

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

BAL-BAY TRAVEL CENTER,
INCORPORATED

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU - 1366

Decision No. CU
934

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 \$79.00, was presented by BAL-BAY TRAVEL CENTER, INCORPORATED and is based upon the asserted loss of a refund due to claimant from a Cuban hotel for cancellation of prepaid reservations. Claimant stated that it has been a national of the United States since its incorporation in the State of Florida in 1959.

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 that in 1960 it sent the Nacional Hotel in Havana a check for \$79.00 as full payment for reservations for 4 double rooms; and its clients cancelled their reservations and that claimant refunded their money, but that the Nacional Hotel never refunded the money to claimant. By Commission letter of June 26, 1967, claimant was advised as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Claimant returned the letter indicating that the size of the claim did not warrant the expenditure of effort. On September 8, 1967, claimant was invited to submit any evidence available to it within 45 days from that date, and it was informed, that, absent such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. The letter was returned with a notation indicating that the check that was sent to the Nacional Hotel is no longer available, as such items are kept for only three years; and with the further notation that one Enid Head is now the only owner. No other evidence has been submitted.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that it has failed and refused 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

JAN 10 1968

Edward D. Re

Edward D. Re, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission and is filed as the final
decision on this matter. FEB 12 1968

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).)