

INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10 a.m., in room 2255, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edna F. Kelly (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mrs. KELLY. The committee will please come to order. We meet this morning to begin hearings on H.R. 9063.

At this point, I am going to ask that the background of this legislation be placed in the record.

(The documents referred to follow:)

TEXT OF EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION 653

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D.C., April 11, 1967.

Hon. JOHN W. McCORMACK,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Transmitted herewith in behalf of the Executive Branch for the consideration of the 90th Congress is the draft of a proposed bill entitled, "A Bill to amend the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, to provide for the timely determination of certain claims of American nationals, and for other purposes."

This bill proposes certain amendments to titles I and III of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, which would, among other things, provide for the implementation of the United States-Rumanian Claims Settlement Agreement of March 30, 1960, and the United States-Bulgarian Claims Settlement Agreement of July 2, 1963.

The bill also contains a proposal to reopen the Italian Claims program under section 304 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, to provide for claims of certain United States nationals who have thus far failed to recover their World War II losses. Payment of such claims would be made out of the residual amount in the Italian Claims Fund.

A proposal is also made under item (1) of the draft bill to relieve the Treasury Department of extensive administrative burdens in deducting administrative expenses from the respective claims funds instead of from each award by the Commission as required under the present provisions of the Act.

Five other proposals contained in the draft measure are designed to provide for the implementation of the United States-Rumanian Claims Settlement Agreement of March 30, 1960, and the United States-Bulgarian Claims Settlement Agreement of July 2, 1963:

A. A proposal to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to cover the payments by governments with which the United States Government concludes en bloc claims settlement agreements into the respective Claims Funds.

B. A proposal to provide for a new category of claims against the Rumanian Claims Fund and the Bulgarian Claims Fund.

C. A proposal requiring the Commission to publish notice of the programs in the Federal Register.