

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MINNIE KEISLING

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-1687

Decision No. CU-1638

ORDER AND AMENDED PROPOSED DECISION

On April 10, 1968, the Commission issued its Proposed Decision in this claim against the Government of Cuba, denying the claim because of claimant's failure to sustain the burden of proof. Claimant objected to the Proposed Decision, and thereafter submitted additional evidence and information in support of this claim. The matter having been reconsidered, it is

ORDERED that the Proposed Decision of the Commission be, and the same is amended to read as follows:

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$1,000.00 plus interest, was presented by MINNIE KEISLING, and is based upon the loss of her interest in a bond issued by the Cuba Northern Railways Company. Claimant 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.

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that claimant is, and since prior to October 13, 1960, has been the owner of one bond in the original face amount of \$1,000.00, issued by the Cuba Northern Railways Company and one of an issue known as "First Mortgage Gold Bonds, 4%, due June 30, 1970" (originally First Mortgage Gold Bonds, 5-1/2%, due June 1, 1942), issued under an Indenture of July 1, 1927, with the First National City Bank of New York as Trustee. The bond in question is No. TERM 3068.

The record discloses that the Cuba Northern Railways Company was nationalized by Cuban Law 890, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on October 13, 1960. This corporation was organized under the laws of Cuba and does not qualify as a corporate "National of the United States" defined under Section 502(1)(B) of the Act as a corporation or other legal entity organized under the laws of the United States, or any State, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, whose ownership is vested to the extent of 50 per centum or more in natural persons who are citizens of the United States. Therefore, claimant is entitled to file this claim based upon the bond in question which represents a debt of a nationalized enterprise within the purview of Section 502(3) of the Act. (See Claim of Kentucky Home Mutual Life Insurance Company, Claim No. CU-1339.)

The record reflects that on April 4, 1933, Cuba declared a moratorium on mortgage indebtedness, which was later extended to June 1942. On June 4, 1940 a new Cuban constitution was adopted, having certain "Transitory Provisions" which extended the maturity date on mortgage indebtedness in excess of \$800,000 to June 30, 1970 and provided for interest at 1% and amortization by certain annual installments.

In 1952, pursuant to a "Plan for Readjustment of Bonded Debt of the Company", bondholders surrendered their 5-1/2% Gold Bonds and received, in exchange, First Mortgage Gold Bonds, 4%, due June 30, 1970. The interest on these bonds, at 4% per annum, was payable on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The last payment of interest on these bonds was made on December 1, 1958.

Evidence of record establishes that each \$1,000.00 bond had an outstanding principal balance of \$635.00 on October 13, 1960, the date of loss.

The Commission therefore finds that the total amount of the unpaid indebtedness on claimant's bond on October 13, 1960, the date of loss, was \$682.56, including the principal amount of \$635.00, and the interest due on the bond in the amount of \$47.56 for the period December 1, 1958 to October 13, 1960.

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 Claim of Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644.)

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the amount of loss sustained by claimant shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from October 13, 1960, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that MINNIE KEISLING 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 Six Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars and Fifty-Six Cents (\$682.56) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement.

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

Leonard v. B. Sutton
Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

26 JUN 1968

Sidney Feidberg
Sidney Feidberg, Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the decision of the Commission which was entered as the final decision on MAY 17 1968

Francis Heaton
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 Amended 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).)

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 or the loss here certified.

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Claim No. CU -1687

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Counsel for claimant:

H. G. Stutzman, Esquire

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 \$1,000.00 plus interest, was presented by MINNIE KEISLING and is based upon the asserted loss of her interest in a bond issued by the Cuba Northern Railways. Claimant stated that she has been a national of the United States since her 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 asserts this claim based on the ownership of a bond issued by the Cuba Northern Railways. Claimant has not submitted any original documentary evidence in support of her claim. By Commission letter of September 18, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Specifically, it was suggested that the original bond and evidence of her United States nationality be submitted. However, no evidence in response to this correspondence has been received to date.

On October 24, 1967, counsel was invited to submit any evidence available to him within 45 days from that date, and he 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 she has failed to establish ownership, by a national or nationals of the United States, of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Accordingly, this claim is 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

APR 10 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

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