

INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS

Since 1945, the Department has actively pursued a program of claims for damages suffered by Canadian nationals in a number of foreign countries. Ever since the War Claims Commission ended its work in 1959, the Department has become involved in negotiating numerous claims arising from damages incurred by Canadians as a result of various nationalization measures decreed in particular in communist countries.

Since that time, the Department has concluded lump-sum agreements with Hungary in 1970, Romania and Poland in 1971, Czechoslovakia in 1973, Cuba in 1980, the People's Republic of China in 1981 and Bulgaria in 1982.

The Legal Affairs Bureau is presently concentrating on claims settlements with Yugoslavia and East Germany. Two series of technical consultations to prepare for negotiation of a final lump-sum agreement were held with the representatives of these countries.

The Bureau is also seeking to settle our claim against the USSR for the losses incurred through the deaths of eight Canadian citizens when the Korean Airlines Boeing 747 was downed in September 1983. The Canadian Government continues to press the USSR to open talks on this matter.