

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

LEO H. SONDBERATH
and
MARIE E. SONDBERATH

Claim No. CU-6022

Decision No. CU - 4116

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Represented by Cia. Azucarera Vertientes-Camaguey de Cuba

Counsel for Cia. Azucarera Vertientes-Camaguey de Cuba:
Shapiro, Fried and Weil
By Herbert S. Shapiro, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

Claimants, LEO H. SONDBERATH and MARIE E. SONDBERATH, who owned a stock interest in the Cia. Azucarera Vertientes-Camaguey de Cuba, assert a claim under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, against the Government of Cuba because of its nationalization of said Company.

In our decision entitled the Claim of Ruth Anna Haskew (Claim No. CU-0849 which we incorporate herein by reference), we held that the properties owned by the Company were nationalized or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba on August 6, 1960, and that this type of claim is compensable to an American national under the facts and conditions set forth therein. We need not again detail here the reasons or the method used in determining the value per share of \$46.3946.

On the basis of evidence in the record in the instant case, the Commission finds that these claimants come within the terms of the Haskew decision; that they were American nationals at the requisite times; that they have been the joint owners of 200 shares of stock in the Cia. Azucarera Vertientes-Camaguey de Cuba since prior to August 6, 1960; and that they suffered a loss in the amount \$9,278.92 within the meaning of Title V of the Act. Further, the Commission finds that the amount of loss sustained shall be

increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from August 6, 1960, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof. (See Haskew, supra.)

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.

Section 507 of the Act provides, as to assignment of claims, that

(b) The amount determined to be due on any claim of an assignee who acquires the same by purchase shall not exceed (or, in the case of any such acquisition subsequent to the date of the determination, shall not be deemed to have exceeded) the amount of the actual consideration paid by such assignee, or in case of successive assignments of a claim by any assignee.

Claim is also presented for 100 shares of stock purchased by claimants on September 8, 1960 for a consideration of \$296.25.

Under the provisions of Section 504(a) of the Act, a claimant is required to establish that the claim for any loss has been continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date of filing with the Commission. The loss occurred on August 6, 1960. In similar cases claimants have been unable to obtain information or evidence to establish the nationality of the owner of the securities on the date of loss, and to establish continuous United States ownership of the securities until the date on which claimant acquired them.

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Evidence of record before the Commission discloses that securities of the type subject of this claim were almost entirely owned and traded by persons or firms having addresses in the United States. The Commission has considered whether an inference may be justified that the claimed securities were continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date on which purchased by the claimant, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, has concluded that the securities were continuously so owned. (See Claim of the Executors of the Estate of Julius S. Wikler, Deceased, Claim No. CU-2571).

The Commission finds that claimants, upon their purchase of the 100 shares of stock, succeeded to the loss sustained by the assignor of the claimed securities, and concludes that they succeeded to and suffered a loss in the total amount of \$296.25, the price they paid, as a result of the nationalization of the Company.

The Commission concludes, however, that the amount of loss sustained by claimants herein on 100 shares of stock shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from September 8, 1960, the date on which claimants acquired this claim, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

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CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that LEO H. SONDEGERATH and MARIE E. SONDEGERATH jointly 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 Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Seventeen Cents (\$9,575.17) with interest at 6% per annum on \$9,278.92 from August 6, 1960, and on \$296.25 from September 8, 1960, to the date of settlement.

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

OCT 21 1969

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

Sidney Freidberg

Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

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 for the loss here certified.

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