

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

JOHN F. MCLAURIN, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS
EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. MCLAURIN,
and
ELIZABETH G. MCLAURIN

Claim No. CU - 2679

Decision No. CU **1858**

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by JOHN F. MCLAURIN, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. MCLAURIN and ELIZABETH G. MCLAURIN and is based upon an unspecified amount sustained in connection with the ownership of a stock interest in Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A. Claimants have been nationals of the United States since their 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.

The record contains stock certificates issued in 1958 to the following for certain shares of capital stock in Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A. in exchange for other stock:

<u>CERTIFICATE NUMBER</u>	<u>ISSUED TO</u>	<u>NO. OF SHARES</u>
CO 5157	John M. McLaurin and	7
CO 6224	Florence P. McLaurin as "Joint Tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common	1
CO 5155	Elizabeth G. McLaurin	14
CO 5156	John F. McLaurin	10
CO 6225	John F. McLaurin	1

The record contains a confirmation from claimants' broker disclosing the date of acquisition of the subject shares and the cost thereof. On the basis of all the evidence of record, including the foregoing certificate and confirmation, the Commission finds that the claimants, and John M. McLaurin and Florence P. McLaurin, who were nationals of the United States by birth, owned the aforementioned shares of the capital stock issued by Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A. As Florence P. McLaurin died in 1957, John M. McLaurin was the sole owner of the eight shares. John M. McLaurin died testate on May 17, 1962, and John F. McLaurin was appointed Executor of his Estate, and is also the beneficial owner of the eight shares.

Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A., was incorporated in Cuba and thus would not qualify as a national of the United States under Section 502(1)(B) of the Act which defines the term "National of the United States" as including a corporation or other legal entity which is

organized under the laws of the United States, or of any State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if natural persons who are citizens of the United States own, directly or indirectly, 50 per centum or more of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest of such corporation or entity. Therefore, claimants are entitled to file this claim based upon the bonds in question which represent a debt of a nationalized enterprise within the purview of Section 502(3) of the Act. (See Claim of Huntley E. Cox, Claim No. CU-2944.)

On October 13, 1960, the Government of Cuba published Law 890, in its Official Gazette, which listed as nationalized Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A. was nationalized by the Government of Cuba on October 13, 1960.

The Commission concludes that as a result of the nationalization by the Government of Cuba of the Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A., decedent, John M. McLaurin and claimants suffered a loss within the meaning of Title V of the Act.

The Act provides in Section 503(a) that in making determinations with respect to the validity and amount of claims and value of properties, rights, or interests taken, the Commission shall take into account the basis of valuation most appropriate to the property and equitable to the claimant, including but not limited to fair market value, book value, going concern value, or cost of replacement.

The question, in all cases, will be to determine the basis of valuation which, under the particular circumstances, is "most appropriate to the property and equitable to the claimant." The Commission has concluded that this phraseology does not differ from the international legal standard that would normally prevail in the evaluation of nationalized property and that it is designed to strengthen that standard by giving specific bases of valuation that the Commission shall consider; i.e., fair market value, book value, going concern value, or cost of replacement.

In determining the value of the interests owned by claimants in Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A., the Commission has considered claimants' assertions, a 1959 consolidated balance sheet for the company, as published in Moody's Industrial Manual for 1961 (p.2029), as well as other data pertaining to the sales price of the stock.

In the absence of other evidence, the Commission concludes that the book value is the most appropriate basis of valuation.

The Commission therefore finds that a net book value of \$8,612,828 was available for distribution, at the time of loss, among the 283,020 shares of capital stock issued by Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A., and concludes that the dollar loss sustained in connection with the ownership of a capital stock interest in Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A., was \$30.4318 per share of the capital stock issued and held at the time of loss.

Accordingly, in the instant claim, the Commission finds that claimants as holders of the aforementioned shares of capital stock, suffered a loss in the following amounts within the meaning of Title V of the Act, as a result of the nationalization of Central Violeta Sugar Company, S.A. by the Government of Cuba on October 13, 1960:

John F. McLaurin, Executor of the Estate of John M. McLaurin, deceased	\$243.45
John F. McLaurin, Individually	334.75
Elizabeth G. McLaurin	426.05

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.)

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

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that ELIZABETH G. MCLAURIN sustained 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 Four Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Five Cents (\$426.05) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement;

the Commission certifies that JOHN F. MCLAURIN AS EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. MCLAURIN, DECEASED sustained 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 Forty-Three Dollars and Forty-Five Cents (\$243.45) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement; and

the Commission certifies that JOHN F. MCLAURIN sustained 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 Thirty-Four and Seventy-Five Cents (\$334.75) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement.

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

MAY 15 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

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).)

NOTICE TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT: The above-listed securities may have been returned to claimant and no payment should be made until they are re-submitted.

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.