

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

HARRY K. CURTIS

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimant:

Claim No. CU-2911

Decision No. CU 3589

Herbert E. Varnum, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

Claimant, HARRY K. CURTIS, who owned securities issued by the Consolidated Railroads of Cuba and the Cuba Railroad, asserts a claim for the amount of \$1,600.00 under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, against the Government of Cuba because of its nationalization of said Railroads.

In our decisions entitled the Claim of Edward R. Smith (Claim No. CU-5001) and Claim of Albert I. Harris (Claim No. CU-2398), which claims are incorporated herein by reference, we held that the properties of these Railroads were nationalized or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba on October 13, 1960, and that these types of claims are compensable to an American national under the facts and conditions set forth therein. We need not again detail here the reasons or the method used in determining the value for each \$1,000 Consolidated Railroads of Cuba 3% Income Debenture as being \$1,189.08, including interest to October 13, 1960, and the value for a \$5,000.00 Cuba Railroad First Lien and Refunding Bond, Series A, as being \$3,412.80, including interest to October 13, 1960.

On the basis of evidence in the record in the instant case, the Commission finds that this claim comes within the terms of the Smith and Harris decisions; that he was an American national at the requisite times; that he

has been the owner of \$35,000 face value 3% Income Debentures of the Consolidated Railroads and a \$5,000 original face value Cuba Railroad First Lien and Refunding Bond, Series A, since prior to October 13, 1960; and that he suffered a loss thereon in the amount of \$45,030.60 within the meaning of Title V of the Act.

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 also finds that claimant acquired another \$5,000 face value 3% Income Debenture of the Consolidated Railroads of Cuba by purchase on November 11, 1960 for \$162.50.

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 on October 13, 1960. 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 types 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 \$162.50, the actual consideration paid for these debentures.

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 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 October 13, 1960 on \$45,030.60 but from November 11, 1960 on \$162.50, the date on which claimant acquired this portion of the claim, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

It will be noted that the total amount of loss found herein is in excess of the amount asserted by claimant. However, in determining the amount of loss sustained, the Commission is not bound by any lesser or greater amounts which may be asserted by claimant as the extent thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that HARRY K. CURTIS 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 Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars and Ten Cents (\$45,193.10) with interest at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 on \$45,030.60, and from November 11, 1960 on \$162.50, to the date of settlement.

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

APR 2 1969

*Leonard v. B. Sutton*  
Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

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