

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

AMERICAN CORDAGE COMPANY

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU 1168

Decision No. CU 000118

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$860.94, was presented by AMERICAN CORDAGE COMPANY based upon the asserted loss of payment for merchandise shipped to 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. 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 502(1) of the Act defines the term "national of the United States" as "(B) 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."

A copy of the Articles of Partnership were submitted, which reflects that the partnership, known as AMERICAN CORDAGE COMPANY, organized under the laws of Michigan, was owned by Russell VanDussen and Rose VanDussen. The record reflects that Russell VanDussen and Rose VanDussen have been nationals of the United States since birth on December 14, 1914 and September 28, 1915, respectively. The Commission holds that claimant is a national of the United States within the meaning of Section 502(1) (B) of the Act.

The record contains a copy of claimant's invoice No. 15271 dated December 11, 1959, reflecting a sale to Quinones Gonzalez Y. Cia, Neptuno #862, Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$501.65, as to which freight, shipping and other attendant fees increased the total to \$860.94. The record also contains a letter dated June 20, 1960, from Cromex Transportation Company, wherein it furnished claimant with original and copies of the Bill of Lading, consular invoice and commercial invoice which were to be forwarded to the Cuban bank as well as the sight draft.

Additionally, the record includes a letter dated August 31, 1962, from the Banco Nacional de Cuba, Havana, Cuba, to claimant, in which it was stated that the collection of \$860.94 was previously paid by the consignee (Quinones Gonzalez Y. Cia) to said bank. Further, the bank advised claimant

that payments abroad of items in foreign currencies were under consideration. The record also contains a letter dated May 22, 1961, from the consignee, wherein he stated that payment was made to his local bank on September 16, 1960. Claimant states that it has not received the funds.

The Government of Cuba, on September 29, 1959, published its Law 568, concerning foreign exchange. Thereafter the Cuban Government effectively precluded transfers of funds, in this and similar cases, by numerous, unreasonable and costly demands upon the consignees, who were thus deterred from complying with the demands of the Cuban Government. The Commission holds that Cuban Law 568 and the Cuban Government's implementation thereof, with respect to the rights of the claimant herein, was not in reality a legitimate exercise of sovereign authority to regulate foreign exchange, but constituted an intervention by the Government of Cuba into the contractual rights of the claimant, which resulted in the taking of American-owned property within the meaning of Section 503(a) of the Act. (See the Claim of The Schwarzenbach Huber Company, FCSC Claim No. CU-0019.)

Accordingly, in the instant claim the Commission finds that claimant's property was lost as a result of intervention by the Government of Cuba and that, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the loss occurred on September 17, 1960, one day after payment was made by the consignee.

The Commission has decided that in payment of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be allowed at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement (See the Claim of American Cast Iron Pipe Company, FCSC Claim No. CU-0249).

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 from the date on which the loss occurred.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that AMERICAN CORDAGE COMPANY 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 Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents (\$860.94) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement.

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

JUL 26 1967

Edward P. Re

Edward P. Re, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

LaVern R. Dilweg

LaVern R. Dilweg, Commissioner

CERTIFICATION
This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on Aug-25-1967

Walter M. ...
Clerk of the Commission

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).)