

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

LILLIAN LIFTNER

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-1413

Decision No. CU-1505

AMENDED PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, presented by LILLIAN LIFTNER and based upon the asserted ownership and loss of interests in bonds issued by the Cuba Railroad Company was denied for failure of proof. The claimant subsequently submitted additional evidence.

The Commission now finds that claimant LILLIAN LIFTNER is, and since prior to October 13, 1960, has been the owner of one bond in the original face amount of \$1,000.00, issued by the Cuba Railroad Company, and known as "First Lien and Refunding Bonds, Series B, 4%, due June 30, 1970" issued under Supplemental Indentures of June 2, 1926 and July 1, 1952, with the First National City Bank of New York as Successor Trustee. The bond in question is numbered TRM 243.

The Cuba Railroad Company, by Indenture dated March 10, 1922, and Supplemental Indentures dated June 2, 1926 and July 1, 1952, issued Dollar bonds secured by mortgage upon the real property of the Company. By the Supplemental Indenture of July 1, 1952, the bonds were re-issued as 4% bonds, due June 30, 1970. As of 1952, the outstanding principal balance on each \$1,000.00 bond was \$635.00, with interest at 4% per annum to be paid on the principal balance.

The record discloses that The Cuba Railroad Company was owned by Consolidated Railroads of Cuba (Ferrocarriles Consolidados de Cuba). They were listed as nationalized by Cuban Law 890, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on October 13, 1960. Consolidated Railroads was organized under the laws of Cuba and does not qualify as a corporate "National of the United States" defined under Section 502(1)(B) of the Act as a corporation or other legal entity organized under the laws of the United States, or any State, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, whose ownership is vested to the extent of 50 per centum or more in natural persons who are citizens of the United States. Moreover, although Cuba Railroads was organized in New Jersey, it is wholly owned by Consolidated Railroads and does not qualify as a national of the United States under Section 502(1)(B) (supra). (See Claim of Kramer, Marx, Greenlee and Backus, Claim No. CU-0105, 25 FCSC Semiann. Rep. 62 [July-Dec. 1966],)

Therefore, claimant is entitled to file this claim based upon the bond in question which represents a debt of a nationalized enterprise within the purview of Section 502(3) of the Act. (See Claim of Albert I. Harris, Claim No. CU-2398.)

The record discloses that the last payment of interest on the bond was made on December 1, 1958.

The Commission finds that the total amount of the unpaid indebtedness on the bond of the claimant was \$682.56, including the principal amounts of \$635.00 on the bond, and the interest due from December 1, 1959 through October 13, 1960, in the amount of \$47.56.

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 Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644.)

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the amount of loss sustained by the claimant shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from October 13, 1960, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that LILLIAN LIFTNER 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 Six Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars and Fifty-Six Cents (\$682.56) with interest at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement.

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

MAY 15 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

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 Amended 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. 531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)

NOTICE TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT: The above listed bond may have been returned to claimant and no payment should be made until it is resubmitted.

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Claim No. CU -1413

Decision No. CU **1505**

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$1,000.00, was presented by LILLIAN LIFTNER and is based upon the asserted loss of her interest in a bond issued by the Cuba Railroad Company. Claimant has been a national of the United States since her birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

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.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (Supp. 1967).)

Claimant asserts the ownership of an interest in a bond issued by the Cuba Railroad Company. By Commission letter of June 5, 1967, claimant was advised as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. However, no evidence in response to this correspondence was received.

On September 8, 1967, claimant was invited to submit any evidence available to her within 45 days from that date, and she was informed that, absent such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. In response to this letter claimant submitted a photocopy of Cuba Railroad Company bond No. TRM 243 in the face amount of \$1,000.00. By letter of October 4, 1967 claimant was advised of the necessity of submitting the original bond and informed that if it were not submitted by November 1, 1967, it might be necessary for the Commission to make a determination on the basis of the present record. The bond has not been submitted.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that she has failed to establish ownership of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

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

APR 10 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

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CU-1413