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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

[Redacted]

FILE:

[Redacted]

Office: National Benefits Center

Date: APR 05 2004

IN RE: Applicant:

[Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Permanent Resident pursuant to Section 1104 of the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-553, 114 Stat. 2762 (2000), amended by Life Act Amendments, Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. The file has been returned to the National Benefits Center. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter 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.


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the Director, Missouri Service Center. It is now on appeal before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The appeal will be dismissed.

The director concluded that the applicant had not established he had applied for class membership in any of the requisite legalization class-action lawsuits prior to October 1, 2000 and, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has already submitted documentation addressing the requirement of applying for class membership. He requests that this documentation be reviewed again and that further consideration be given to his case.

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act must establish that before October 1, 2000, he or she filed a written claim with the Attorney General for class membership in one of the following legalization class-action lawsuits: *Catholic Social Services, Inc. v. Meese*, vacated sub nom. *Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993) ("CSS"), *League of United Latin American Citizens v. INS*, vacated sub nom. *Reno v. Catholic Social Services, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 43 (1993) ("LULAC"), or *Zambrano v. INS*, vacated sub nom. *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Zambrano*, 509 U.S. 918 (1993) ("Zambrano"). See section 1104(b) of the LIFE Act and 8 C.F.R. § 245a.10.

The regulations provide an illustrative list of documents that an applicant may submit to establish that he or she filed a written claim for class membership before October 1, 2000. Those regulations also permit the submission of "[a]ny other relevant document(s)." See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14.

The applicant did file a timely application in January 1988 for temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker (SAW) under section 210 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which was added to the INA pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). The SAW application was denied by the Western Service Center on January 31, 1992. The applicant filed an appeal, which was dismissed by the Legalization Appeals Unit (the AAO's predecessor office) on April 17, 1995. An application for SAW status does not constitute an application for class membership in any of the legalization class-action lawsuits, as required under section 1104(b) of the LIFE Act. Furthermore, the LIFE Act contains no provision allowing for the reopening and reconsideration of an application for temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker under section 210 of the INA.

With his current LIFE application the applicant submitted a photocopy of a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, dated July 25, 2000, in which the applicant purportedly sought to be registered as a class member in CSS. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.10, a *written claim for class membership* means a filing, in writing, in one of the forms listed in § 245a.14, which provides the Attorney General with notice that the applicant meets the class definition in the cases of *CSS*, *LULAC* or *Zambrano*. The letter in this case does not constitute a "form" and does not equate to the actual forms listed in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.14, although that regulation states that other "relevant documents" may also be considered. The applicant's brief letter, however, does not even begin to imply that he could qualify for *CSS* class membership because it does not provide any relevant information upon which a determination could be made.

It must be noted that the applicant is one of many aliens who furnished identically-worded letters (most bearing dates in September 2000) as evidence of a claim for class membership in *CSS*, or one of the other legalization lawsuits. All of these aliens had their LIFE applications prepared by [REDACTED] of Santa Maria, California. None of these aliens has provided any evidence, such as postal receipts, which might help demonstrate that the letters were actually sent to the Attorney General. Given the importance of the letters, it is reasonable to conclude that at least some of the aliens would have sent them via certified or registered mail. Lastly, the statements on appeal submitted by these aliens, none of whom asserts to be

represented by counsel, are identical. All of these factors raise grave questions about the authenticity of the letter that the applicant purportedly sent to the Attorney General.

Doubt cast on any aspect of an applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence. It is incumbent upon an applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth, in fact, lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I & N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988).

The applicant furnishes no further evidence on appeal, but claims on his appeal form that the documentation previously submitted demonstrates that he submitted a "request for classification." The applicant complains that he has not been given any specifics as to why his application was denied. Contrary to the applicant's contention, the Notice of Decision explained that the application was being denied because none of the documentation submitted by the applicant or on record with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (now Citizenship and Immigration Services, or CIS) established that a timely claim for class membership had been filed - *i.e.*, prior to October 1, 2000 - in one of the requisite legalization lawsuits.

The photocopy of the applicant's letter to the Attorney General does not establish that the original was actually received by the office of the Attorney General or by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (CIS) in September 2000. The applicant has not provided any evidence, such as a postal receipt, that could help to show that he actually sent the subject letter to the Attorney General in July 2000, as alleged. In fact, there is no record that the subject letter was ever received prior to April 12, 2002, the date the Missouri Service Center received the applicant's LIFE application, accompanied by letter. This was long after the statutory deadline of October 1, 2000, for filing a written claim for class membership. *See* section 1104(b) of the LIFE Act. It is concluded, based on the entire record in this case, that the photocopied letter the applicant has submitted, dated July 25, 2000 and allegedly sent to the Attorney General, is *not* a true copy of an authentic document.

The evidence of record, therefore, does not establish that the applicant filed a written claim for class membership prior to October 1, 2000 in *CSS* or either of the other two legalization lawsuits, *LULAC* or *Zambrano*, as required under section 1104(b) of the LIFE Act.

Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for permanent resident status under the LIFE Act.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility.