

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

WHITEMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-0023

Decision No. CU 56

20056

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, for \$2,016.00 was presented by the WHITEMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY based upon the asserted loss of payment for merchandise shipped to Cuba.

Under Section 503 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended (64 Stat. 12; 69 Stat. 562; 72 Stat. 527; 78 Stat. 1110; 79 Stat. 988) the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. That section 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

(a) . . . 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 ."

The record contains a portion of the Articles of Incorporation which reflects that claimant was organized under the laws of the State of California in September 1946. The record reflects further that Marvin Edwin Whiteman, a national of the United States since his birth on March 7, 1909, in Dallas, Texas, has been the sole owner of the subject corporation from the date of its incorporation until the filing of the claim with the Commission. 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 purchase order dated July 20, 1959; a copy of invoice No. 424 of WHITEMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY dated August 21, 1959, reflecting the sale to Zaldo Y. Martinez, S.A. of Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$2,016.00; a copy of the Bill of Lading dated August 20, 1959; and a copy of claimant's receipt dated August 21, 1959, from the Security-First National Bank in San Fernando, California, acknowledging the draft and invoice deposited by the WHITEMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY. The record also contains a letter dated December 21, 1959, from the consignee (Zaldo Y. Martinez, S.A.), wherein it is stated that they paid the draft which was due on November 21, 1959, to Banco Pedroso, Havana, Cuba, and in support thereof, a copy of the check and draft marked paid were enclosed.

A letter dated January 14, 1960, written by the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles to the Trust Company of Cuba was submitted, wherein the bank sought collection of the draft which had been paid by the drawee (Zaldo Y. Martinez, S.A.). In addition, the file contains a letter dated June 13, 1960,

written by claimant to the consignee, wherein it was stated that subject corporation never received \$2,016.00 from the bank.

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 In the Matter of 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 November 22, 1959 as to \$2,016.00.

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, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof, as follows:

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that WHITEMAN MANUFACTURING 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 Two Thousand Sixteen Dollars (\$2,016.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from the respective dates of loss to the date of settlement.

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

JUN 14 1967

Edward D. Re

Edward D. Re, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

LaVern R. Dilweg

LaVern R. Dilweg, 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 upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)

CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the decision of the Commission which was entered as the final decision on June 14 1967

Francis Masterson
Clerk of the Commission