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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



25 JUL 2002

FILE: [Redacted] Office: Miami Date:

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Permanent Residence Pursuant to Section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966 (P.L. 89-732)

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

Public Copy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, who certified his decision to the Associate Commissioner, Examinations, for review. The district director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Nicaragua who filed this application for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966. This Act provides, in pertinent part:

[T]he status of any alien who is a native or citizen of Cuba and who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to January 1, 1959 and has been physically present in the United States for at least one year, may be adjusted by the Attorney General, in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien makes an application for such adjustment, and the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States for permanent residence. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to the spouse and child of any alien described in this subsection, regardless of their citizenship and place of birth, who are residing with such alien in the United States.

The district director determined that the applicant was not eligible for adjustment of status as the spouse of a native or citizen of Cuba pursuant to section 1 of the Act of November 2, 1966, because the applicant had not been physically present in the United States for at least one year prior to the filing of the application. The district director, therefore, denied the application.

The applicant has provided no statement or additional evidence on notice of certification.

The record reflects that on September 21, 2000, in Nicaragua, the applicant married [REDACTED] a native and citizen of Cuba and a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Based on that marriage, on November 7, 2000, the applicant filed for adjustment of her status to permanent residence under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act.

8 C.F.R. 245.2(a)(2)(ii) provides, in part:

An application for the benefits of section 1 of the Act of November 2, 1966 is not properly filed unless the applicant was inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to January 1, 1959. An applicant is ineligible for the benefits of the Act of

November 2, 1966 unless he or she has been physically present in the United States for one year.

The record reflects that the applicant was paroled into the United States on October 18, 2000. On November 7, 2000, less than one month after her parole, the applicant filed the application in this matter for adjustment of status under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act.

The provisions of section 1 of the Act require that an applicant for adjustment of status, including the spouse and child of any alien described in section 1, must have been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, and have been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

The applicant, in this case, has not demonstrated that she had been physically present in the United States for one year at the time of filing the adjustment application as required. She is, therefore, ineligible for the benefit sought. The district director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

Nonetheless, this decision is without prejudice to the filing of a new application for adjustment of status along with supporting documentation and the appropriate fee now that the applicant has been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

ORDER: The district director's decision is affirmed.