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

In the Matter of the Claim of

LEOPOLDO AGUILERA

Claim No.CU - 2750

Decision No.CU

154

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, in the amount of \$4,000.00, was presented by LEOPOLDO AGUILERA based upon the asserted ownership and loss of personal property. Claimant, LEOPOLDO AGUILERA, states that he has been a national of the United States since his naturalization on December 16, 1966.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, 178

Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. § 8 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" as "(A) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States."

The term does not include aliens.

Thus, in order for the Commission to favorably consider claims under Section 503(a) of the Act, it must be established (1) that the subject property was owned in whole or in part by a national of the United States on the date of nationalization or other taking; and (2) that the claim arising as a result of such nationalization or other taking has been continuously owned thereafter in whole or in part by a national or nationals of the United States to the date of filing with the Commission.

Claimant states that his personal property, upon which this claim is based, was confiscated during July 1960 in Havana, Cuba. Inasmuch as claimant, LEOPOLDO AGUILERA, did not acquire United States nationality until his asserted naturalization on December 16, 1966, it is clear that the subject property was not owned by a national of the United States on the asserted date of loss.

Accordingly, the Commission finds that the subject property was not owned by a national of the United States on the date of nationalization or other taking. The Commission, therefore, concludes that this claim is not one within the purview of Title V of the Act, supra, and it is hereby denied.

The Commission deems it unnecessary to make specific findings with respect to other elements of this claim.

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

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LaVern R. Dilweg, 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 upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission, 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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