

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MRS. ROBERT BELMONT FREEMAN

Claim No. CU-2411

Decision No. CU 600

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

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 MRS. ROBERT BELMONT FREEMAN in the amount of \$50,000.00 based upon the asserted ownership and loss of certain improved real property. Claimant has been a national of the United States since her birth in the United States.

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 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.

Section 502(1) of the Act defines the term "national of the United States" to mean "(A) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States." The term does not include aliens.

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.

Claimant contends that she lost an interest in improved real property in Cuba valued at \$50,000.00. The record contains, inter alia, information available to the Commission and claimant's own statements.

On the basis of the entire record, including information available to the Commission, the Commission finds that claimant, MRS. ROBERT BELMONT FREEMAN, was the owner of certain improved real property located at No. 258, Calle 29, Maria Antonia Villa, Vedado, Havana, Cuba.

On December 6, 1961 the Cuban Government published its Law 989 (Official Gazette, XXIII, No. 237, p. 23705) which confiscated all assets, personal property and real estate, rights, shares, stocks, bonds and securities of persons who had left the country. As the record shows, claimant resided in the United States at that time. The Commission finds, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the subject improved real property was taken by the Government of Cuba on December 6, 1961 pursuant to the provisions of Law 989.

Claimant states that the subject property had an assessed tax valuation of \$30,000.00 at the time of her acquisition in 1946. Claimant asserts that "offers to sell" the subject property for \$60,000.00 in 1958 and 1959 were rejected. By Commission letters of June 12, 1967 and July 19, 1967, suggestions were made to claimant as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish value. However, except for her own statements, claimant has submitted no evidence or information bearing upon value of the subject property.

Based on the entire record, including information available to the Commission, the Commission finds that the subject improved real property had a total value of \$30,000.00 at the time of loss, and concludes that claimant suffered a loss in that amount within the meaning of Title V of the Act.

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 December 6, 1961, the date on which the loss occurred, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that MRS. ROBERT BELMONT FREEMAN 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 Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from December 6, 1961 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

NOV 15 1967

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).)

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