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GERMANY RECEIVING CLAIMS FOR PROPERTIES LOST UNDER THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST REGIME

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today said that the Federal Republic of Germany is now receiving claims for properties expropriated or sold by the National Socialist regime between January 30, 1933, and May 8, 1945, on the basis of political convictions, faith or particular philosophy. The properties, however, must be located in what used to be the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

Claims should be submitted by March 31, 1991, to the Federal Ministry of Justice, Heinemannstraße 6, D-5300 Bonn 2, Germany.

Also eligible are properties which had been returned after the fall of the National Socialist regime, but which were confiscated by the Soviet occupying forces between May 8, 1945, and October 6, 1949.

More specifically, the following are eligible for claims: real estate, rights in respect of real estate, movable property, and undertakings and their assets located in the territory of the former GDR, including East Berlin. Also covered are credit balances on bank accounts and other claims relating to payments of money where the debtor's registered office or place of residence is located within the territory of the former GDR, including East Berlin.

Though not strictly necessary, registration forms can be obtained by calling the German Embassy in Ottawa at (613) 232-1101 or any of the German Consulates across Canada, or by calling the Trade and Economic Law Division of External Affairs and International Trade Canada at (613) 992-8658.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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