

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

TARLTON B. STABLER

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-4792

Decision No. CU 4606

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 TARLTON B. STABLER, for \$1,500.00, based upon the asserted ownership and loss of interest in two land parcels known as Lots 3 and 4 in Block 13 of Brazo Fuerte subdivision of Barrio Sierra de Caballos, Isle of Pines, Cuba. Claimant, TARLTON B. STABLER, has been a national of the United States since 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 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 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.

The Commission's Regulations provide that claims under Title V of the Act (Cuban claims) shall be filed with the Commission on or before May 1, 1967 (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. Sec. 531.1(d) (Supp. 1967)); and further that any initial written indication of an intention to file a claim received within 30 days prior to the expiration of the filing period thereof shall be considered as a timely filing of a claim if formalized within 30 days after the expiration of the filing period. (Reg., Sec. 531.1(g))

No claim was filed with this Commission by or on behalf of Mr. Stabler within the allowable period for timely filing of such claims, nor does the Commission have any record of any communication concerning his asserted loss.

The Commission has held, however, that it will accept for consideration on their merits claims filed after the deadline so long as the consideration thereof does not impede the determination of those claims which were timely filed. (See Claim of John Korenda, Claim No. CU-8255.)

In his affidavit of August 23, 1968, claimant stated that he purchased Lots 3 and 4, Block 13, in the Brazo Fuerte subdivision, Isle of Pines, Cuba, for \$2,050.00 of which amount \$950.00 was paid in installments. Claimant further stated that all supporting documentation, i.e., contract, cancelled checks, etc., were lost when he moved from Paris, France, to the United States. According to claimant's letter of August 9, 1967, such loss of documents occurred in the year of 1962. Evidence of record shows that Block 13 of the Brazo Fuerte subdivision is composed of 18 parcels of land, all of which are recorded in the name of Cia. Urbanizadora Davis, S.A. The

record also contains a letter dated June 22, 1967, from the United Realty Company in Opa Locka, Florida, stating that according to their plot claimant is the buyer of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 13 of the Brazo Fuerte subdivision. The letter further states that the United Realty Company was only the collection office for the vendor Cuban corporation.

Under Cuban law, a sale is consummated and becomes binding on the purchaser and seller if there has been a meeting of the minds on the object and price, even though neither the thing nor the price has been delivered (Lanzas, A Statement of the Laws of Cuba, 78 [1958]). Registration is not necessary for the transfer of ownership or rights in rem between the parties concerned, but it is required if the transaction is to be binding on third parties (Lanzas, supra, 277).

On the basis of the entire record and the state of Cuban law at the time of the transaction, the Commission finds that claimant became the owner of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 13 of the Brazo Fuerte subdivision, Barrio Sierra de Caballos, Isle of Pines, Cuba.

On December 6, 1961, the Cuban Government published its Law 989 (Official Gazette, XXIII, No. 237, p. 23705) which confiscated all assets, personal property and real estate, rights, shares, stocks, bonds and securities of persons not resident in Cuba.

The record shows that claimant never resided in Cuba. The Commission finds in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the subject real property was taken by the Government of Cuba on December 6, 1961 pursuant to the provisions of Law 989.

Based on the entire record, the Commission finds that the land had a value of \$2,050.00, but that claimant owed the seller a total of \$1,100.00. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that claimant suffered a loss in the amount of \$950.00 within the meaning of Title V of the Act.

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 Claim of Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644), and in the instant case it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

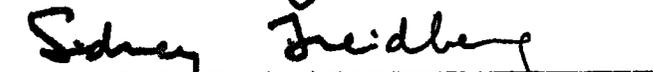
The Commission certifies that TARLTON B. STABLER suffered a loss as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from December 6, 1961 to the date of settlement.

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

11 MAR 1970

  
Lyle S. Garlock, Chairman

  
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

  
Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

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).)