

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MARIA SALAS-CALERO

Claim No. CU - 4829

Decision No. CU **391**

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 MARIA SALAS-CALERO for \$93,000.00 based upon loss of land and mortgage holdings in Cuba. Claimant, MARIA SALAS-CALERO, states that she has been a national of the United States since her naturalization on November 30, 1966.

Under Section 503 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, [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. That section 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

(a) . . . 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.

Section 502(1) of the Act defines the term "national of the United States" to mean "(A) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States, . . . The term does not include aliens."

Thus, in order for the Commission to favorably consider claims under Section 503(a) of Title V of the Act, it must be established (1) that the subject property was owned in whole or in part by a national of the United States on the date of nationalization or other taking; and (2) that the claim arising as a result of such nationalization or other taking has been continuously owned thereafter in whole or in part by a national or nationals of the United States to the date of filing with the Commission.

Claimant states that her property, consisting of land, Pantheon (Cemetery of Havana), and mortgage titles, all located in Cuba, was worth \$93,000.00 and that said property was confiscated by Law No. 989 (December 6, 1961), and that even before that date, she was deprived of the power to sell her land since January, 1959 by reason of another Law.

Assuming that the above be true, the Commission is constrained to deny the claim on other grounds.

Under the provisions of sections 503(a) and 504(a) of the Act, not only should the claimant herein establish that she suffered a loss, she must also establish that said loss occurred subsequent to November 30, 1966, the date on which she states she became a national of the United States. This she has not done.

Therefore, even if claimant established that she suffered a loss due to the laws enacted by the Government of Cuba, such loss, which might have given rise to a claim in International Law, which would be subject to determination under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, supra, occurred prior to the date claimant acquired citizenship of the United States.

Accordingly, for the reason stated above, the Commission concludes that this claim is not one within the purview of Title V of the Act, supra, and it is denied.

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

OCT 4 1967

Edward D. Re
Edward D. Re, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

LaVern R. Dilweg
LaVern R. Dilweg, 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

This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on 6 NOV 1967

Thomas Macfarlane
Clerk of the Commission