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CLAIMS AGAINST THE CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (C.S.F.R.) has enacted a law providing for restitution or compensation to the former owners of properties seized after 1955 under Decrees No. 15 and 71.

Under an agreement between Canada and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic of April 18, 1973, many Canadians have already received some compensation for properties that were expropriated. However, Canadians who did not receive such compensation and who would like to take advantage of the dispositions of the new law should obtain a certificate stating their eligibility. This certificate can be obtained from the Management of Property and Foreign Exchange Matters (Spravy pro veci majetkova a devizove) at 15 Letenska, 11810 Praha 1, C.S.F.R.

Under the recent Czech and Slovakian law providing for restitutions, Canadians who have a claim have until March 31, 1991 to register it with the organization presently using the property or, if the original property no longer exists, with the Ministry of Privatization of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.