

News Release

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**NEW GERMAN POLICY REGARDING PROPERTY CLAIMS
IN THE TERRITORY CURRENTLY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR)**

The Government of Canada has been advised by the Governments of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) of a number of procedures for settling unresolved property claims arising from nationalization measures in respect of property placed under State administration in the GDR.

According to the information provided by these Governments, in principle, property which was expropriated in the GDR should be returned to the original owners or their heirs. In this regard, the GDR Government has issued a preliminary decree which provides guidance in determining who is entitled to file a claim, where such a claim should be registered and by what date. However, it is important to note that a person having a claim should register it before the deadline of October 13, 1990.

The following kinds of property are among those covered the decree: real property, rights to real property, movable property, business enterprises and their assets located in the territory of the GDR, including (East) Berlin, and credit balances in accounts and other monies due, provided that the parties liable for such amounts are headquartered or resident in the territory of the GDR, including (East) Berlin.

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Canada

The German Democratic Republic has also informed the Canadian Government that it promulgated a separate decree on the redemption of participation rights of owners residing outside the GDR as regards redemption loans in respect of pre-currency-reform credit balances. Owners of participation rights, or their heirs, have until December 31, 1990 to file a claim for redemption with the competent financial institution at which participation rights were established.

Relevant documentation can be obtained through the Passport Offices of External Affairs and International Trade Canada located across Canada. Requests for information could be directed to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ottawa, telephone (613) 232-1101, -1102, -1103, -1104, -1105, to the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic in Ottawa, telephone (613) 234-4359, or External Affairs and International Trade Canada, Claims Section of the Economic and Trade Law Division in Ottawa, telephone (613) 992-8658.