

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

JOSEPH EDWARD O'BRIEN

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -0689

Decision No. CU-1283

AMENDED PROPOSED DECISION

By Proposed Decision issued February 14, 1968, the Commission denied this claim for failure of proof. Since then, satisfactory evidence has been submitted, and the Proposed Decision is hereby amended.

Claimant, JOSEPH EDWARD O'BRIEN, who owned a participation interest in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust, asserted a claim under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, against the Government of Cuba because of its nationalization of said Trust.

In our decision entitled the Claim of Felix Heyman (Claim No. CU-0412 which we incorporate herein by reference), we held that the properties owned or controlled by the Trust were nationalized or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba on November 23, 1959, and that this type of claim is 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 per unit of \$0.11971.

On the basis of evidence in the record in the instant case, the Commission finds that this claimant comes within the terms of the Heyman decision; that he was an American national at the requisite times; that he has been the owner of 1,000 units of participation in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust since prior to November 23, 1959; and that he suffered a loss in the amount of \$119.71 within the meaning of Title V of the Act. Further, the

Commission finds that the amount of loss sustained shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from November 23, 1959, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof. (See Heyman, supra.)

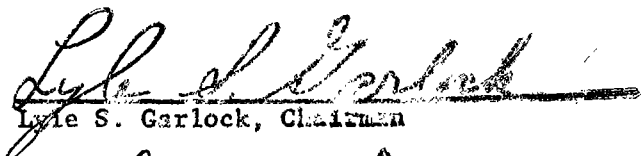
Accordingly the following Certification of Loss will be entered and in all other respects the Proposed Decision is affirmed.

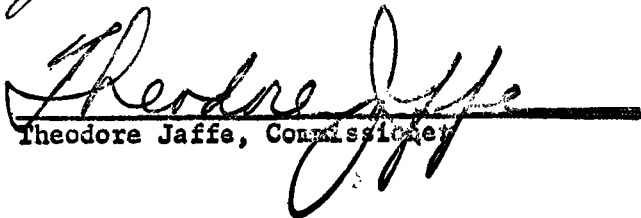
CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that JOSEPH EDWARD O'BRIEN 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 One Hundred Nineteen Dollars and Seventy-one Cents (\$119.71) with interest at 6% per annum from November 23, 1959 to the date of settlement.

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

SEP 16 1970


Lytle S. Garlock, Chairman


Theodore Jaffe, 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 or 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 Amended 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).)

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Claim No. CU-0689

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PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$373.00, was presented by JOSEPH EDWARD O'BRIEN, and is based upon the asserted ownership and loss of a stock interest in the Cuban-Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust. Claimant stated that he has been a national of the United States since his 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.

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.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (Supp. 1967).)

Claimant asserts ownership of certain stock interests in the Cuban-Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust. However, claimant has submitted no original documentary evidence in support of his claim. By Commission letter of July 29, 1966, claimant was advised as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Thereafter, by letter of October 25, 1966, the Commission made additional suggestions to claimant concerning the submission of supporting evidence in this matter. However, no evidence in response to this correspondence has been received.

On December 20, 1967, claimant was invited to submit any evidence available to him within 45 days from that date, and he was informed that absent such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. No evidence has since been submitted.

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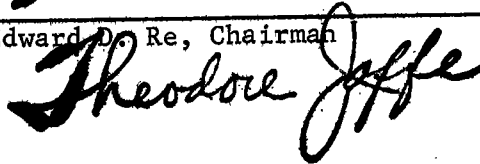
The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that he has failed to establish ownership of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

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

FEB 14 1968



Edward D. Re, 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, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)

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