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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042
Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

A 2

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA Date: APR 1 5 2005

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, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, who certified his decision to the Administrative Appeals Office for review. The District Director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Bolivia 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 spouse of a native or citizen of Cuba, pursuant to section 1 of the CAA, because his spouse was not paroled or admitted into the United States as a nonimmigrant. The District Director, therefore, denied the application.

In his decision the director cited an unpublished AAO decision that indicated that per *Matter of Milian* ,13 I & N, Dec. 480 (Acting Reg. Comm. 1970) an applicant must be the spouse of an alien who has been admitted into the United States under section 1 of the Act. This is an old decision that the AAO has since withdrawn, as the interpretation of *Matter of Milian* was incorrect. The correct interpretation of *Matter of Milian* is that the spouse must meet all the requirements of section 1 of the CAA, not that he or she necessarily was admitted under the CAA.

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

The record reflects that on January 12, 1995, the applicant's spouse [redacted] was admitted to the United States for permanent residence as a F2-4 (unmarried daughter of a lawful permanent resident). On June 5, 2002, at Coral Gables, Florida, the applicant married [redacted] a native and citizen of Cuba. Based on that marriage, on July 5, 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).

Section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), states in pertinent part: "The term "immigrant" means every alien except an alien who is within one of the following classes of nonimmigrant aliens . . ." It continues to list all the nonimmigrant classifications. Individuals admitted as F2-4 are not included in the list, therefore, they are considered to be immigrants.

In the present case, the applicant's spouse 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 spouse on behalf of the applicant.

ORDER: The District Director's decision is affirmed.