

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

JUDITH L. COFFMAN

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU - 0374

Decision No. CU 1240

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$520.00, was presented by JUDITH L. COFFMAN based upon the asserted ownership and loss of an interest in land. Claimant, JUDITH L. COFFMAN, has been a national of the United States since her birth in the United States.

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.

The record contains a copy of agreement No. 211 dated March 1, 1958, wherein claimant entered into a contract to purchase certain real property, known as Lot No. 2-3 of block 10 of Alturas de Nueva Gerona in the district "Sierra de Caballos" situated on the Isle of Pines, Cuba. The agreement recited that title to the property remained in the seller, Parceladora Los Egidios, S.A., until the buyer paid a total price of \$1,600.00. After a down payment of \$20.00 on April 1, 1958, the buyer agreed to pay \$20.00 a month for 79 months. The record contains a copy of the receipts for the down payment of \$20.00 and a copy of 25 receipts for monthly payments of \$20.00 each. The record reflects, therefore, that claimant paid a total of \$520.00 towards the purchase of the subject property. Claimant also furnished a copy of a letter dated June 1, 1960, written by the Minister of Finance advising claimant that the value of the property had been reduced to \$1,120.00.

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 existing record and the state of Cuban law at the time of the transaction, the Commission finds that claimant became the owner of Lot No. 2-3 of block 10 of Alturas de Nueva Gerona in the district, "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 who had left the country. (See the Claim of Wallace Tabor and Catherine Tabor, FCSC Claim No. CU-0109)

The record reflects that claimant has been a resident of Florida since March 1, 1958. 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 claimant sustained a loss in the amount of \$520.00 as a result of the taking of the property by the Government of Cuba 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 the Claim of Lisle Corporation, FCSC Claim No. CU-0644).

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 December 6, 1961, the date on which the loss occurred, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

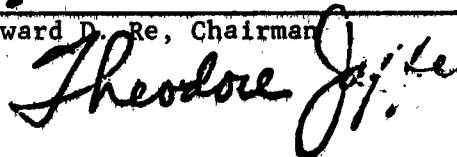
The Commission certifies that JUDITH L. COFFMAN suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$520.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from December 6, 1961 to the date of settlement.

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

FEB 14 1968



Edward D. Re, Chairman



Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

This is a true and correct copy of the substance
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on **MAR 18 1968**


Clerk of the Commission

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).)