

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

ADELA de ZALDO TORRENCE

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-2903

Decision No. CU 5836

Counsel for claimant:

Albert J. Parreno, Esq.

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 \$53,000.00, was presented by ADELA de ZALDO TORRENCE and is based upon the asserted loss of an apartment, and personal property in Cuba. Claimant has been a national 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) (1969).)

Claimant describes her losses as a cooperative apartment which she values at \$25,000.00; personalty valued at \$20,000.00 and an asserted bank account of \$8,000.00.

Based upon the entire record, including claimant's affidavit and a report received from abroad, the Commission finds that claimant owned an apartment at 202 San Jose Street in Havana, Cuba.

On October 14, 1960, the Government of Cuba published in its Official Gazette, Special Edition, its Urban Reform Law. Under this law the renting of urban properties, and all other transactions

or contracts involving transfer of the total or partial use of urban properties were outlawed (Article 2). The law covered residential, commercial, industrial and business office properties (Article 15).

Based on the foregoing and the evidence of record, the Commission finds that claimant's apartment was taken by the Government of Cuba pursuant to the provisions of the Urban Reform Law; and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the taking occurred on October 14, 1960, the date on which the law was published in the Cuban Gazette. (See Claim of Henry Lewis Slade, Claim No. CU-0183, 1967 FCSC Ann. Rep. 39.)

The Act provides in Section 503(a) that in making determinations with respect to the validity and amount of claims and value of properties, rights or interests taken, the Commission shall take into account the basis of valuation most appropriate to the property and equitable to the claimant, including but not limited to fair market value, book value, going concern value or cost of replacement.

The record includes, in support of the claimed value, claimant's assertion that the apartment was purchased for \$17,000.00, and that the fair market value in 1960 was \$25,000.00. She has submitted no evidence in support of these assertions. However, the report from abroad recites a value of \$14,800.00.

Based on the aforesaid record, the Commission finds that the apartment subject of the claim had a value of \$14,800.00. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that claimant suffered a loss in that amount within the meaning of Title V of the Act, as the result of the taking of her property by the Government of Cuba on October 14, 1960.

No evidence has been submitted in support of the claimed items of a bank account and personalty, although suggestions were made to claimant in these regards on several occasions.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof with respect to the bank account and personal property. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny these items of claim and they are hereby denied.

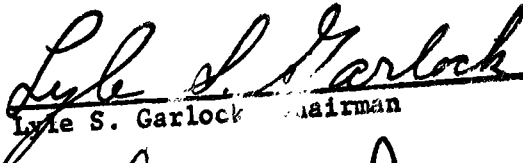
The Commission has decided that in certifications of loss on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement (see Claim of Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644), and in the instant case it is so ordered.

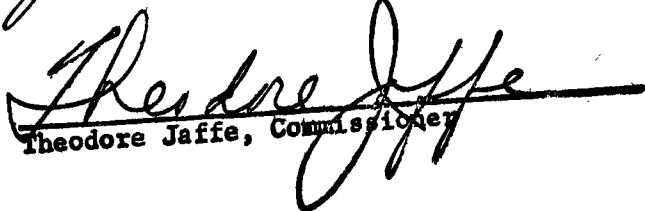
CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that ADELA de ZALDO TORRENCE 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 Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$14,800.00) with interest at 6% per annum from October 14, 1960 to the date of settlement.

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

SEP 16 1970

  
Lyle S. Garlock, Chairman

  
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

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. 31.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)