

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

HELLER & MEYER

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-1518

Decision No. CU  
1931

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$635.00, was presented by the partnership firm of HELLER & MEYER and is based upon the asserted loss of an interest in a bond issued by Cuba Northern Railways Company. Claimant stated that all of the partners have been nationals of the United States since birth.

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 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.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (Supp. 1967).)

Claimant asserted the ownership of an interest in a bond issued by the Cuba Northern Railways Company. Claimant submitted the original bond and evidence of United States nationality of one of the three partners.

By Commission letter of June 21, 1967, claimant was advised as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Thereafter, by letter of November 16, 1967, the Commission made additional suggestions to claimant concerning the submission of supporting evidence in this matter. Claimant then submitted evidence of nationality for only one partner and the bond of the Cuba Northern Railways Company.

On December 13, 1967, claimant was invited to submit the additional suggested evidence, but no reply was received. On March 20, 1968, claimant was invited to submit any evidence available to it within 30 days from that date, and was informed that, absent such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. No evidence has since been submitted.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that it has failed to establish complete ownership of rights and interests by a national of the United States in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

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

**MAY 29 1968**

*Leonard v. B. Sutton*

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Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

*Theodore Jaffe*

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Theodore Jaffe, 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).)

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