

A special envoy went to Zambia at the beginning of June, as the House was informed on June 5. This was a Canadian who knew the President of Zambia personally and was particularly fitted to convey to him the depth of Canadian concern about the situation. That was the reason for sending him. On June 7 President Kaunda gave this envoy personal letters to deliver to Mr. and Mrs. Drijber and Reverend and Mrs. Sinclair, copies of which I tabled on June 11. President Kaunda's letters said, in part:

"I am writing to tell you of the deep personal grief which I have felt, and which is shared by the people of Zambia, at the tragic death of your daughter. The people of Zambia join with me in expressing deep regret at her death. ...as an indication of my country's deep regret at the loss you have sustained and of the esteem we feel toward the Canadian people, I am asking my government officials to discuss with the Canadian High Commission in Zambia the question of ex gratia payment to you. I hope that you will accept this gesture as a further expression of my deep sympathy and that of the Zambian nation".

On June 12 Mr. Drijber asked the Canadian Embassy in South Africa for assistance in obtaining a personal interview with President Kaunda. This was arranged, through our High Commissioner in Lusaka for June 20, at which time the President once again offered his sympathy and apology. A meeting was also arranged with Zambian defence officials and Mr. Drijber was taken by Zambian Government aircraft to visit the Zambian side of the gorge. Later he crossed the border to Rhodesia.