

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

SOPHIE MAYEA

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-0926

Decision No. CU

97

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, for \$3,500.00 was presented by SOPHIE MAYEA based upon a bank account in Cuba.

Claimant has been a national of the United States since her birth in the United States.

Under Section 503 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended (64 Stat. 12; 69 Stat. 562; 72 Stat. 527; 78 Stat. 1110; 79 Stat. 988) 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.

Claimant contends that she and her husband, a Cuban national, lost a bank account in Cuba having a balance of 7,000 pesos. The record discloses that claimant's husband was the Consul General of Cuba in Paris, France, until his defection in October 1961.

The record establishes that claimant and her husband had a balance of 7,000 Cuban pesos on deposit with The First National City Bank of New York.

A number of laws and resolutions were issued in Cuba affecting banks, bank accounts and currency. Not all of these things affect the account of the claimant in Claim No. CU-0926.

Law 568, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on September 29, 1959, forbade the transfer of funds abroad, and effectively operated to block the funds of anyone who left the country. Law 930, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on February 23, 1961, gave the National Bank the power to effect centralization of liquid assets "temporarily" taken from the people. In effect this froze or continued the blocking of bank accounts.

By Law 963, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on August 4, 1961, a currency exchange was effected. Currency was turned in at centers provided and a new currency was provided. There was no change in value. However, each person was to receive 200 pesos in new currency, and all over that amount was placed in a special account in his name. This did not affect bank accounts already in existence. By Law 964, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on August 9, 1961, it was provided that the owners of the deposits created under Law 963 could draw up to 1,000 pesos, the balance up to 10,000 remained in his special account, and all over 10,000 passed to the State Treasury. There were some minor exceptions. However, Law 963 and 964 do not affect Claim No. CU-0926 in which the account did not arise from currency exchange.

Law 989, published in the Official Gazette on December 6, 1961, in its terms nationalized by confiscation all goods and chattels, rights, shares, stocks, bonds and other securities of persons who left the country

of Cuba. This included such bank accounts as had not been established and confiscated by Laws 963 and 964, supra. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Commission finds that the subject bank account, totalling 7,000 pesos, was taken by the Government of Cuba on December 6, 1961. (See the Claim of Floyd W. Auld, FCSC Claim No. CU-0020.)

Further, the Commission finds that on December 6, 1961, 7,000 pesos had a value of \$7,000.00; and that claimant suffered a loss in the amount of \$3,500.00 for her one-half interest therein, within the meaning of Title V of the Act, as the result of the taking of said bank account by the Government of Cuba as of December 6, 1961.

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

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

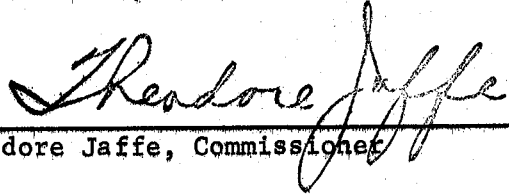
The Commission certifies that SOPHIE MAYEA suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from the December 6, 1961 date of taking to the date of settlement,

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

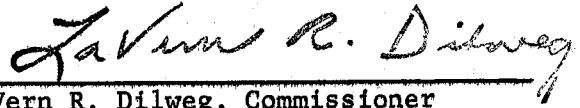
JUN 28 1967



Edward D. Re, Chairman



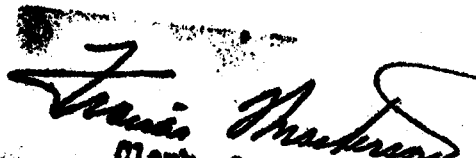
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner



LaVern R. Dilweg, Commissioner

**CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the decision of the Commission which was entered as the final decision on JUL 28 1967

  
Clerk of the Commission

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 upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)