



PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today, for the information of residents of Canada who own property in Hungary, that on February 17, 1952, the Hungarian authorities published two decrees to the effect that property such as dwelling houses or apartment houses, villas, flats, business premises, factory buildings, workshop buildings, warehouses, etc. utilized either wholly or in part as sources of income by letting, would be nationalized.

The decrees also provide that if the owner is not living permanently in the house owned by him - or in part of the said house - all movables belonging to him stored in the said house will also pass into the possession of the State.

According to these decrees, the owner, or in his absence, his agent or the oldest tenant, had to register such property with the Executive Committee of the appropriate local Council in Hungary within three days of the decree coming into force and appeals were to be filed in writing with the above-mentioned Committee not later than March 11.

An ordinance published on March 4 by the Hungarian authorities extended for foreign nationals living abroad the time limits for registration and appeal to 30 and 60 days respectively, the periods being dated from March 4. To take advantage of this new ordinance, owners must prove that they were prevented from complying with the original time limits.

Claims for compensation must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committees between April 15 and 30, 1952.

The Government of Canada, in association with the Government of the United Kingdom, has already made representations to the Hungarian authorities in reserving the rights of its citizens and has requested that adequate and prompt compensation be paid to Canadian claimants whose property would be nationalized under the decrees.

Further information concerning these decrees may be obtained by writing to the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa.