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

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FILE: [Redacted]
XSD 88 002 6004

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: JAN 09 2008

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

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 decided your case. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, you no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. King" or similar, written over a circular stamp or mark.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the application because the applicant was unable to establish the requisite continuous residence in the United States due to his deportation in 1983.

On appeal, the applicant requested a copy of his administrative file and stated his belief that he was not deported, but was granted voluntary departure. The record shows that the petitioner was provided with a copy of the record of proceedings on September 28, 1999.

An applicant for temporary residence must establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed. Section 245A(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(2). An alien shall not be considered to have resided continuously in the United States, if, during any period for which continuous residence is required, the alien was outside of the United States as a result of a departure under an order of deportation. Section 245A(g)(2)(B)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(g)(2)(B)(i).

The record in this case shows that an immigration judge ordered the applicant deported from the United States to Mexico on August 24, 1983 and that the applicant departed the United States for Mexico, under the deportation order, that same day. Accordingly, the applicant did not reside continuously in the United States and is consequently ineligible for temporary resident status.

Beyond the director's decision, the applicant is also ineligible for temporary resident status because he is inadmissible to the United States. Section 245A(a)(4)(A) of the Act requires an alien to establish that he or she is admissible to the United States as an immigrant in order to be eligible for temporary resident status. Section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II) of the Act renders inadmissible aliens who departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding and who seek admission within 10 years of the date of the alien's departure. Section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II). Although this ground of inadmissibility may be waived pursuant to section 245A(d)(2)(B) of the Act, the record does not indicate that the applicant ever requested or was granted such a waiver. Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for temporary resident status due to his inadmissibility as an alien previously removed.

An application or petition that fails to comply with the technical requirements of the law may be denied by the AAO even if the Service Center does not identify all of the grounds for denial in the initial decision. *See Spencer Enterprises, Inc. v. United States*, 229 F. Supp. 2d 1025, 1043 (E.D. Cal. 2001), *aff'd*, 345 F.3d 683 (9th Cir. 2003). The AAO maintains plenary power to review each appeal on a *de novo* basis. 5 U.S.C. § 557(b) ("On appeal from or review of the initial decision, the agency has all the powers which it would have in making the initial decision except as it may limit the issues on notice or by rule."); *see also, Janka v. U.S. Dept. of Transp., NTSB*, 925 F.2d 1147, 1149 (9th Cir. 1991). The AAO's *de novo* authority has been long recognized by the federal courts. *See, e.g. Dor v. INS*, 891 F.2d 997, 1002 n. 9 (2d Cir. 1989).

The applicant has not established that he resided continuously in the United States in an unlawful status since January 1, 1982 and through the date his application was filed. Consequently, the applicant is

ineligible for temporary resident status pursuant to sections 245A(a)(2)(A) and 245A(g)(2)(B)(i) of the Act. The applicant has also failed to establish that he is admissible to the United States as an immigrant and is further ineligible for temporary resident status pursuant to section 245A(a)(4)(A) of the Act. Accordingly, the appeal must be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.