

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

EDMOND H. SMITH

Claim No. CU - 3030

Decision No. CU -

1419

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimant:

Manuel Zaiac, Esq.

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 \$369,283.92, was presented by EDMOND H. SMITH, and is based upon the asserted ownership and loss of certain real estate, stock interests, insurance policy cash surrender values, and personal property. Claimant has been a national of the United States since his 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 the ownership and loss of interests in certain real estate, personal property, cash value of insurance policies, and 50% of the shares of "Impresos y Envases Industriales, S. A.", however, claimant has not submitted any original documentary evidence in support of this claim. Claimant has submitted photocopies of various documents including affidavits, but he has not submitted the original stock certificates and insurance policies representing his asserted interests.

By Commission letter of August 22, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Thereafter, by letter of October 27, 1967, counsel submitted additional copies of documents already of record; however, no additional evidence in response to the Commission's suggestions has been received to date.

On November 14, 1967, counsel was invited to submit any evidence available to him within 30 days from that date, and he was informed that, absent

such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. No evidence has since been submitted.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that he has failed to establish ownership of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Accordingly, this claim is 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

FEB 28 1968

Edward D. Re

Edward D. Re, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

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).)

CERTIFICATION

CU-3030

This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on MAR 29 1968

Francis Thornton

Clerk of the Commission