

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR RELEASE AT 2.45 P.M. E.D.T.
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1964.

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, issued in connection with his announcement in the House of Commons today on the conclusion of negotiations between the Governments of Canada and the Hungarian People's Republic:

As to the settlement of property claims an agreement provides that further negotiations will be entered into at an early date towards the settlement of Canadian property claims against Hungary. The negotiations will take into account all claims of the Canadian Government and of Canadian citizens in respect of pre-war debts, war damages, and property which has been nationalized or expropriated by the Hungarian authorities since World War II, as well as all obligations of the Hungarian Government to the Canadian Government and Canadian citizens arising out of the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Hungary. The negotiations would also cover all Hungarian claims in respect of blocked and vested Hungarian assets in Canada.

This agreement on future claims negotiations will be of interest to a number of Canadians who have outstanding claims against Hungary, many resulting from Hungarian nationalization measures. These negotiations are not expected

to commence for some months. As part of preparations for the negotiations, Canadians will be invited to submit to the Canadian Government, within a specified deadline, any claims and supporting documentation not already submitted. Canadians who have already submitted details of their claims to the Department of External Affairs may be asked to furnish certain additional information or documentation in respect of their claims against Hungary. A separate public announcement will be made in the near future outlining the procedure to be followed to register claims with the Canadian Government. I must also mention at the outset that in accordance with well-established international practice, the Canadian Government will be able to espouse only the claims of persons who are Canadians at the present time and who were also Canadians at the time of the loss or nationalization of their property. Claims of persons who were not Canadians at the time of loss will not be included in the proposed negotiations, with the exception of certain categories of claims provided for in the Peace Treaty with Hungary.

Another agreement also records an understanding on certain consular matters which among other things will serve to clarify the position of Canadian citizens, including those of Hungarian origin, who may wish to travel to Hungary. In addition, we have reached an understanding with the Hungarian Government that they will give sympathetic consideration to applications from Hungarian citizens who may wish to join members of their family who are already in Canada.

Ottawa, June 11, 1964.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the recent discussions which have taken place in Ottawa between representatives of our governments on the subject of the establishment of diplomatic relations and of diplomatic and trade representation between our two countries.

In those discussions an understanding was reached that diplomatic relations would be established between the Hungarian People's Republic and Canada and that both parties would be entitled to open embassies, in Ottawa and Budapest respectively, as soon as they wish to do so.

It was understood also that the Hungarian People's Republic would be entitled to establish a Trade Commissioner's office in the city of Montreal, staffed by government trade officials who would have the equivalent privileges and immunities (but not the functions) of the head and members of the staff of a consulate; and that Canada, for its part, would reciprocally be entitled to establish trade representation in Hungary.

His Excellency Peter Kod,
First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Head of the Hungarian Delegation,
Ottawa.

I have the honour to confirm the acceptance of these arrangements by the Government of Canada and to request in return your confirmation of their acceptance by the Hungarian Government.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) Paul Martin.

HEAD OF THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION

Ottawa, June 11, 1964.

Sir,

I have the honour to thank you for your letter of June 11, 1964, regarding diplomatic relations to be established between the Hungarian People's Republic and Canada and regarding the opening of missions in both countries.

I confirm that the Hungarian Government accepts the arrangements outlined in your letter.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) Peter Mod

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