

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

LESLIE MASSAD

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -0458

Decision No. CU  
3216

Counsel for claimant:

Charles P. Caputo, 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 LESLIE MASSAD and is based upon the asserted loss sustained in connection with the ownership of a participation interest in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust. Claimant has been a United States national since his naturalization.

As is fully set forth in the original decision involving the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust (See Claim of Felix Heyman, Claim No. CU-0412 which is hereby incorporated herein and made a part thereof by reference), this type of claim for loss of a stock ownership is compensable under the conditions and facts set forth in Heyman. There is no need to again detail herein the reasons for such a determination or the method arrived at in determining the value per unit of participation which comes to \$0.11971 per unit.

On the basis of evidence of record, in the instant case the Commission finds that this claimant is, and since prior to November 23, 1959, has been the owner of 100 units of participation in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust and has suffered a loss in the amount of \$11.97 within the meaning of Title V of the Act, when the properties owned or controlled by the Trust were nationalized or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba on November 23, 1959.

Further the evidence of record establishes that claimant is the owner of an additional 2,000 units of participation in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust which were purchased subsequent to the date of loss on December 30, 1959 (1,000 units) and January 7, 1960 (1,000 units).

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.

Under the provisions of Section 504(a) of the Act, a claimant is required to establish that the claim for any loss has been continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from November 23, 1959, the date of loss, to the date of filing with the Commission. In similar cases, claimants have been unable to obtain information or evidence to establish the nationality of the owner of the securities on the date of loss, and to establish continuous United States ownership of the securities until the date on which claimant acquired them.

Evidence of record before the Commission discloses that securities of the type subject of this claim were almost entirely owned and traded by persons or firms having addresses in the United States. The Commission has considered whether an inference may be justified that the claimed securities were continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date on which purchased by the claimant, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, has concluded

that the securities were continuously so owned. (See Claim of the Executors of the Estate of Julius S. Wikler, Deceased, Claim No. CU-2571).

The Commission further finds that claimant, upon his purchase of the securities subsequent to the date of loss, succeeded to the loss sustained by the assignor of the claimed securities, and concludes that he succeeded to and suffered a loss in the amount of \$239.42 as a result of the nationalization of the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust on November 23, 1959.

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).

The Commission concludes, therefore, that the amount of loss sustained by claimant herein shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from December 30, 1959 as to \$119.71 and from January 7, 1960 as to \$119.71, the dates on which claimant acquired these portions of the claim, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof. Further, the Commission finds that the loss in the amount of \$11.97, shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from November 23, 1959, the date of loss to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that LESLIE MASSAD succeeded to and 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 Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$251.39) with interest 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

30 OCT 1968

*Leonard v. B. Sutton*  
Leonard v. P. Sutton, Chairman

*Theodore Jaffe*  
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

*Stanley Friedman*  
Stanley Friedman, Commissioner

NOTICE TO TREASURY: The above-referenced securities may not have been submitted to the Commission or if submitted, may have been returned; accordingly, no payment should be made until claimant establishes retention of the securities for the loss here certified.

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].)