

Mr. and Mrs. Drijber indicated after their return to Canada on July 4 that they would like to meet with me and officials of my Department contacted them to arrange a date on my return from Europe. The meeting took place on Thursday, July 12.

I have also received a letter from a lawyer representing the parents of Christine Sinclair requesting discussions about the ex gratia payment offered by President Kaunda.

The situation now is that our strong and persistent representations to the Zambian Government have resulted in expressions of regret and apologies, which I have no doubt are sincere, and an offer of ex gratia payments to the families of the slain girls. We appreciate these indications of their concern. The Zambian Government has not denied that the shots came from their guards but it has maintained that the sentry or sentries acted in accordance with their duty in the circumstances as they saw them. We do not consider that there is evidence of a threat to Zambian installations which would justify the prolonged shooting which resulted in the deaths of two innocent Canadian girls. As long as this major difference remains between our view of what happened and the view of the Zambian Government, we cannot consider the matter closed. Our stand all along has been that it is the responsibility of the Zambian Government to carry out investigations and produce explanations that will satisfy reasonable Canadian opinion.