

large war claims program. This will result in the loss of many staff personnel experienced in handling claims.

May I set forth the specific date for the statutory termination of that program: it is May 17, 1967.

Therefore, it also seems practical to dispose of these claims at a time when we have competent lawyers and supporting staff rather than to delay enactment of the bill, thereby requiring the training of new personnel.

The precedent for the adjudication of claims without payment was established under the Lake Ontario program as authorized under Public Law 87-587, approved August 15, 1962, where the purpose was to determine the validity and amount of damages suffered by certain American citizens who own property on the southern shores of Lake Ontario. No provision was made for any payment.

This program was suspended, however, upon the signing of an agreement with Canada on March 25, 1965, whereupon such claims were eventually transferred to an International Arbitral Tribunal established under the terms of the agreement. It should be noted that upon the enactment of the legislation providing for this program, negotiation with the Canadian Government was contemplated. However, certain advantages were gained regarding the early presettlement adjudication of these claims.

Following the precedent established under the Lake Ontario program, the Congress enacted legislation providing for the adjudication of claims against the Government of Cuba. However, no provision was made for the payment of these claims.

At the conclusion of the Cuban program, the Commission will know precisely the value of the property that has been taken. It will no longer be a mere estimate of claim or allegation. There will be a determination that the Commission has found that the property was worth a specific sum. The same would apply to the Chinese claims if S. 3675 is enacted into law.

The nationality requirements of claimants under title V are similar to those under other titles of the act in that such claims must have been continuously owned by nationals of the United States from the date of loss. This provision follows established international law principles which, when applicable, have been applied in all adjudications before the Commission. These requirements would also be applicable to claims under the proposed bill.

Section 503 of title V of the act provides a maximum filing period of 18 months to begin running 60 days after enactment of this title or of legislation making appropriations to the Commission for the payment of administrative expenses incurred in carrying out its functions under this title, whichever date is later.

The bill, S. 3675, proposes a similar filing period with respect to claims against the Chinese Communist regime as well as a 3-year maximum settlement period which would commence after the enactment of the bill.

It is not possible at this time to ascertain the number of potential claimants that will be benefited by the enactment of this proposed measure or the amount of losses. Based on war damage records available to the Commission relative to its claims program under title II of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, it is possible that