

Surface vessels from the United States, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Curacao participated in the search.

Relatives of the missing were assisted by officers of the Canadian High Commission in Barbados and in St. Vincent.

On January 6, the External Affairs Department was informed that the U.S. Coast Guard intended to end its active participation in the search but would continue to provide electronic backup and technical advice.

At a January 8 meeting in Kingstown, St. Vincent, relatives of the missing and many who had participated in the search reached the conclusion, based on currents, wind, time elapsed, etc., that further search efforts were beyond the capability of the resources in St. Vincent. The Government of Martinique and the U.S. Coast Guard in San Juan were approached once more to determine whether further assistance would be provided. Their assessment was that no further direct participation was feasible. On the basis of this information the active search was suspended. However, governments in the area, aircraft and surface vessels continued to maintain an alert for any sign of the missing boat or its passengers.

On Thursday, January 12, Minister Clark said that the Canadian Government would doublecheck that a certain search area off Northern Venezuela, in particular the chain of islands at 12 degrees latitude, had been covered in the extensive search for the Long Shot. The U.S. Coast Guard had said that this particular search area had been examined during the earlier search effort.

However, because some of the relatives of the missing party remained particularly concerned about that specific area having been fully searched, Mr. Clark decided on January 13, for compassionate reasons, to instruct Canada's Ambassador in Caracas to ask the Venezuelan authorities to undertake a re-checking of that area. The Venezuelans agreed to do so.

In following up on the implementation of this recheck over the weekend of January 14-15, Canada's Ambassador in Caracas learned that, while the Venezuelan authorities had alerted vessels and aircraft and also their watch stations on the islands in that specific area to report any evidence of the accident, they had not yet commenced other activity that Canada expected to be included in a recheck of the area.