

On May 24 I informed the House that the Canadian High Commission in Lusaka had been told to "once again contact the Zambian authorities at a very high level to make clear to them that we are treating this matter very seriously indeed, and that we wish the fullest possible investigation to be continued. We are not satisfied with the public statement that has been made and we have received no direct communication from the Zambian Government."

On May 28 I tabled a letter from the Zambian Foreign Minister conveying deep-felt condolences to the Government and people of Canada and to the bereaved families of the two Canadian girls. On May 29 the Canadian Mission in Lusaka was instructed once again to inform the Zambian Government of strong Canadian concern and to point out that there was no evidence that the tourists were acting in a way to create suspicion. The Prime Minister sent a personal message to President Kaunda of Zambia on May 29 emphasizing Canadian concern over this tragic incident.

On May 31 I again reported to the House of Commons and informed the House of the main points on which Mr. Leith's findings and the evidence of the American couple who survived the shooting differed from the Zambian explanation. There was no evidence of provocation for the shooting; no evidence of the girls being in the water; no evidence that any of the party were wearing bandoliers or waterproof gear; and there was evidence of firing by more than one gun at more than one location.

Our High Commissioner in Lusaka saw President Kaunda over the June 2-3 weekend to emphasize the continuing concern of the Canadian Government. On June 4 President Kaunda sent a message to Prime Minister Trudeau conveying apologies and expressing his personal grief and sorrow concerning the May 15 deaths.