

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

IRENE MORRISSEY JOHNSON,
EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF
JOHN H. JOHNSON, DECEASED

Claim No. CU - 3310

Decision No. CU-
1458

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 IRENE MORRISSEY JOHNSON, as Executrix of the Estate of John H. Johnson, her late husband, and is based upon the loss of an interest in a bond issued by the Association of the Religious Community of the Company of Jesus of Bethlehem College of Havana. The decedent, John H. Johnson, had 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.

On the basis of the evidence of record, the Commission finds that prior to May 3, 1961, decedent, John H. Johnson, became the owner of a bond in the original face amount of \$1,000.00 issued by the Association of the Religious Community of the Company of Jesus of Bethlehem College of Havana, known as a 5-1/4% First Mortgage Six Year Gold Bond, due February 1, 1934, and was issued pursuant to an Agreement of May 22, 1928, with the Bankers Trust Company, Trustee. The bonds in question herein were secured by all of the Association's property in Cuba. The bond in this claim is numbered M 1032 and is evidenced by Deposit Receipt No. 442.

The record discloses that the decedent, John H. Johnson, died testate on February 1, 1963, in Missouri. The claimant herein, IRENE MORRISSEY JOHNSON, has submitted Letters Testamentary issued by the Probate Court located at St. Louis, Missouri, stating that she was appointed Executrix under the provisions of the Last Will and Testament of her late husband, the aforesaid decedent. Additionally, evidence of record discloses that when the decedent died on February 1, 1963, Irene Morrissey Johnson (Executrix herein) individually inherited the loss, subject of this claim; and that she has been a national of the United States since birth.

Evidence available to the Commission discloses that on April 4, 1933, Cuba declared a moratorium on mortgage indebtedness, which was later extended to June 1942. On December 5, 1939, the maturity of the bonds was extended by the Association to February 1, 1944, and interest was reduced to 1-1/2% beginning February 1, 1939. On June 4, 1940, a new Cuban Constitution was adopted, having certain "Transitory Provisions" which extended the maturity date on mortgage indebtedness in excess of \$800,000 to June 30, 1970 and provided for interest at 1%, and amortization by certain annual installments.

On June 1, 1942, a "Procedure for Deposit" was entered into by the Association with Mississippi Valley Trust Company (now the Mercantile Trust Company) as Agent, and the bondholders. Those bondholders depositing their bonds under this Procedure received registered Deposit Receipts entitling them to payment of principal and interest according to the applicable schedule of the 1940 Transitory Provisions, without subsequent presentation of the bonds. The record shows that the last principal payment made was that due on June 30, 1958, leaving the principal due on such bond as \$449.03; and the last interest payment made was that due on February 1, 1959. Thereafter, the Trustee declared the principal due and payable in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement of 1928.

The record shows that the properties of the College were intervened by the Government of Cuba on May 3, 1961, by Resolution No. 4352 of the Directora Provincial de Educacion de la Havana (Provincial Educational Directors Office of Havana).

The Commission concludes that as a result of the intervention of the properties of the Association, in Cuba, decedent suffered a loss in connection with his bond within the meaning of Title V of the Act. (See the Claim of Gustavus Basch, FCSC Claim No. CU-0972.)

The Commission finds that the amount of the unpaid indebtedness on decedent's bond on May 3, 1961, the date of loss, was \$459.17, including the principal amounts of \$449.03 and the interest due on May 3, 1961, in the amount of \$10.14.

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 loss sustained by decedent shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from May 3, 1961, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that IRENE MORRISSEY JOHNSON, EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN H. JOHNSON, DECEASED, succeeded to and suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Four Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Seventeen Cents (\$459.17) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from May 3, 1961, to the date of settlement.

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

APR 10 1968

Leonard V. B. Sutton

Leonard V. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner
CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on MAY 17 1968

Francis Hester

NOTICE TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT: The bond subject of ^{Clerk of the Commission} this certification of loss may have been returned and no payment should be made until it is resubmitted.

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).)