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PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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A press release was issued on November 7, 1960, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, concerning an agreement reached between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees providing for indemnification of refugees who were persecuted because of their nationality by the National Socialist regime. (A notice concerning this agreement was also published in the Canada Gazette of December 3, 1960, issue No. 49).

The Secretary of State for External Affairs now wishes to bring to the attention of possible claimants residing in Canada that pursuant to this agreement a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Indemnification Fund was established in January 1961 for assistance to persons who suffered damage under the National Socialist regime as a result of persecution by reason of their nationality and in disregard of human rights. The German Federal Government has agreed to place at the High Commissioner's disposal the sum of DM 45 million to provide assistance to national persecutees other than those who already have a legal claim to indemnification under the German Federal Indemnification Law, under which national persecutees can obtain indemnification only if they have suffered permanent injury to their health as a result of persecution under the National Socialist regime.

In order to qualify for payments under the Fund, a person must have been a refugee in the sense of the 1951 Convention relating to Refugees on October 1, 1953, regardless of his present residence, even if, in the meantime, he has lost refugee status by returning to his home country, or by acquiring a new nationality.