

**STATEMENT OF DR. EDWARD D. RE, CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN CLAIMS
SETTLEMENT COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. RE. Thank you very much, Mrs. Kelly.

Madam Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, it is a genuine pleasure for me to be here in support of H.R. 9063, entitled "A bill to provide for the timely determination of certain claims of American nationals, and for other purposes."

I have a formal statement concerning this legislation, but inasmuch as it contains many technical provisions, I would prefer to make some general remarks that might prove to be helpful.

I am sure that the statement is adequate in explaining the provisions of the bill, but I hope that my remarks may be helpful in understanding the statement.

Basically, the bill is designed to clear up several administrative problems facing the Commission. Since 1960 the U.S. Government has entered into claims settlement agreements with Bulgaria, Rumania, and Yugoslavia.

The commission completed those claims programs with respect to Bulgaria and Rumania in 1959. Awards in the Bulgarian program numbered 217 in the aggregate amount of \$6,571,825. During the war the U.S. Government had seized Bulgarian assets amounting to \$2,613,325. This provided for payments of approximately 50 cents on the dollar on the awards.

Under the July 2, 1963, agreement the Bulgarian Government has paid to the United States an additional \$400,000. This sum will permit a further payment on the unpaid balances of the awards and will also permit the consideration of any new claims which may have arisen between 1955 and 1963.

Similarly, the Government of Rumania has paid an additional \$2.5 million to the U.S. Government. The date of the agreement with Rumania is March 30, 1960.

Under the Rumanian program the Commission issued 498 awards in the aggregate amount of \$84,729,291. During World War II the Government of the United States seized Rumanian assets totaling \$20,057,346. This permitted payments of approximately 30 percent on the awards.

The bill, insofar as Bulgaria and Rumania are concerned, will permit the transfer of these additional sums into the respective funds which are now technically established in a manner which prevents deposit into the funds.

There is also a new agreement with Yugoslavia which provides for the payment to the U.S. Government of a sum of \$3.5 million in five annual installments of \$700,000 each. These payments commenced on January 1, 1966.

In 1948, Yugoslavia paid a lump sum to the United States in the amount of \$17 million in settlement of nationalization claims against Yugoslavia. The date of the new agreement is November 5, 1964. The date of the original agreement is July 19, 1948.

In accordance with the applicable statute the Yugoslav program was completed on December 31, 1954. Since 1948 Yugoslavia has nationalized additional United States owned properties and the recent agreement is designed to compensate for these more recent takings.