

Saudi Arabia welcomed the offer, but it was not taken up at that time by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Since the onset of the crisis, the previous and present Governments have given frequent consideration to the possibility of further New Zealand contributions, in particular military contributions.

The previous Government announced, at an early stage of the crisis, its willingness to make an appropriate contribution to any operations organised under United Nations auspices.

On the 29th of November, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 678, in which it authorised the use of "all necessary means" to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, and requested "all states to provide appropriate support for the actions" of countries contributing to the multinational forces in the Gulf area.

The text of this resolution was sent officially by the Secretary-General to the present Government of New Zealand, as it was to other governments.

On the 3rd of December, the Government announced its intention to make available two RNZAF Hercules transport aircraft and a New Zealand Army medical team to support the multinational force in the Gulf area.

The Government believes the provision of these military support services is an appropriate response to the situation, and to the United Nations' call for assistance.