

The Government of New Zealand has committed units of the nation's defence forces to support the effort to secure compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations.

Under these circumstances, it is appropriate that the New Zealand Parliament should convene to discuss these grave issues.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, I should like to recall events leading to and following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, and the decisions which have been taken by the previous and present Governments of New Zealand in regard to this act of aggression.

Prior to the invasion, the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, laid claim to two Kuwaiti islands and the Kuwaiti section of an oil field that spreads beneath the border between the nations of Iraq and Kuwait.

The President of Iraq had criticised Kuwait's oil production and pricing policies.

Discussions on these points had begun between Iraq and Kuwait.

President Saddam Hussein had given undertakings to other Arab leaders that he would not invade Kuwait.

Despite these undertakings and without prior warning, on the 2nd of August, Iraqi troops launched a full-scale attack.

The small defence forces of Kuwait were quickly overrun.

Claiming a popular revolutionary movement had arisen in Kuwait, the President of Iraq installed a new government.

This lasted but few days, before President Saddam Hussein proclaimed Kuwait to be Iraq's 19th province, and annexed the country completely.