

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MANSFIELD HARDWOOD SALES COMPANY,
A DIVISION OF ROGERS BROTHERS
LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

Claim No. CU-0954

Decision No. CU 196

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimant:

Norman Magee, Esq.

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 \$1,914.77 was presented by MANSFIELD HARDWOOD SALES COMPANY, A DIVISION OF ROGERS BROTHERS LUMBER COMPANY, INC. 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."

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 states that it sold lumber to a firm in Cuba accompanied by drafts in the amount of \$2,782.86 which were paid by the consignee in local currency. Claimant further states that the amount of \$868.09 was released in dollars, leaving an unreleased balance of \$1,914.77.

By Commission letter of January 24, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Thereafter, by letter of June 6, 1967, the Commission made additional suggestions to claimant, through counsel, concerning the submission of supporting evidence in this matter. By the last-mentioned letter of June 6, 1967, counsel 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.

CU-0954

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that it has failed to establish, by evidence of probative value, its ownership and loss of rights and interests in "property" within the meaning of Section 502(3) of the Act. Moreover, claimant has failed to establish, by probative evidence, its qualifications as a claimant within the meaning of Section 504 of the Act.

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

AUG 23 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, 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).)

This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission entered as the final
decision

25 SEP 1967

CU-0954

Thomas M. Masterson
Clerk of the Commission