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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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[REDACTED]

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA

Date: **MAY 26 2004**

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)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[REDACTED]

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

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 Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) for review. The district director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Chile who filed this application for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA) of November 2, 1966. The CAA provides, in 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, (now the Secretary of Homeland Security, (Secretary)), 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 did not qualify for adjustment of status as the child of a native or citizen of Cuba, pursuant to section 1 of the CAA, because her stepfather was not paroled or admitted into the United States as a nonimmigrant. The district director, therefore, denied the application. *See District Director's Decision* dated February 18, 2004.

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

The record reflects that on February 12, 2000, the applicant's stepfather [REDACTED] entered the United States as a lawful permanent resident under the Diversity Program. On June 29, 2002, at Miami, Florida, the applicant's mother married Mr. [REDACTED] a native and citizen of Cuba. Based on that marriage, on July 29, 2002, the applicant filed for adjustment of status under section 1 of the CAA.

The statute clearly states that the provisions of section 1 of the CAA of November 2, 1966, shall be applicable to the spouse and child of any alien described in this subsection. In order for the applicant to be eligible for the benefits of section 1 of the CAA, he or she must be the spouse of a native or citizen of Cuba who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, and who has been physically present in the United States for at least one year. *See Matter of Milian*, 13 I&N Dec. 480 (Acting Reg. Comm. 1970) (applying the physical presence requirement as amended by Refugee Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-212, sec. 203(i), 94 Stat. 102, 108 (1980)).

In reviewing the status of an alien applying for benefits under section 2 of the CAA of November 2, 1966, the Regional Commissioner determined that an applicant who had been admitted as an immigrant in possession of a valid immigrant visa had never "originally" arrived in the United States as a nonimmigrant or parolee subsequent to January 1, 1959. In reaching this conclusion, the Regional Commissioner stated that "[s]ection 1 obviously refers to those Cuban refugees who were inspected and admitted as nonimmigrants or paroled into the United States." *Matter of Benguria Y Rodriguez*, 12 I&N Dec. 143 (Reg. Comm. 1967), *reaffirmed by Matter of Baez Ayala*, 13 I&N Dec. 79 (Reg. Comm. 1968).

In this case, the applicant's stepfather was not inspected and admitted as a nonimmigrant or paroled into the United States, but was admitted instead as a lawful permanent resident with a valid immigrant visa. Therefore, the benefits of section 1 of the CAA are not available to the applicant.

Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for adjustment of status to permanent residence pursuant to section 1 of the CAA of November 2, 1966. The decision of the district director to deny the application will be affirmed.

This decision is without prejudice to the filing of a Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130) by the applicant's stepfather on behalf of the applicant.

ORDER: The district director's decision is affirmed.