



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 59

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 1961

The Department of External Affairs announced today that it has been informed that the Austrian Government is now accepting applications for compensation to individuals who were persecuted on political, racial, or religious grounds in Austria between March 31, 1938 and May 8, 1945. Claims made by the immediate families of individuals who were persecuted will also be considered.

Applications must be filled not later than August 31, 1962 with the "Fonds zur Abgeltung von Vermoegensverlusten Politisch Verfolgter, Taborstrasse 2-6, Vienna II". Official application forms are available at the Austrian Consulates at: 31 Hollinsworth Bldg., Calgary, Alberta; 6 Young Ave., Halifax, Nova Scotia; 1410 Stanley Street, Montreal, Quebec; 525 Seymour St., Vancouver, B.C.; 54 Harrow St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Details of the Austrian legislation establishing the Fund for the Settlement of Certain Property Losses of Political Persecutees ("Fonds Zur Abgeltung von Vermoegensverlusten Politisch Verfolgter") were published by the Department of External Affairs in Press Release No. 80 dated November 12, 1959, a copy of which is attached for reference.

Inquiries for further information should be directed to the Austrian authorities at the above addresses.

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

DER JUDEN (JUVA)". THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT WILL APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 600,000 TO PAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE FUND. THE FUND WILL BE EXEMPT FROM AUSTRIAN TAXES AND PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND WILL NOT CONSTITUTE INCOME ON WHICH THE RECIPIENTS ARE LIABLE FOR AUSTRIAN TAXES. ALL PERSONS EXPOSED TO PERSECUTION ON POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS WHO SUSTAINED LOSSES IN THE ABOVE ENUMERATED CATEGORIES ARE ENTITLED TO FILE CLAIMS REGARDLESS OF THEIR PRESENT RESIDENCE. CLAIMS FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY, SUITE 707, 140 WELLINGTON STREET, OTTAWA, AND AT THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATES AT 31 HOLLINSWORTH BUILDING, CALGARY, 1121 SHERBROOK STREET WEST, MONTREAL AND 525 SEYMOUR STREET, VANCOUVER, AND ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

(II) THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ENACTED AN AMENDMENT (AUSTRIAN FEDERAL LAW 99 OF MARCH 18, 1939) TO THE WAR AND PERSECUTION PROPERTY DAMAGE LAW (AUSTRIAN FEDERAL LAW 127 OF 1958) INCREASING THE AMOUNTS TO BE AWARDED TO CERTAIN CLAIMANTS RESIDING ABROAD FOR CONFISCATED FURNITURE AND CERTAIN OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY. THE DEADLINE FOR THE FILING OF CLAIMS IS DECEMBER 31, 1959. COPIES OF THE OFFICIAL FORMS, WHICH MUST ACCOMPANY CLAIMS, ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN OTTAWA AND AT THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATES IN CALGARY, MONTREAL AND VANCOUVER. THE FORMS CONTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION

AND INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE FILING OF CLAIMS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WAR AND PERSECUTION PROPERTY DAMAGE LAW AND ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

(III) THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ENACT LEGISLATION INTENDED TO ENABLE PERSONS WHO WERE EXPOSED TO PERSECUTION ON POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS IN AUSTRIA BETWEEN MARCH 13, 1938, AND MAY 8, 1945, AND WHO FAILED TO FILE A RESTITUTION CLAIM WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS PROVIDED IN AUSTRIAN RESTITUTION LAWS FOR THE RESTITUTION OF PROPERTY, LEGAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS, TO OBTAIN SATISFACTION OF THEIR CLAIMS. THE PREPARATION OR FILING OF INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS MUST BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLAIMANT. ENQUIRIES REGARDING SPECIFIC CASES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUSTRIAN OFFICES REFERRED TO ABOVE.