

Congo to the governments represented on the Conciliation Commission of the Organization of African Unity, and notably to its chairman, Mr. Kenyatta, the Prime Minister of Kenya. This appeal was based on the four conventions signed in Geneva in 1949 with regard to the treatment of civilian populations. I regret that this appeal and the appeal of other governments has not proven to be effective.

As I first informed the House on November 5, the Hon. Member for Red Deer knows Africa and has spent a lot of time there. . . . He has, to paraphrase the statement made by United States authorities, rendered valuable service in circumstances which are causing concern to the Government of the United States, as well as to Canada. He was asked to make an appeal to a number of friendly governments and certain African leaders he knows. More specifically, because of the fact that he had acted in a governmental capacity in Ethiopia for over 18 years, serving the Emperor, and because the Emperor was the first president of the Organization of African Unity, we asked the Hon. Member for Red Deer, with whatever authority and support he could receive from the Emperor, to deliver a message to Mr. Kenyatta as chairman of the OAU Conciliation Commission, expressing the concern of the Canadian Government for its nationals who are in the Stanleyville area and of whom we have not had any direct information since midsummer.

Mr. Kenyatta assured the Hon. Member for Red Deer that, in response to the appeal of Canada and other countries, he had taken what immediate action he could to request all authorities in the Congo to respect the human rights of civilians and also to facilitate the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He indicated that the Stanleyville authorities had assured him that the foreign civilians in Stanleyville were not in danger. I hope that continues to be the situation, although the news that we have now is anything but encouraging.

Like Mr. Kenyatta, the Emperor of Ethiopia, largely through the efforts of the Hon. Member for Red Deer, made known his grave concern over the safety of the Canadians and other foreigners in the affected area. The Hon. Member for Red Deer was in constant touch, in the course of the four or five days during which he travelled back and forth between Addis Ababa and Nairobi, with certain diplomats and officials in both capitals. He consulted with the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the Kenyan Minister of State, Mr. Murumbi, and also was in touch with the director of the organization most concerned in this matter, Mr. Diallo Telli, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

From November 19 to the end of the month, additional details were given to the House by the Minister concerning the Canadian citizens rescued as a result of the United States-Belgian intervention at Stanleyville.