

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MILL FACTORS CORPORATION

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU - 0368

Decision No. CU 221

Counsel for claimant:

Sperry, Weinberg & Cutler, Esq.

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 MILL FACTORS CORPORATION in the amount of \$7,431.92 based upon the asserted loss of payment for merchandise shipped to Cuba.

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 502(1) of the Act defines the term "national of the United States" as "(B) a corporation or other legal entity which is organized under the laws of the United States, or of any State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if natural persons who are citizens of the United States own, directly or indirectly, 50 per centum or more of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest of such corporation or entity."

An officer of the claimant corporation has certified that the claimant was organized in the State of Delaware and that all times between July, 1919 and presentation of this claim on August 19, 1965, more than 50% of the outstanding capital stock of the claimant has been owned by United States nationals. The Commission holds that claimant is a national of the United States within the meaning of Section 502(1)(B) of the Act.

Claimant states that 0.6% of its stockholders were residents of foreign countries and assumed to be citizens of those countries.

Claimant's interest in the accounts receivable which constitute the basis of this claim arises from a 1956 factoring agreement with Fishman-Stern, Inc. of New York. The record includes copies of certain pages from claimant's ledger book to which are posted a series of invoices assigned to claimant pursuant to the factoring agreement. The accounts receivable which are the subject of this claim are reflected therein as having been assigned to claimant on the same date as the respective invoice.

Additionally, the record contains a copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice No. 5088 of November 24, 1959 reflecting the sale to Abelis Bakas of Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$1,103.18; copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice No. 5145 of December 1, 1959 reflecting the sale to Compania Pantalón "X" of Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$502.59; copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice No. 5210 of December 16, 1959 reflecting freight, shipping and other attendant fees related to invoice No. 5145, in the amount of \$4.40; copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice

No. 5138 of November 30, 1959 reflecting the sale to Kaba Hermanos S. en C. of Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$1,002.64; copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice No. 5209 of December 16, 1959 reflecting freight, shipping and other attendant fees related to invoice No. 5138, in the amount of \$5.12; copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice No. 5093 of November 27, 1959 reflecting the sale to Finkelman & Co. of Havana, Cuba, of goods totalling \$3,566.49; and copy of Fishman-Stern's invoice No. 5094 of November 27, 1959 reflecting the sale to Finkelman & Co. of Havana, Cuba of goods totalling \$1,247.50. Claimant states that it has not received the funds.

The Government of Cuba, on September 29, 1959, published its Law 568, concerning foreign exchange. Thereafter the Cuban Government effectively precluded not only transfers of funds to creditors abroad, but also payment to creditors within Cuba, by numerous, unreasonable and costly demands upon the consignees, who were thus deterred from complying with the demands of the Cuban Government. The Commission holds that Cuban Law 568 and the Cuban Government's implementation thereof, with respect to the rights of the claimant herein, was not in reality a legitimate exercise of sovereign authority to regulate foreign exchange, but constituted an intervention by the Government of Cuba into the contractual rights of the claimant, which resulted in the taking of American-owned property within the meaning of Section 503(a) of the Act. (See the Claim of The Schwarzenbach Huber Company, FCSC Claim No. CU-0019; and the Claim of Etna Pozzolana Corporation, FCSC Claim No. CU-0049).

Accordingly, in the instant claim the Commission finds that claimant's property was lost as a result of intervention by the Government of Cuba and that, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the loss occurred on November 30, 1959 as to \$1,103.18, on December 3, 1959 as to \$4,813.99, on December 6, 1959 as to \$1,007.76, and on December 7, 1959 as to \$506.99.

The Commission has decided that in payment of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be allowed at the rate of 6% per annum from the

date of loss to the date of settlement (See the Claim of American Cast Iron Pipe Company, FCSC Claim No. CU-0249).

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the amount of the loss sustained by claimant shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from the dates on which the loss occurred, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that MILL FACTORS CORPORATION 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 Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-One Dollars and Ninety-Two Cents (\$7,431.92) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from the respective dates of loss to the date of settlement.

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

AUG 23 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. 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 25 SEP 1967

Francis Thurman
Clerk of the Commission
CU-0368