

It usually takes some years to conclude the negotiations. Among the numerous reasons for this is the reluctance of officials on the other side to provide documentary evidence of the type that would, for example, be required by Canadian courts. In addition, of course, the war and the post-war social upheavals have created very real difficulties in the location of thirty-year old records. Non-legal considerations include the understandable resistance by the debtors to such impositions on their limited foreign exchange reserves. There also exists an emotional obstacle with particular reference to Canada, where most of whose claimants are emigrants from the debtor states, of paying compensation to those of their nationals who emigrated while not paying compensation to those who stayed behind.

Nevertheless, settlements are being achieved. Bulgaria in 1966, Hungary in 1970, Poland and Romania in 1971 and we hope Czechoslovakia within the next twelve months. To take an active example, claims negotiations with Czechoslovakia were opened in Prague in May 1971. The venue then switched to Ottawa in October 1971, and then back to Prague in May 1972. Each period of negotiation lasted three weeks. Between these negotiations the two sides evaluate the information provided by the other side at the previous round, and gradually a narrowing of differences was taking place.

It is rarely if ever possible to reach complete agreement on validity and valuation of all the claims in question, and sooner or later the two sides agree to what are in effect three