

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

26 March 2003

Dear Prime Minister Jean Chrétien,

The Canadian Churches commend you and your government for remaining firm on your stand, as repeated March 17 in the House of Commons, that while Canada insists that Iraq should fully abide by the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, Canada will not participate in a war on Iraq led by the United States.

Now that the war has started, we cannot but deplore the fact that the United States did not abide by international law and acted in spite of the United Nations' opposition to war. Canada's commitment to uphold international law is well reputed and we are proud of the fact that you have maintained a coherent position under such circumstances.

As in our previous letters of September 25th, December 20th, and February 28th, we would like to emphasize again the fervent wish of Canadian Churches - indeed most Canadians - for a peaceful resolution of the current conflict, which has now evolved into a full-blown war. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Our prayers will continue to be with you as you lead Canada during this period of tension and conflict in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

**Bishop André Vallée**  
President  
The Canadian Council of Churches

**The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton**  
General Secretary  
The Canadian Council of Churches

**Moira Hutchinson**  
Chair, Project Ploughshares Board  
Project Ploughshares

**Ernie Regehr**  
Executive Director  
Project Ploughshares

**Jane Orion Smith**  
Chair of the Kairos Board  
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**Pat Steenberg**  
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