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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

PUBLIC COPY

FILE: [redacted] Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA Date: MAR 0 9 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: SELF-REPRESENTED

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 (AAO) for review. The District Director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Colombia 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 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, (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. *See District Director's Decision* dated June 20, 2004.

The AAO notes that the record of proceedings contains a Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative (Form G-28). Neither counsel nor the applicant has signed the Form G-28 therefore the AAO will not be sending a copy of the decision to the attorney mentioned on the Form G-28.

In his decision the District 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 record reflects that on November 8, 1993, the applicant's spouse [redacted] was admitted to the United States for permanent residence as a RE-6 (an alien who adjusted status as a refugee). On April 28, 2002, at Miami, Florida, the applicant married [redacted] a native and citizen of Cuba. Based on that marriage, on May 14, 2002, the applicant filed for adjustment of status under section 1 of the CAA.

The record of proceedings reveals that a former District Adjudications Officer, who was arrested and subsequently convicted for his involvement in a marriage fraud scheme, had provided the applicant with a stamp indicating that permanent residence status had been granted on September 4, 2002. On May 28, 2004, the District Office issued a Notice of Reopening Adjustment of Status Proceedings and a new appointment notice was forwarded to the applicant in order to appear before Citizenship and Immigration Services, (CIS) for an interview regarding the application for permanent residence.

On July 20, 2004, the applicant appeared before CIS for an interview regarding the application for permanent residence. A review of the record of proceedings reveals that the applicant's application was improperly approved, as he was not eligible for the benefit granted.

On notice of certification, the applicant was offered an opportunity to submit evidence in opposition to the District Director's findings. No additional evidence has been entered into the record.

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. Refugees are not included in the list, therefore, they are considered to be immigrants.

In the present case, the applicant's spouse was admitted as a refugee under section 207(a) of the Act, and not as a parolee or nonimmigrant. Therefore, as the applicant's spouse was not inspected and admitted as a nonimmigrant or paroled into the United States, 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.

ORDER: The District Director's decision is affirmed.