

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, today announced that the Department of External Affairs will now begin to collect information regarding possible claims of Canadians arising out of the nationalization or other taking over of property in the People's Republic of China.

The attention of potential claimants is drawn to the fact that there exists no agreement between Canada and the People's Republic of China to negotiate a formal claims settlement, as was the case in the past with certain other states. Thus the role of the Department of External Affairs, in respect to possible claims relating to the People's Republic of China, will be simply to transmit details of potential claims to the Chinese authorities for investigation and verification by local authorities.

Canadians who believe they may have a claim against the People's Republic of China arising out of the nationalization or other taking over of property in the People's Republic of China should submit details of their claim to the Department of External Affairs no later than June 30, 1975 for onward transmission to the Chinese authorities. Failure to notify the Department of a claim by that date may preclude the possibility of a claim being dealt with.

Further details on the procedures to be followed are available from the claims section of the Department of External Affairs. The address is:

Claims Section
Legal Advisory Division
Department of External Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2