

The Government and people of Canada were deeply shocked by the news of the tragic death of the President of Pakistan, Zia-ul-Haq and others in the aircraft disaster this morning. The Government extends its condolences to the people of Pakistan on this sad occasion. The Prime Minister has sent a message of condolence to the acting President, Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

President Zia has had a long and distinguished career in the service of his country. He was deeply committed to the social and economic development of the people of Pakistan and to bringing peace to that troubled area of the world. He will be long remembered for the leadership he provided in assisting the people of Afghanistan in their efforts to restore independence.

His loss comes at a critical time in the history of Pakistan. The Government and people of Canada hope that this tragedy will not affect the further restoration of democracy to Pakistan.