



The Governments of the United States and Albania concluded an agreement for en bloc settlement of claims of United States nationals against Albania on March 10, 1995. *Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the Settlement of Certain Outstanding Claims*, March 10, 1995 (entered into force April 18, 1995) ("Settlement Agreement"). Claims covered by the Settlement Agreement are

the claims of United States nationals (including natural and juridical persons) against Albania arising from any nationalization, expropriation, intervention, or other taking of, or measures affecting, property of nationals of the United States prior to the date of this agreement[.]

Settlement Agreement, Article 1(a).

The claimant in this case has stated that the property which is the subject of his claim was confiscated by the Albanian government in 1949. At that time, according to claimant, he was the owner of the property, having inherited it from his father. He has also stated, however, that he did not become a U.S. national until his naturalization as a United States citizen in 1971.

The ICSA mandates that the Commission decide claims in accordance with, *inter alia*, "[t]he applicable principles of international law." ICSA section 4(a)(2), 22 U.S.C. 1623(a)(2). It is a well-established principle of

international law, which this Commission has applied without exception, that a claim may be found compensable only if the property which is the subject of the claim was owned by a national of the United States when the property was expropriated or otherwise taken. *See, e.g., Claim of EUGENIA D. STUPNIKOV Against Yugoslavia*, Claim No. Y-2-0071, Decision No. Y-2-0003 (1967); *Claim of ILONA CZIKE Against Hungary*, Claim No. HUNG-2-0784, Decision No. HUNG-2-191 (1976); *Claim of JOSEPH REISS Against the German Democratic Republic*, Claim No. G-2853, Decision No. G-2499 (1981); *Claim of TRANG KIM Against Vietnam*, Claim No. V-0014, Decision No. V-0001 (1982). This principle has also been recognized by the courts of the United States. *See, e.g., Haas v. Humphrey*, 246 F.2d 682 (D.C. Cir. 1957), *cert. denied* 355 U.S. 854 (1957).

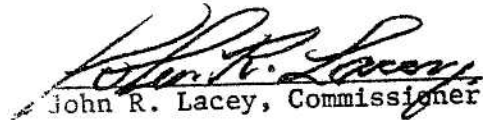
The Commission finds that, at the time the property in question was assertedly taken by the Albanian government, it was not owned by a national of the United States. Accordingly, while the Commission sympathizes with the claimant for the loss of his property, it must conclude that his claim is not compensable under the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The claim therefore must be and is hereby denied.

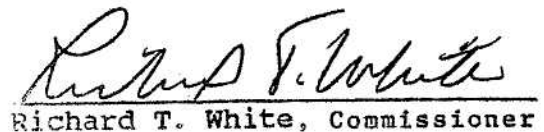
The Commission finds it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of this claim.

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

JAN 19 1996

  
Delissa M. Ridgway, Chair

  
John R. Lacey, Commissioner

  
Richard T. White, Commissioner

This decision was entered as the Commission's  
Final Decision on FEB 26 1996

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, any objections must be filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision. Absent objection, this 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 Regulations, 45 C.F.R. 531.5 (e) and (g) (1994).