

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

GUILLERMO ACOSTA, EXECUTOR OF THE
ESTATE OF ELISA C. ACOSTA, DECEASED

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -3347

Decision No. CU

2107

Counsel for claimant:

Merwin E. Taylor, Esquire

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 \$178,475.66, was presented by GUILLERMO ACOSTA, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF ELISA C. ACOSTA, DECEASED, and is based upon the asserted loss of an interest in improved realty, land and certain personal property. The evidence of record reflects that decedent had been a national of the United States since her naturalization on November 19, 1941.

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 as executor of the Estate of Elisa C. Acosta, deceased, asserted the loss of improved realty, land and certain personal property. Claimant submitted letters testamentary issued in the Estate of Elisa C. Acosta, deceased; sworn declarations pertaining to ownership of unimproved lots; a statement of claimant as to personal property ownership; a certificate regarding the partitioning of personal property and a request for confirmation of naturalization.

By Commission letter of September 26, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Specifically, it was suggested that a copy of the Last Will and Testament of Elisa C. Acosta, as admitted to probate, be submitted together with evidence of the United States nationality of the beneficiaries of her estate. On November 2, 1967 and November 14, 1967 it was again suggested to claimant, through counsel, that the evidence be submitted. However, no evidence in response to this correspondence has been received to date.

On May 16, 1968, 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 or reply has since been received.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that he has failed to establish ownership by a United States national of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba, and ownership of the claim continuously thereafter by a national of the United States until the date of filing with the Commission. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it 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

JUL 24 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton
Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

Sidney Freidberg
Sidney Freidberg, 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).)

CU-3347