

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

STEPHEN ACOSTA ALFONSO

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -8800

Decision No. CU 6389

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by STEPHEN ACOSTA ALFONSO for \$2,000 based upon the asserted ownership and loss of certain bonds in the Republic of Cuba. Claimant states that he has been a national of the United States since November 18, 1970.

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 Commission's Regulations provide that claims under Title V of the Act (Cuban claims) shall be filed with the Commission on or before May 1, 1967, (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. Sec. 531.1(d) (1969); and further that any initial written indication of an intention to file a claim received within 30 days prior to the expiration of the filing period thereof shall be considered as a timely filing of a claim if formalized within 30 days after the expiration of the filing period. (Reg., Sec. 531.1(g).)

The Commission has held, however, that it will accept for consideration on their merits claims filed after the deadline so long as the consideration thereof does not impede the determination of those claims which were timely filed. (See Claim of John Korenda, Claim No. CU-8255.)

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.

In order for the Commission to favorably consider claims under Section 503(a) of Title V of the Act, it must be established (1) that the subject property was owned in whole or in part by a national of the United States on the date of nationalization or other taking; and (2) that the claim arising as a result of such nationalization or other taking has been continuously owned thereafter in whole or in part by a national or nationals of the United States to the date of filing with the Commission.

The claim is based on ten bonds of a face value of 200 pesos each, issued by El Banco de Desarrollo Economico y Social, and known as Bono de Independencia Economica. They were subscribed in June 1958, and issued in the names of claimant and another described as his foster father. Claimant states they were signed over to him by his foster father.

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Information available to the Commission discloses that pursuant to Law 847 of July 12, 1960, the Government of Cuba assumed all obligations of the dissolved Bank of Economic and Social Development (BANDES). (See the Claim of Ancorp National Services, Inc., Claim No. CU-0442.) It further appears that these bonds were defaulted by the Republic of Cuba not later than May 1, 1961, when all its other such bonds were defaulted. This default constituted a repudiation of the debt by the Government of Cuba, giving rise to a claim against Cuba as of that date.


According to claimant he was not a national of the United States on that date.

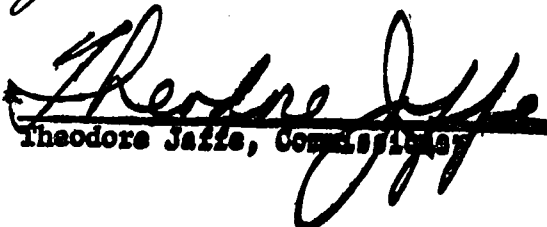
The Commission therefore concludes that this claim is not valid under Title V of the Act in that it was not owned by a national of the United States on the date when it arose, and therefore, it is denied. (See Claim of Sigridur Einarsdottir, Claim No. CU-0728, 25 FCSC Semiann. Rep. 45 [July-Dec. 1966]).

The Commission deems it unnecessary to make specific findings with respect to other elements of this claim.

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

AUG 4 1971

  
Lyle S. Garlock, Chairman

  
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 (1970).)

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