

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

NORMA GONZALEZ

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-3587

Decision No. CU 3905

Counsel for claimant:

Alexander Jacobson, 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 \$55,000.00, was presented by NORMA GONZALEZ and is based upon the asserted loss of improved real property in Santiago, 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, 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 an interest in property inherited in part from her mother Carodad Gehren, who assertedly inherited her interest from claimant's grandmother, Ascencion DeSoler. The property is described by claimant as approximately 1000 acres of realty valued at \$50,000.00 with buildings valued at \$5,000.00 all located at El Caney, Santiago, Cuba.

By Commission letter of July 21, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. As no response was received, a "follow-up" letter was sent on September 1, 1967. Counsel then submitted a request for assistance in obtaining evidence. Appropriate action with respect thereto was taken by the Commission. Thereafter, by letter of August 14, 1968, the Commission informed counsel that there is no certainty evidence will be received through the Commission's efforts and made additional suggestions to claimant, through counsel, concerning the submission of supporting evidence in this matter. However, no evidence in response to this correspondence has been received to date.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that she has failed to establish ownership of rights and interest 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

SEP 24 1969

Kenneth C. Sullivan
~~MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION~~
Theodore J. Jaffe
~~MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION~~
Sidney J. Friedman
~~MEMBER 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, 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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