

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

D. MYERS AND SONS, INCORPORATED

Claim No. CU - 1459

Decision No. CU 951

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimant:

Blades and Rosenfeld
By: Charles M. Cahn, Jr., Esquire

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by D. MYERS AND SONS, INCORPORATED in the amount of \$4,912.32 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 Maryland and that all times between July 2, 1934 and presentation of this claim on April 13, 1967 more than 50% of the outstanding capital stock of the claimant has been owned by United States nationals. The Commission hold that claimant is a national of the United States within the meaning of Section 502(1)(B) of the Act.

The record discloses that all of claimant's outstanding capital stock was held by nationals of the United States.

The record in this claim includes copies of claimant's accounting ledger sheets for the period September 27, 1937 to November 9, 1960, disclosing that during that period, claimant made shipments of merchandise to several Cuban consignees, who made payments on account at various times. The accounting ledger sheets indicated the following amounts due the claimant from the consignees on the dates indicated:

<u>Consignee</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Almacenes La Estrella	August 29, 1958	\$ 568.50
	September 30, 1958	\$ 631.75
Alvarez and Anca	September 9, 1959	\$ 1,328.50
Garcia and Company	November 10, 1959	\$ 96.00
Edro L. Gonzalez	August 24, 1959	\$ 489.00
Rabionet and Menendez	August 24, 1959	\$ 131.80
Peleteria Ranero	August 5, 1958	\$ 334.70
	August 20, 1958	\$ 856.70
	September 17, 1958	\$ 353.45
	October 27, 1958	\$ 337.35
	October 14, 1958	\$ 227.00

Claimant states that it has not received the funds.

The Government of Cuba, on September 29, 1959, published its Law 568, concerning foreign exchange. Thereafter the Cuban Government effectively precluded not only transfers of funds to creditors abroad, but also payment to creditors within Cuba, 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 Schwarzenbach, Huber, Company, FCSC Claim No. CU - 0049).

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 September 29, 1959, the effective date of Law 568 with regard to the debts maturing prior to that date. However, with regard to the debts maturing after September 29, 1959, the Commission finds that the losses occurred on their respective maturity dates.

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

On \$3,309.45 from September 29, 1959

On \$621.20 from October 24, 1959

On \$442.83 from November 9, 1959

On \$442.84 from January 1, 1960

On \$96.00 from January 10, 1960

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that D. MYERS AND SONS, INCORPORATED 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 Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve Dollars and Thirty-Two Cents (\$4,912.32) 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

JAN 17 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 which was entered as the final decision on FEB 20 1968

John M. Anderson

Clerk of the Commission

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).)

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