

against Italy for which no provision had been made under the Treaty of Peace with Italy.

By August 8, 1958, it was apparent that the Italian Claims Fund would be more than sufficient to pay anticipated awards against the Government of Italy. On that date the statute was amended by Public Law 85-604, section 2, to permit awards to persons who were nationals of the United States on August 9, 1955, the date of enactment of Title III of the Act, even though their claims were based upon property losses occurring at an earlier date. The amendment, in effect, broadened the international law principle requiring continuous United States nationality of a claim from the date of loss to the date of filing. Thus all claims previously denied under the original provisions of Sec. 304 of the Act because of failure to qualify under the international law principle, but which would be eligible for awards under the amendment, had to be reconsidered. Under this amendment over 100 claims were reconsidered and the amounts of the awards totalled \$606,464.00. In order to permit the Commission to complete its determinations with respect to these claims, the time limitation under section 316 was waived and the program was completed on May 1, 1960. No amendment, however, was made to section 306 or any other section of the Act providing for the filing of new claims.

The bill, H.R. 9063, would reopen and extend the Italian claims program to cover claims under section 304 of the Act, not previously compensable because of late filing, and claims of persons who had become nationals of the United States on or before August 9, 1955 who had not filed under the original statute.

The proposal would also include claims arising in territory ceded pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Italy, including the Dodecanese Islands which were heretofore excluded under the provisions of the Act. Excluded from consideration are claims of persons who have received compensation previously pursuant to section (a) of section 304, section 202 of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, or under the Treaty of Peace with Italy. Any balance remaining in the Italian Claims Fund after payment of claims as proposed under these amendments is to be transferred into the War Claims Fund established under section 13 of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended. The present balance in the Italian Claims Fund is approximately \$1,088,000.

YUGOSLAV CLAIMS PROGRAM

Unlike the Rumanian Claims Agreement of March 30, 1960 and the Bulgarian Agreement of July 2, 1963, which permit the residual balance to be distributed proportionately among all awardees after the disposition of the new claims as provided under the Agreements, the Yugoslav Agreement of November 5, 1964 provides money only for the payment of new claims of American nationals arising between July 19, 1948 and November 5, 1964. Awardees under the first Yugoslav Agreement cannot receive additional prorated payments after the disposition of awards to the new claimants. Moreover, the Government of Yugoslavia is required under the 1964 Agreement to pay the United States Government the sum of \$3.5 million to be payable in 5 equal installments of \$700,000 each, due on January 1st of each year starting in 1966.

Since it was not certain whether the first installment would be paid on January 1, 1966, the Commission was reluctant to commence the program until such time as the initial payment had been made. This payment was, in fact, made by the Yugoslavian Government on the date due. The second installment payment, due January 1, 1967, has also been made. Appropriations for the administrative expenses of this program were included in the Commission's budget request for fiscal year 1967 which was approved on November 8, 1966 under Public Law 89-797.

Pursuant to authority granted under Title I of the International Claims Settlement Act, the Commission caused to be published in the Federal Register under date of January 14, 1967, a notice pertaining to the filing period for claims under the Yugoslav Agreement of 1964. This period began on January 15, 1967, and ends on July 15, 1967. Although no announcement has been made, the Commission expects to complete the program by July 15, 1969.

CONCLUSION

The cost of administering the proposals will be borne by the claims fund concerned and not the United States Government.

The bill contains items essential to the orderly administration of the proposed Bulgarian, Rumanian, Italian and Yugoslav claims programs. Moreover, the