

PRESS RELEASE



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Canada-Romania Relations

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today tabled in the House of Commons, the texts of two exchanges of letters between Canada and the Socialist Republic of Romania dealing with consular matters and claims. On April 4, he informed the House of Commons that diplomatic relations between Canada and Romania had been established and tabled an exchange of letters to that effect.

Mr. Martin made the following statement:

"We have reached an understanding with the Romanian Government on a number of consular matters which will, among other things, clarify the position of Canadian citizens, including those of Romanian origin, who may wish to travel to Romania.

"Although it is not included in the formal exchange of notes, the attitude of the Romanian Government towards the problem of divided families was made clear by the Head of the Romanian delegation which was in Ottawa last month," he said. "Insofar as Romanian citizens are concerned, the Romanian Government considers that this falls exclusively within the competence of the Romanian Government, but on humanitarian grounds the Romanian authorities will continue to give sympathetic and benevolent consideration to applications by persons who wish to join members of their families in Canada.

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"We have also reached agreement with the Romanian Government to negotiate at an early date a settlement of outstanding financial claims between the two countries. The negotiations will take into account, inter alia, claims of the Canadian Government and of persons who were Canadian citizens at the time of loss in respect of pre-war debts as well as property nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Romanian authorities. In accordance with well-established international rules and practices in this field, the Canadian Government will be able to take into consideration only claims in respect of property which belonged to persons who were Canadian citizens at the time when the property was nationalized or otherwise taken.

"Further details on these claims, together with forms and instructions, are available from the Claims Section of my Department."