

Last year a Canadian and a Zambian lost their lives in your country in the cause of strengthening our relations.

So far as we can discover, the incident refers to the deaths in an automobile accident of a Zambian who was in Canada on a training program and a Canadian whose house guest he was at the time. The Zambian, Robinson Chibundi, was a superintendent of the Zambian police force, and had arrived in Canada August 23, 1972 to participate in a three-month training program. Over the Labour Day weekend, superintendent Chibundi and a fellow Zambian police officer were the house guests of a lieutenant of the Hamilton police force, Michael Pauloski, who was also on the training program. Lieutenant Pauloski, members of his family, and the two Zambians were returning from a football game on September 4 when Lieutenant Pauloski and Superintendent Chibundi were killed in an automobile accident.

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the minister has decided to make a full statement on this issue following a report submitted to him by our High Commissioner on the facts concerning the death of two Canadian girls. I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, that as my colleague the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Hales) has noted, there seem to be many questions unanswered and up until now there did not appear to be considerable activity on the part of the Department of External Affairs with reference to this matter.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that Canadians travelling abroad have a right to the fullest protection that the Canadian flag can afford. This can only be assured if further efforts with reference to redress are made and the strongest possible protests are launched, perhaps at the United Nations.

There are many questions that I should like to have answered. With respect to the circumstances surrounding these deaths we have already had a report given by a reliable and comprehensive reporter from Reuter, who gave us certain facts a few days ago. The government does not seem to have conducted any inquiry into that report. These facts are substantially different from those which have been given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Zambia. I should like to quote from the Reuter report the following paragraph:

The front page story, which the newspaper said was the result of a week's investigation—

May I say, Mr. Speaker, that if the reporter has been able to make such an investigation quickly, surely our Department of External Affairs could have done likewise.

—said that “about 50 people watched in horror” while five Zambian soldiers shot dead Christine Sinclair, of Guelph, Ontario, wounded American John Crothers “and then sniped for nearly two hours at Marjan Drijber hiding behind a rock in the Zambesi river.”

The article continues:

According to the *Star*, all witnesses to the incident had been “cowed into silence” and “indications in Lusaka are that President Kaunda has had the truth deliberately kept from him by his security forces with the connivance of members of his cabinet, including Mr. Grey Zulu, Minister of Defence.”

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And, later:

“During all this several Zambian policemen and plainclothes officers looked on in silence.” The report said the Zambian troops were in a state of high agitation, sweating profusely.

And a further paragraph from the report reads:

• (1550)

When objections were made to the uniformed police and plainclothesmen looking on, one reported that the fact that the person was a woman made no difference because the Black September movement had used women to blow up Israeli airliners.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, these facts brought out by a reporter should have been looked into by the Department of External Affairs. Other questions, as well, come to mind and it seems to me that the minister should look into them. In the letter which was tabled yesterday, sent by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Zambia, these sentences appear:

Besides, we have several Zambians who have trained or are training in Canada. Last year a Canadian and a Zambian lost their lives in your country in the cause of strengthening our relations.

Having heard the Secretary of State for External Affairs, we now know what the last sentence means. Nevertheless, I am disturbed by those sentences. It is said that several Zambians have trained or are training in Canada. I do not know if these Zambians have been trained as managers of corporations or as soldiers in certain camps. I wonder, if they are still being trained in Canada, what action the government is taking, now that these two girls have been murdered. Will the action to be taken by the government be swift and decisive, or will the government wait until the High Commissioner returns and gets information from the same person who wrote this personal letter to the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

In this matter we want more than regrets. We do not want excuses from the government. We want compensation, and we have not yet heard anything of that nature. It seems to me that these questions and many more will have to be answered. The hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Hales) has been pressing the government day after day, without success. We have received a partial report from the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I hope that, since he has been asked these additional questions today, he will be able to satisfy not only us, in this Parliament, but all Canadians.

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the incident to which the minister referred in his statement was tragic in the sense that two young Canadian women unnecessarily lost their lives. It could be doubly tragic if we were to allow that unfortunate incident to affect our relationships with Zambia, which, after all, has been friendly, without first determining the facts of the case. I appreciate the efforts of the government in first ascertaining those facts before determining its course of action.

We provide substantial aid to Zambia on a regular basis. We have provided emergency aid to Zambia, to help that country overcome difficulties encountered as a result of the closure of its border with Rhodesia. We have trained Zambian policemen and military personnel in this country. I have received suggestions, both direct and veiled, that perhaps this kind of assistance should be stopped