

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

BROWNING LINES, INC.

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-3185

Decision No. CU-1974

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 \$67,266.42, was presented by BROWNING LINES, INC., and is based upon the asserted loss of debts owed by a nationalized enterprise in Cuba.

An officer of claimant corporation has stated that at all times pertinent to this claim, more than 50% of the outstanding stock in claimant has been held by persons who were nationals of 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 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).)

This claim is based upon an asserted debt owed by a Cuban company, Flota Maritima Browning De Cuba, to claimant Browning Lines, Inc. Claimant states that Flota Maritima Browning De Cuba was intervened by the Cuban Government and could not pay its debt to claimant in the amount of \$67,266.42. No evidence in support of this claim has been submitted to the Commission. By Commission letter of June 21, 1967, claimant was advised as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Specifically, the Commission suggested that claimant furnish evidence to establish the nationality of its six shareholders and the existence of the debt owed by Flota Maritima Browning De Cuba to claimant. However, no evidence in response to this correspondence has been received to date.

On February 17, 1968, an officer of claimant corporation was invited to submit any evidence available to claimant within 45 days from that date, and claimant 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 it 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 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

JUN 13 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, 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. 31.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)

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