

"Mr. Speaker,

I rise to make a statement on the tragic death of a young Canadian mother and her infant son. Although we are awaiting final identification by the husband and father, our information is that Mrs. Valinda Leonard and her infant son, Andrew, of Beiseker, Alberta, were killed in the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner to Malta. I wish to express my own deepest condolences and those of the Government and people of Canada, to her family. I also want to pay tribute to the manner in which the family has responded to the stress and tragedy of this weekend.

No nation is immune to the scourge of terrorism. Two innocent Canadians now join the list of victims of this international brutality. The Government of Canada condemns the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner and profoundly regrets the tragic loss of life which ensued.

This most recent incident again demonstrates the urgent need for concerted international action to combat acts of terrorism. The Prime Minister raised this issue before the United Nations General Assembly. We have proposed changes affecting international travel.

With our friends and allies, Canada is pursuing other concrete measures to combat terrorism. Senior officials of my Department will be meeting in Bonn on December 10 to continue consultations with our Summit Seven partners. We will continue to pursue vigorously all available means to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and to bring to justice perpetrators of these brutal acts."