PRESS RELEASE



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Czechoslovakian Claims

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced that the Canadian and Czechoslovak Governments have agreed to commence negotiations in the near future with a view to a lump sum settlement of claims of Canadian citizens arising out of property nationalized or otherwise taken by the Czechoslovak Government.

Canadians with nationalization claims outstanding against Czechoslovakia should submit details of their claims to the Department of External Affairs before September 1, 1957 in order that they may be considered with a view to the forthcoming claims negotiations. Further details, together with forms and instructions on the procedures to be followed, are available upon application to the Claims Section of the Department. Persons who have already submitted information concerning their claims against Czechoslovakia will shortly be receiving the relevant forms by mail.

In accordance with well established international rules and practice in this field, the Canadian Government will be able to take into consideration only claims in respect of property which belonged to persons who were Canadian citizens at the time when the property was nationalized or otherwise taken.