

existing between Rhodesia and Zambia so that he would be aware beforehand of possible difficulties he might encounter.

I instructed the Canadian High Commissioner in Lusaka, Zambia, to have the First Secretary, Mr. M. Leith, proceed immediately to Rhodesia to do whatever was possible to aid in the recovering of the bodies of the dead girls; to assist in carrying out the wishes of the next of kin regarding funeral arrangements; and to try to obtain the facts as to what actually took place on May 15. The Canadian High Commissioner in Lusaka was instructed to approach the Zambian authorities immediately to obtain assurances that a full and satisfactory investigation of the tragic incident would be carried out.

On May 18 the Zambian Government issued a communiqué which in essence admitted that a sentry on guard duty at a power station in the fourth gorge of the Zambezi River had fired upon the two young Canadians and their two companions, Mr. and Mrs. Crothers of the United States, because the sentry believed they were swimming across the Zambezi River on a mission to attack the Zambian power station.

I informed the House of Commons on May 22 that the Canadian authorities were awaiting Mr. Leith's findings. On May 23 I informed the House of Commons that "We have not accepted the Zambian explanation and this is one of the reasons we are making the investigation". In answer to questions from the press, I reiterated on May 24 that the Canadian Government was not "satisfied with the explanation" contained in the May 18 Zambian communiqué and that the High Commissioner, Mr. Broadbridge, was instructed to convey the findings of Mr. Leith to the Zambian Government.