

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

JENNIE ELIZABETH RITTER

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -1797

Decision No. CU 4745

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 \$11,800.00, was presented by JENNIE ELIZABETH RITTER and is based upon the asserted loss of real property in Cuba. Claimant has been a national of the United States since 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 that she owned certain real and personal property located on the Isle of Pines which was taken by the Cuban Government.

In support of her claim she submitted a translation of a contract of purchase by her husband of a farm on the Isle of Pines.

By Commission letter of August 27, 1968, claimant was advised to execute and submit a form of affidavit of heirship. She was also advised how she might establish the value of the improved real property in question, and was asked to respond within 30 days. On September 20, 1968 she was informed of the reduction in the Commission's staff and reminded of the elements of the claim to be established.


On October 24, 1969, claimant was invited to submit any evidence available to her within 45 days from that date, and was informed that, absent such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. No reply to these letters has been received.


Claimant's request for assistance in obtaining evidence was submitted through appropriate channels, but no response has been received, nor is there any certainty that any reply will be received.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that she has failed to establish by evidence of sufficient probative value, 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

15 APR 1970


Lyda S. Garlock, Chairman


Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner


Sidney Freidberg, 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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