

On Saturday, in a small church in the small rural town of Beiseker, I shared in the grief of a father. His wife and young son were the latest Canadians to die from the scourge of international terrorism. For Edward Leonard and the family and friends of Valinda, global terrorism has intruded with shocking and sudden finality in their daily lives.

Other Canadians have also been the victims of equally horrible events. Global terrorism has become a daily event. A partially paralyzed old man, enjoying the Mediterranean sun, ended up a corpse on a Syrian beach. Workers at Narita Airport were blown up as they unload luggage from a Canadian Pacific flight.

Valinda and Andrew Leonard's deaths are particularly poignant, however. A young mother and baby son on their way to join husband and father touches all of us in a particularly sensitive way. We cannot forget that so many of the Canadians who died last spring on Air India flight 182 were also on their way to meet loved ones.

The freedom to travel safely is the very essence of what international order is all about. The world has been free of global conflict for forty years. And there is every reason to be proud of the peacemakers who have laboured to achieve that fine result.

We are, however, in real danger of allowing a new form of global conflict to dominate the international order and govern our lives. Death as a result of international terrorism is as real and as shocking as any of the deaths in the last global conflict.

Our international efforts to deal with this scourge have not been sufficient for the danger at hand. Canadians have been at the forefront for many years in promoting and developing new initiatives to deal with this most insidious and pressing threat. Clearly more must be done. I will ensure that everything that can be done by Canada will be done.

Our reason for coming together tonight is tragic and sad. Many of you are seeking to put your lives back together without loved ones and close friends.

For some of you time has eased the tragedy that all of us felt when the first news of the ill-fated Air India flight 182 reached us on June 23. The full story of what happened on that fateful morning off the coast of Ireland is yet to be determined. That is the responsibility of others with whom Canadians are working most closely and cooperatively.