

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

RICHARD STEFANY

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -1381

Decision No. CU
4480

PROPOSED DECISION

Claimant, RICHARD STEFANY, who owned stock interests in the Trans-Cuba Oil Company, and a participation interest in the Cuban-Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust, asserts a claim in the amount of \$467.50 under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, against the Government of Cuba because of its nationalization of said Company and Trust.

In our decisions entitled the Claim of D. R. Wimberly (Claim No. CU-3417) and the Claim of Felix Heyman (Claim No. CU-0412) which we incorporate herein by reference, we held that the properties owned or controlled by the Company and the Trust were nationalized or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba on November 23, 1959, and that these types of claims are compensable to American nationals under the facts and conditions set forth therein. We need not again detail here the reasons or the method used in determining the value per Trans-Cuba share as \$0.1198, or per Cuban-Venezuelan unit as \$.11971.

On the basis of evidence in the record in the instant case, the Commission finds that this claimant comes within the terms of the Wimberly and Heyman decisions and that he was an American national at the requisite times.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

Section 507 of the Act provides, as to assignment of claims, that

(b) The amount determined to be due on any claim of an assignee who acquires the same by purchase shall not exceed (or, in the case of any such acquisition subsequent to the date of the determination, shall not be deemed to have exceeded) the amount of the actual consideration paid by such assignee, or in case of successive assignments of a claim by any assignee.

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that on December 14, 1959 claimant acquired 1,000 shares of Trans-Cuba Oil by purchase for a consideration of \$197.50 and 1,000 Cuban-Venezuelan units for a consideration of \$270.00.

Under the provisions of Section 504(a) of the Act, a claimant is required to establish that the claim for any loss has been continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date of filing with the Commission. The loss occurred in each case on November 23, 1959. In similar cases claimants have been unable to obtain information or evidence to establish the nationality of the owner of the securities on the date of loss, and to establish continuous United States ownership of the securities until the date on which claimant acquired them.

Evidence of record before the Commission discloses that securities of the type subject of this claim were almost entirely owned and traded

by persons or firms having addresses in the United States. The Commission has considered whether an inference may be justified that the claimed securities were continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date on which purchased by the claimant, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, has concluded that the securities were continuously so owned. (See Claim of the Executors of the Estate of Julius S. Wikler, Deceased, Claim No. CU-2571.)

The Commission finds that claimant, as an assignee by purchase, acquired the claim for the loss sustained by the assignor of the claimed securities, but under the limitations provided in Section 507 of the Act (supra), is limited to \$239.51, rather than the actual consideration paid for these shares.

The Commission has decided that in certification of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement. (See Claim of Hilsa Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644.)

The Commission concludes, however, that the amount of loss sustained by claimant herein shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from December 14, 1959, the date on which claimant acquired the claims, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that RICHARD STEFANY suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars and Fifty-one Cents (\$239.51) with interest at 6% per annum from December 14, 1959 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C., and entered as the Proposed Decision of the Commission

5 FEB 1970

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

Sidney Freidberg

Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

NOTICE TO TREASURY: The above-referenced securities may not have been submitted to the Commission or if submitted, may have been returned; accordingly, no payment should be made until claimant establishes retention of the securities for the loss here certified.

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims. Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 2531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 [1967].)