

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 12, 1959

NO. 80

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION CONCERNING RECENT AND PENDING AUSTRIAN LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE PERSECUTED ON POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS IN AUSTRIA BETWEEN MARCH 13, 1938, AND MAY 8, 1945.

PARTICULARS OF THIS LEGISLATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(I) THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH A FUND FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOSSES OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO PERSECUTION ON POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS (FONDS ZUR ABGELTUNG GEWISSER VERMOEGENSVERLUSTE POLITISCH VERFOLGTER). THE FUND WILL HAVE A CAPITAL IN THE EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS OF PHYSICAL PERSONS WHO WERE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN AUSTRIA FROM MARCH 13, 1938, TO MAY 8, 1945, AND WHOSE BANK ACCOUNTS, SECURITIES, MORTGAGES OR MONEY WERE THE SUBJECT OF FORCED TRANSFERS OR WERE CONFISCATED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST AUTHORITIES. THE FUND WILL ALSO SETTLE CLAIMS OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO PERSECUTION ON POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS AS DEFINED ABOVE FOR THEIR PAYMENTS OF THE DISCRIMINATORY TAXES KNOWN AS "REICHSFLUCHTSTEUER" AND "SUEHNELEISTUNG