

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

HUNTER, WALTON AND CO.

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-2096

Decision No. CU
1921

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, for \$310.83 was presented by HUNTER, WALTON AND CO., based upon a bank account in Cuba.

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. 933 (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.

The term "National of the United States" is 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 of 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.

Claimant is a limited partnership organized in New York and a partner of claimant has certified that at all times between 1950 and the presentation of this claim on April 26, 1967, more than 50% of the claimant has been owned by United States nationals. The Commission holds that claimant is a national of the United States within the meaning of Section 502(1)(B) of the Act.

All of the partners of the claimant are nationals of the United States.

Claimant contends that it has lost a bank account in Cuba having a balance of 310.83 pesos. The record establishes that claimant had a balance of 310.83 Cuban pesos on deposit with the Chase Manhattan Bank, Havana, Cuba, on October 31, 1960.

A number of laws and resolutions were issued in Cuba affecting banks, bank accounts and currency. Not all of these things affect the account of the claimant in Claim No. CU-2096.

Law 568, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on September 29, 1959 forbade the transfer of funds abroad, and effectively operated to block the funds of anyone who left the country. Law 930, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on February 23, 1961, gave the National Bank the power to effect centralization of liquid assets "temporarily" taken from the people. In effect this froze or continued the blocking of bank accounts.

By Law 963, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on August 4, 1961, a currency exchange was effected. Currency was turned in at centers provided and a new currency was provided. There was no change in value. However, each person was to receive 200 pesos in new currency, and all over that amount was placed in a special account in his name. This did not affect bank accounts already in existence. By Law 964, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on August 9, 1961, it was provided that the owners of the deposits created under Law 963 could draw up to 1,000 pesos, the balance up to 10,000 remained in his special account, and all over 10,000 passed to the State Treasury. There were some minor exceptions. However, Laws 963 and 964 do not affect Claim No. CU-2096 in which the account did not arise from currency exchange.

Law 989, published in the Official Gazette on December 6, 1961, in its terms nationalized by confiscation all goods and chattels, rights, shares, stocks, bonds and other securities of persons who left the country of Cuba. This included such bank accounts as had not been established and confiscated by Laws 963 and 964, supra. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Commission finds that claimant's above-described bank account, totalling 310.83 pesos, was taken by the Government of Cuba on December 6, 1961. (See Claim of Floyd W. Auld, Claim No. CU-0020, 25 FCSC Semiann. Rep. 55 [July-Dec. 1966]).

Further, the Commission finds that on December 6, 1961, claimant's 310.83 pesos had a value of \$310.83 and that it suffered a loss in that amount within the meaning of Title V of the Act, as the result of the taking of his bank account by the Government of Cuba as of December 6, 1961.

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 the loss sustained by claimant shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum on \$310.83 from December 6, 1961 to the date on which the provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that HUNTER, WALTON AND CO., 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 Three Hundred Ten Dollars and Eighty-Three Cents (\$310.83) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from the December 6, 1961 date of taking to the date of settlement.

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

MAY 29 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 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).)