

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, today announced that the Canadian and Yugoslav Governments have agreed in principle to commence negotiations in the near future with a view to achieving a settlement of claims of Canadian citizens arising out of property rights and interests nationalized by the Yugoslav Government decrees after December 23, 1948. Canadian citizens whose property was taken before that date were eligible to receive compensation under the compensation agreement signed on that date between the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

Canadian citizens who have had property nationalized by the Yugoslav Government should submit details of their claims to the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa by July 31, 1975. Failure to notify the Department of a claim by that date will prejudice the eligibility of such claims to share in any eventual settlement. All enquiries and information on claims should be directed to:

Claims Section  
Legal Advisory Division  
Department of External Affairs  
Daly Building, Room 540  
555 Mackenzie Street  
Ottawa K1A 0G4, Ontario

In accordance with well-established international 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 the property was nationalized or otherwise taken by Yugoslavia.