

The International Claims Commission was established within the Department of State by the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949. Its immediate function was to adjudicate claims covered by a settlement of \$17 million which was deposited with the Government of the United States by the Yugoslav Government primarily to compensate our nationals for losses sustained through nationalization of properties. The act also authorized the Commission to settle such claims as might be included later in any similar agreement between the United States and a foreign government. Subsequently, the Commission was assigned the administration of a \$400,000 settlement negotiated with the Government of Panama.

From its establishment in 1950 to April 1, 1954, the International Claims Commission has settled 531 claims out of a total of 1,622 filed. Of this total, 1,555 claims were against Yugoslavia and 67 were against Panama. Under the act, settlement of the remaining Yugoslav claims must be completed by December 31, 1954.

The accompanying reorganization plan has substantial potential advantages. The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission will be able to administer any additional claims programs financed by funds derived from foreign governments without the delay which has often characterized the initiation of past programs. Moreover, the use of an existing agency will be more economical than the establishment of a new commission to administer a given type of foreign claims program. Consolidation of the affairs of the two present Commissions will also permit the retention and use of the best experience gained during the last several years in the field of claims settlement. The declining workload of current programs can be meshed with the rising workload of new programs with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

A proposed new claims program now pending before the Senate would provide benefits similar to those paid to World War II victims under the War Claims Act for losses and internments resulting from hostilities in Korea. The executive branch of the Government has recommended approval of this program by the Congress. I now suggest that this program be assigned by law to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

There should also be assigned to this new Commission the settlement of such of the claims programs as may be authorized from among those recommended by the War Claims Commission in its report made pursuant to section 8 of the War Claims Act. That report, posing many complex policy, legal, and administrative problems, is now being reviewed by executive agencies; and recommendations will soon be sent to the Congress.

By peace treaties and an international agreement, the United States has acquired the right to utilize certain external assets and settlement funds of several countries. A total of about \$39 million is available to indemnify claims of United States nationals against the Governments of Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Italy, arising out of war damage or confiscations in those countries. In addition, claims growing out of United States losses from default on obligations and nationalization of properties may be settled by awards from \$9 million realized from an agreement made in 1933 with the Soviet Union, known as the Litvinov assignment. Action by the Congress is necessary before these various funds may be assigned for settlement, and recommendations of the executive branch in this connection will be transmitted at an early date.

In addition to the reorganizations I have described, the reorganization plan transfers to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission the functions of the Commissioner provided for in the joint resolution of August 4, 1939. These functions involve the receipt and administration of claims covered by the Litvinov assignment. The office of Commissioner, for which funds have never been appropriated and which has never been filled, is abolished.

The reorganization plan does not transfer the war claims fund or the Yugoslav claims fund from the De-

partment of the Treasury, or divest the Secretary of the Treasury of any functions under the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, or under the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended. It does not limit the responsibility of the Secretary of State with respect to the conduct of foreign affairs. The reorganizations contained in the reorganization plan will not prejudice any interest or potential interest of any claimant.

After investigation, I have found and hereby declare that each reorganization included in the accompanying reorganization plan is necessary to accomplish one or more of the purposes set forth in section 2(a) of the Reorganization Act of 1949, as amended. I have also found and hereby declare that it is necessary to include in the accompanying reorganization plan, by reason of reorganizations made thereby, provisions for the appointment and compensation of officers specified in section 1 of the plan. The rate of compensation fixed for each of these officers is that which I have found to prevail in respect of comparable officers in the executive branch of the Government.

The statutory citation for certain functions of the Secretary of State with respect to the International Claims Commission which are abolished by the reorganization plan, is the third and fourth sentences of section 3(c) of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (64 Stat. 13), as amended.

It is at this time impracticable to specify the reductions of expenditures which it is probable will be brought about by the taking effect of the reorganizations contained in the plan.

Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1954 provides a single agency for the orderly completion of present claims programs. In addition, it provides an effective organization for the settlement of future authorized claims programs by utilizing the experience gained by present claims agencies. It provides unified administrative direction of the functions concerned, and it simplifies the organizational structure of the executive branch. I urge that the Congress allow the reorganization plan to become effective.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 29, 1954.

§ 1622a. Transfer of Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States to Department of Justice

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, established under Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954, is hereby transferred to the Department of Justice as a separate agency within that Department.

(Pub. L. 96-209, title I, §101, Mar. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 96.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954, referred to in text, is Reorg. Plan. No. 1 of 1954, July 1, 1954, 19 F.R. 3985, 68 Stat. 1279, which is set out as a note under section 1622 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 which comprises this chapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 96-209, title VI, Mar. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 99, provided that: "This Act [enacting sections 1622a to 1622g of this title, amending sections 5316 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and section 4101 of Title 50, War and National Defense, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section, section 363 of former Title 31, Money and Finance, and section 7546 of

Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare] shall take effect on the date of enactment [Mar. 14, 1980].”

AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RELATING TO TRANSFER OF FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES AND TERMINATION OF AFFAIRS OF ANNUAL ASSAY COMMISSION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL COMMISSION, AND LOW-EMISSION VEHICLE CERTIFICATION BOARD

Pub. L. 96-209, title V, Mar. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 98, provided that: “The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is authorized and directed to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the transfer of functions, powers, and duties pursuant to this Act [enacting sections 1622a to 1622g of this title, amending sections 5316 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and 4101 of Title 50, War and National Defense, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 363 of former Title 31, Money and Finance, and 7546 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare], and to make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred by this Act, as the Director may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act. The Director is further authorized and directed to provide for terminating the affairs of each agency, board, or commission [Annual Assay Commission under section 363 of former Title 31, the Low-Emission Vehicle Certification Board under section 7546 of Title 42, and the United States Marine Corps Memorial Commission] abolished by this Act.”

§ 1622b. Transfer of functions, powers, and duties of Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States

All functions, powers, and duties of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission established by Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954 are hereby transferred with the Commission, together with personnel, assets, liabilities, unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, available, or to be made available in connection with the statutory functions of the Commission. The Commission shall continue to perform its functions as provided by the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended [50 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.], the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended [22 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.], and Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954.

(Pub. L. 96-209, title I, §102, Mar. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 96.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954, referred to in text, is Reorg. Plan. No. 1 of 1954, July 1, 1954, 19 F.R. 3985, 68 Stat. 1279, which is set out as a note under section 1622 of this title.

The War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, referred to in text, is act July 3, 1948, ch. 826, 62 Stat. 1240, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 51 (§4101 et seq.) of Title 50, War and National Defense. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, referred to in text, is act Mar. 10, 1950, ch. 54, 64 Stat. 12, as amended, which is classified generally to this chapter (§1621 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1621 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 which comprises this chapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Mar. 14, 1980, see title VI of Pub. L. 96-209, set out as a note under section 1622a of this title.

§ 1622c. Membership of Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States

(a) Composition of Commission; appointment and compensation of Chairman

The Commission shall be composed of a Chairman and two members. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve on a full-time basis for a term of three years, and compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5.

(b) Appointment and compensation of members other than Chairman

The other members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serve on a part-time basis, and be compensated on a per diem basis at a rate of compensation equivalent to the daily rate for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5 for each day that such member is employed in the actual performance of official business of the Commission as may be directed by the Chairman. Each member shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5 for persons in Government service employed intermittently.

(c) Terms of office

The terms of Office of the Chairman and members of the Commission shall be for three years, except the Chairman and members first appointed after the enactment of this subsection shall be appointed to terms ending respectively September 30, 1982, September 30, 1981, and September 30, 1980. The incumbent of any such office may continue to serve until a successor takes office.

(d) Continuation in office of existing members

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, members of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission who are serving on March 14, 1980, shall continue to serve in their same capacities until the expiration of the terms to which they were appointed.

(Pub. L. 96-209, title I, §103, Mar. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 96.)

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 which comprises this chapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Mar. 14, 1980, see title VI of Pub. L. 96-209, set out as a note under section 1622a of this title.