

OCTOBER 14, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 71--Medical care for certain members of allied wartime forces. This bill extends VA medical care entitlement to persons who served in the Polish and Czechoslovakian Armed Forces during World Wars I or II on the same basis as though they had served in the U. S. forces, if they:

- subsequently served honorably in or with the Armed Forces of France or Great Britain,
- participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United States, and
- have been citizens of the U. S. for at least 10 years, and are not entitled to payment for equivalent care and services under a foreign government's program for its World War I or II veterans.

The bill specifically provides that, in order to assist VA in making a determination of proper service eligibility, applicants must obtain from the French Ministry of Defense or the British War Office an authenticated certification of service in the Czechoslovakian or Polish Armed Forces and subsequent service in or with the Armed Forces of France or Great Britain.

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