



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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CANADA SIGNS CLAIMS AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced that the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Cuba have signed an Agreement in respect of claims of Canadian citizens against Cuba. The Agreement was signed in Havana on the 7th of November by Gary R. Harman, Canadian Ambassador to Cuba and by Jose A. Fernandez De Cossio, the Cuban Vice-Minister of Foreign Relations. The Agreement will come into force on the date of the exchange of Instruments of Ratification which is expected to take place in Ottawa shortly.

The claims covered in the Agreement arose from post-revolution nationalization and similar measures adopted by the Government of Cuba which affected property rights owned by persons who were Canadian citizens at the time the measures were adopted. Claims of Canadian insurance companies in respect of their commercial operations in Cuba are not covered by the Agreement.

Negotiations between officials of the two Governments in respect of the claims began in May 1972 and subsequent discussions were held in Havana and Ottawa.

The Agreement provides for the payment of a lump sum of \$850,000 in the form of an initial payment of \$150,000 on the date of entry into force of the Agreement and four subsequent equal half-yearly payments of \$175,000, the first installment to be paid not later than six months from the coming into force of the Agreement.

The Foreign Claims Commission will be authorized to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance regarding the distribution of the proceeds of the Settlement. Those persons who

have given notice of their claims to the Government of Canada will be notified in due course of the settlement.

Copies of the text of the Agreement will be available from the Economic Law and Treaty Division of the Department of External Affairs after the text of the Agreement has been tabled in Parliament.