

Preparatory to negotiations with the Hungarian Government, which are expected to commence in Budapest early in 1966, the Claims Section of the Department has been engaged in considerable correspondence with Canadians having claims outstanding against Hungary.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on December 1, 1964, that claims of Canadians against Bulgaria should be submitted to the Department of External Affairs previous to negotiations with that country. Discussions between Canada and Bulgaria were commenced in Sofia in April 1965, at which time the Bulgarian authorities expressed a willingness in principle to make compensation for Canadian properties in Bulgaria taken over by the Bulgarian Government. No agreement was reached during the first round of exchanges concerning the basis of compensation for such properties, but talks are expected to be resumed in the near future.

On September 1, 1965, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced that the Canadian and Polish Governments had agreed to begin talks at an early date towards the provision of a lump-sum settlement on nationalization claims by Canadian citizens against Poland. Canadians having property and financial claims against Poland were accordingly invited to submit the details of their claims to the Department of External Affairs before a deadline of January 1, 1966, in order that they could be considered prior to the forthcoming negotiations. The Department announced on December 14, 1965, that this deadline had been extended to May 1, 1966, in response to numerous requests from Canadians who had asked for a further period in order that they might obtain the necessary documentation and information for the submission of their claims. The procedure for registering a claim with the Department for this purpose was outlined in instructions and questionnaires provided by the Claims Section.