

Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

§ 1.731-1

Adjusted basis to A of property contributed	\$4,000
Less portion of mortgage assumed by other partners which must be treated as a distribution (80 percent of \$6,000)	4,800
	(800)

Since A's basis cannot be less than zero, the \$800 in excess of basis, which is considered as a distribution of money under section 752(b), is treated as capital gain from the sale or exchange or a partnership interest. See section 731(a).

§ 1.723-1 Basis of property contributed to partnership.

The basis to the partnership of property contributed to it by a partner is the adjusted basis of such property to the contributing partner at the time of the contribution. Since such property has the same basis in the hands of the partnership as it had in the hands of the contributing partner, the holding period of such property for the partnership includes the period during which it was held by the partner. See section 1223(2). For elective adjustments to the basis of partnership property arising from distributions or transfers of partnership interests, see sections 732(d), 734(b), and 743(b).

DISTRIBUTIONS BY A PARTNERSHIP

§ 1.731-1 Extent of recognition of gain or loss on distribution.

(a) *Recognition of gain or loss to partner*—(1) *Recognition of gain.* (i) Where money is distributed by a partnership to a partner, no gain shall be recognized to the partner except to the extent that the amount of money distributed exceeds the adjusted basis of the partner's interest in the partnership immediately before the distribution. This rule is applicable both to current distributions (i.e., distributions other than in liquidation of an entire interest) and to distributions in liquidation of a partner's entire interest in a partnership. Thus, if a partner with a basis for his interest of \$10,000 receives a distribution of cash of \$8,000 and property with a fair market value of \$3,000, no gain is recognized to him. If \$11,000 cash were distributed, gain would be recognized to the extent of \$1,000. No gain shall be recognized to a distributee partner with respect to a distribution of property (other than money) until he sells or otherwise dis-

poses of such property, except to the extent otherwise provided by section 736 (relating to payments to a retiring partner or a deceased partner's successor in interest) and section 751 (relating to unrealized receivables and inventory items). See section 731(c) and paragraph (c) of this section.

(ii) For the purposes of sections 731 and 705, advances or drawings of money or property against a partner's distributive share of income shall be treated as current distributions made on the last day of the partnership taxable year with respect to such partner.

(2) *Recognition of loss.* Loss is recognized to a partner only upon liquidation of his entire interest in the partnership, and only if the property distributed to him consists solely of money, unrealized receivables (as defined in section 751(c)), and inventory items (as defined in section 751(d)(2)). The term *liquidation of a partner's interest*, as defined in section 761(d), is the termination of the partner's entire interest in the partnership by means of a distribution or a series of distributions. Loss is recognized to the distributee partner in such cases to the extent of the excess of the adjusted basis of such partner's interest in the partnership at the time of the distribution over the sum of:

- (i) Any money distributed to him, and
- (ii) The basis to the distributee, as determined under section 732, of any unrealized receivables and inventory items that are distributed to him.

If the partner whose interest is liquidated receives any property other than money, unrealized receivables, or inventory items, then no loss will be recognized. Application of the provisions of this subparagraph may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. Partner A has a partnership interest in partnership ABC with an adjusted basis to him of \$10,000. He retires from the partnership and receives, as a distribution in liquidation of his entire interest, his share of partnership property. This share is \$5,000 cash and inventory with a basis to him (under section 732) of \$3,000. Partner A realizes a capital loss of \$2,000, which is recognized under section 731(a)(2).

Example 2. Partner B has a partnership interest in partnership BCD with an adjusted basis to him of \$10,000. He retires from the

partnership and receives, as a distribution in liquidation of his entire interest, his share of partnership property. This share is \$4,000 cash, real property (used in the trade or business) with an adjusted basis to the partnership of \$2,000, and unrealized receivables having a basis to him (under section 732) of \$3,000. No loss will be recognized to B on the transaction because he received property other than money, unrealized receivables, and inventory items. As determined under section 732, the basis to B for the real property received is \$3,000.

(3) *Character of gain or loss.* Gain or loss recognized under section 731(a) on a distribution is considered gain or loss from the sale or exchange of the partnership interest of the distributee partner, that is, capital gain or loss.

(b) *Gain or loss recognized by partnership.* A distribution of property (including money) by a partnership to a partner does not result in recognized gain or loss to the partnership under section 731. However, recognized gain or loss may result to the partnership from certain distributions which, under section 751(b), must be treated as a sale or exchange of property between the distributee partner and the partnership.

(c) *Exceptions.* (1) Section 731 does not apply to the extent otherwise provided by:

(i) Section 736 (relating to payments to a retiring partner or to a deceased partner's successor in interest) and

(ii) Section 751 (relating to unrealized receivables and inventory items).

For example, payments under section 736(a), which are considered as a distributive share or guaranteed payment, are taxable as such under that section.

(2) The receipt by a partner from the partnership of money or property under an obligation to repay the amount of such money or to return such property does not constitute a distribution subject to section 731 but is a loan governed by section 707(a). To the extent that such an obligation is canceled, the obligor partner will be considered to have received a distribution of money or property at the time of cancellation.

(3) If there is a contribution of property to a partnership and within a short period:

(i) Before or after such contribution other property is distributed to the contributing partner and the contrib-

uted property is retained by the partnership, or

(ii) After such contribution the contributed property is distributed to another partner,

such distribution may not fall within the scope of section 731. Section 731 does not apply to a distribution of property, if, in fact, the distribution was made in order to effect an exchange of property between two or more of the partners or between the partnership and a partner. Such a transaction shall be treated as an exchange of property.

§ 1.731-2 Partnership distributions of marketable securities.

(a) *Marketable securities treated as money.* Except as otherwise provided in section 731(c) and this section, for purposes of sections 731(a)(1) and 737, the term money includes marketable securities and such securities are taken into account at their fair market value as of the date of the distribution.

(b) *Reduction of amount treated as money—(1) Aggregation of securities.* For purposes of section 731(c)(3)(B) and this paragraph (b), all marketable securities held by a partnership are treated as marketable securities of the same class and issuer as the distributed security.

(2) *Amount of reduction.* The amount of the distribution of marketable securities that is treated as a distribution of money under section 731(c) and paragraph (a) of this section is reduced (but not below zero) by the excess, if any, of—

(i) The distributee partner's distributive share of the net gain, if any, which would be recognized if all the marketable securities held by the partnership were sold (immediately before the transaction to which the distribution relates) by the partnership for fair market value; over

(ii) The distributee partner's distributive share of the net gain, if any, which is attributable to the marketable securities held by the partnership immediately after the transaction, determined by using the same fair market value as used under paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section.

(3) *Distributee partner's share of net gain.* For purposes of section