

INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

Paragraph 8: New Claims Under the Bulgarian and the Rumanian Claims Programs

Paragraph (8) of the bill adds a new subparagraph (4) to section 303 of the Act to provide for the disposition of claims against Rumania, included within the agreement of March 30, 1960, and against Bulgaria, included within the agreement of July 2, 1963.

These claims have arisen since August 1, 1955 and are based upon the nationalization, compulsory liquidation, or other taking of property of nationals of the United States by those countries.

Claims of this nature which arose prior to August 1, 1955, were disposed of by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission under the original Bulgarian and Rumanian programs which were completed on August 9, 1959.

Paragraph (9): Reopening of the Italian Claims Program

Paragraph (9) of the bill amends section 304 of the Act to provide for the reopening and extension of the Italian claims program to cover (a) claims not previously compensable because of late filing; (b) claims of persons who had become U.S. nationals on or before August 9, 1955 and who did not file claims under the earlier Italian Claims Program; and (c) claims heretofore excluded from consideration which arose in territory ceded by Italy in the Treaty of Peace, including the Dodecanese Islands.

Claims of persons who received compensation under the original Italian Claims Program, under section 202 of the War Claims Act, or under the Treaty of Peace with Italy, would be excluded.

Any balance remaining after payment of the claims referred to above would be transferred to the war claims fund created under section 13 of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended.

Paragraph (1) also requires the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to publish the claims filing period in the Federal Register.

Paragraph 10: Filing of Claims under the New Bulgarian and Rumanian Claims Programs

Paragraph (10) of the bill adds new subsection (b) to section 306 of the Act to provide that the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall publish in the Federal Register "the time when and the limit of time within which claims may be filed" under the reopened Bulgarian and Rumanian Claims Programs, "which limit shall not be more than 6 months after such publication."

Paragraph 11: Payments Procedures for the Bulgarian and Rumanian Claim Programs

Paragraph (11) of the bill amends section 319(a) of the Act by adding a new paragraph which changes the award payment procedures with respect to claims against Bulgaria and Rumania.

The purpose of this amendment is to insure that new awardees will not gain a pecuniary advantage over claimants who received awards under the original Bulgarian and Rumanian Claims Programs.

The earlier awardees received approximately 50 per cent of the awards (exclusive of interest) under the Bulgarian program, and 35 per cent of the awards (exclusive of interest) under the Rumanian program.

The pending proposal would limit payments on new awards to a like extent and then provide for the distribution of the residual balance on a prorated basis among all awardees.

Paragraph 12: Termination of the Bulgarian, Italian and Rumanian Claims Programs

Paragraph (12) of the bill adds a new subsection (b) to section 316 of the Act to provide that the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall complete its affairs in connection with the Bulgarian, Italian and Rumanian claims programs within a period of 2 years.

Mrs. KELLY. We are delighted to have Dr. Edward Re, Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, here this morning to open our hearings. I am going to ask you, Dr. Re, to proceed in any manner you want. If there is anything you want to add later for the record, I wish you would do so.

I know that you have a prepared statement. You may want to read it in its entirety, or summarize it. That is up to you. In any event, we will include your prepared statement in the record.