

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

RALPH OPPENHEIM

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-2067

Decision No. CU 1491

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 RALPH OPPENHEIM, and is based upon the asserted loss of \$13,125.00, sustained in connection with the ownership of a stock interest in Compania Litografica de la Habana, S.A. (Havana Lithographing Company), hereinafter referred to as Havana Lithographing. Claimant has been a national of the United States since his 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 2,500 shares of common stock of Havana Lithographing. The certificates representing the shares in question are Nos. CLHC 12538 to CLHC 12557 inclusive and CLHC 24340 to CLHC 24344 inclusive.

On October 13, 1960, the Government of Cuba published Law 890 in its Official Gazette, which listed as nationalized Compania Litografica de la Habana, S.A. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Havana Lithographing was nationalized by the Government of Cuba on October 13, 1960, and that claimant's interest in the enterprise was taken on that date.

In determining the value of the interest owned by claimant in Havana Lithographing, the Commission has considered an unaudited balance sheet, with supporting schedules, as of July 31, 1960, an affidavit of the former President of Havana Lithographing, appraisals and valuations of the assets of the corporation prepared in 1960 and 1967, and insurance values for all assets. On the basis of all the evidence of record, the Commission finds that \$1,356,012.12 is the amount that would have been available at the time of loss for distribution among the 540,218 shares of common stock issued by Havana Lithographing. The Commission thus concludes that the dollar loss sustained in connection with the ownership of a common stock interest in Havana Lithographing was \$2.51 per share of common stock issued and held at the time of loss. (See the Claim of Central West Company, FCSC Claim No. CU-3440).

Accordingly, in the instant claim, the Commission finds that claimant, as holder of 2,500 shares of the common stock of Havana Lithographing, suffered a loss in the amount of \$6,275.00 within the meaning of Title V of the Act, as a result of the nationalization of Havana Lithographing by the Government of Cuba on October 13, 1960.

NOTICE TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT: The above-listed certificates and/or bonds may have been returned to claimant and no payment should be made until they are resubmitted.

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.

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 Hartman
Clerk of the Commission

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 amounts 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 RALPH OPPENHEIM 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 Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$6,275.00) with interest at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement.

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

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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