

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

EDW. H. WOLK, INC.

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-1305

Decision No. CU **556**

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, for \$3,751.02 was presented by EDW. H. WOLK, 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."

An officer of the claimant corporation has certified that the claimant was organized in the State of Illinois and that at all times between 1956 and presentation of this claim on April 4, 1967, more than 50% of the outstanding capital stock of the claimant has been owned by United States nationals. The Commission holds that claimant is a national of the United States within the meaning of Section 502(1)(B) of the Act.

Claimant states that all of its stockholders were nationals of the United States.

The record contains copy of claimant's invoice No. 15356 of December 15, 1959 reflecting the sale to Vincente Vasquez of Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$4,400.00. Against this amount, Senor Vasquez signed eleven notes of \$400.00 each, which were to be paid at monthly intervals beginning on March 1, 1960. Claimant states that it received payment on the first five notes, as they fell due, in the total amount of \$2,000.00. Claimant states that it has not received payment of the remaining balance of \$2,400.00. Also, claimant states that it sold additional goods to Vincente Vasquez in the total amount of \$1,351.02, payment of which was to be made by two bank drafts of \$675.51 each. The record contains copies of two letters addressed to claimant from its bank, the American National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago,

informing claimant that draft No. 51237 for \$675.51 had been collected in local currency on November 2, 1960, and that draft No. 51238 for \$675.51 had been similarly collected on December 2, 1960. Each letter further recited that payment would be effected upon receipt of a dollar reimbursement authorization from the Cuban Government.

The record also contains copies of letters addressed to claimant from the Havana branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, indicating the payment of various \$400.00 notes by the consignee, in the total amount of \$2,400.00. There are four such letters dated August 1, August 31, December 2, and December 29, 1960, that are advices of payment. The remaining letter, dated November 17, 1960, informs claimant that the consignee made a \$400.00 payment on October 3, 1960 and another \$400.00 payment on November 2, 1960. Claimant states that it has never 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 August 2, 1960 as to	\$ 400.00
on September 1, 1960 as to	\$ 400.00
on October 4, 1960 as to	\$ 400.00
on November 3, 1960 as to	\$1,075.51
on December 4, 1960 as to	\$1,075.51
and on December 30, 1960 as to	\$ 400.00

in each case the day after the date of the bank advice or the day after the actual date of payment to the bank in Cuba.

The Commission has decided that in certification of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement. (See the Claim of Lisle Corporation, FCSC Claim No. CU-0644).

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 respective dates on which the losses occurred, to the date on which provision is made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that EDW. H. WOLK, INC. 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 Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Two Cents (\$3,751.02) 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

NOV 1 1967

Commissioner
This is a true and correct copy of the Proposed Decision of the Commission as entered on the date NOV 1 1967
Theodore Jaffe
Member of the Commission

Edward D. Re

Edward D. Re, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

LaVern R. Dilweg

LaVern R. Dilweg, Commissioner

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 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).)