their potential consequences but also a period of time in which it can reverse the actions which it has taken and the damage it has done to the fabric of international peace and security. A period of time in which it must release the many foreign nationals detained against their will. When it must withdraw entirely and unconditionally from Kuwait and allow its sovereignty and independence to be fully restored.

We hope Iraq will take the opportunity that this resolution offers, and by full compliance, resume its place as a responsible member of the international community, on the basis of full respect for international law.

Should we also be attempting to resolve other existing tensions in the Gulf and Middle East regions? My Government believes that one of the consequences of the current Gulf crisis could be a window of opportunity to solve other problems facing a most troubled region. We have of late witnessed a pattern of successes within the Council in addressing regional issues. If we can sustain our collective determination, then a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, which Canada views as necessary and urgent, may be within our grasp. This is a matter that can only be addressed, however, separately from the current crisis.

Iraq's offence is sui generis and its undoing, according to the highest principles of international law and the highest interests of international security, is essential. But resolution of all territorial disputes in the region on a just and equitable basis is urgently required, if peace and security are to apply in a durable way. We will also have to turn our collective attention to the need for arms control measures, especially for weapons of mass destruction. Sustaining the new unity of the international community is the only, and best, hope that these problems can be resolved with speed. Mr. President, Canada has voted in favour of the resolution we have adopted today in full cognizance of its responsibilities as a member of

the Security Council and of the United Nations.

Mr. President, many Canadians have been directly affected by this crisis, one of the most grievous the world has faced since the end of the Second World War. Canadians remain detained against their will by the Government of Iraq. Hundreds of other Canadians have joined the multinational coalition of forces in the region, and are now separated by thousands of miles from their family and friends. And despite our geographic distance, every Canadian is threatened by the new, dangerous tensions in this most volatile region of the world.

The presence of Canadian forces in the Gulf is fully in keeping with our traditional role as a peacekeeper under the auspices of the United Nations. To keep the peace, you must first make the peace, and it is to that cause that the Canadian men and women in the Gulf are committed. Our position is one of integrity and dedication to the upholding of international law and the universally recognized norms of conduct in the relations between states.

Does Iraq have legitimate concerns which should be discussed? Perhaps there are some. It is up to the governments of Iraq and Kuwait to negotiate those questions either directly or in the many international fora which adjudicate exactly such disputes. The possibility of such negotiations is contained in Security Council Resolution 660, the very first passed by the Council in responding to the invasion. We urge Iraq to pursue this option. But first it must comply with the resolutions of this Council, resolutions made necessary by its deliberate decision to abandon the search for peaceful solutions. We sincerely hope it will do so, as all of us wish to see peace instead of war.

That choice, between peace and war, is now in the hands of Iraq.

Thank you, Mr. President.