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U.S. Department of Justice  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS  
425 Eye Street N.W.  
ULLB, 3rd Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20536

File:

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: FEB - 3 2003

IN RE: Applicant:

Application: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1254

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

**PUBLIC COPY**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This is the decision 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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,  
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who indicated on his application that he entered the United States without a lawful admission or parole in 1995. The director denied the application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1254, because the applicant failed to establish he had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has been residing in the United States since 1995. The applicant claims that he and his brother shared the rent payments, and he gave his brother cash for his portion of the rent. The applicant states that he received his wages in cash.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. 244.2, provide that an applicant who is a national of a foreign state is eligible for temporary protected status only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) is a national of a state designated under section 244(b) of the Act;
- (b) has been continuously physically present in the United States since the effective date of the most recent designation of that foreign state;
- (c) has continuously resided in the United States since such date as the Attorney General may designate;
- (d) is admissible as an immigrant under section 244.3;
- (e) is not ineligible under 8 C.F.R. 244.4; and
- (f) (1) registers for TPS during the initial registration period, or
  - (2) registers for TPS during any subsequent extension of such designation, if the applicant meets the above listed requirements and:
    - (i) the applicant is a nonimmigrant or has been granted voluntary departure status or any relief from removal;
    - (ii) the applicant has an application for change of status,

adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any relief from removal which is pending or subject to further review or appeal;

(iii) the applicant is a parolee or has a pending request for reparole; or

(iv) the applicant is a spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.

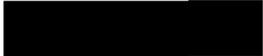
The term continuously physically present, as used in 8 C.F.R. 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. Any departure, not authorized by the Service, including any brief, casual, and innocent departure, shall be deemed to break an alien's continuous physical presence.

The term continuously resided as used in 8 C.F.R. 244.1 means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of brief, casual, and innocent absence as defined within this section or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside the control of the alien.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate entry on or prior to February 13, 2001, that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by the Service. 8 C.F.R. 244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. To meet his or her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. 244.9(b).

On February 25, 2002, the applicant was provided the opportunity to submit evidence establishing his residence since February 13, 2001, in the United States. The applicant, in response, provided an affidavit from Aura Acevedo who claims to have known the applicant since 2000, two receipts issued to someone other than the applicant in 2000 and 2001, a receipt dated June 18, 2001 from Hi-Tech Computer & Electronics, and a copy of a photograph of himself purportedly taken in February 2000.



On appeal, the applicant submits additional copies of the receipts previously provided along with several new photographs of himself. The applicant claims that he received his wages in cash, but provides no employment letter to establish employment.

The receipts cannot serve to establish that the applicant has been residing in the United States since February 13, 2001 as they do not indicate the applicant's name. As to the photographs provided by the applicant, there is no identifying evidence that can be extracted from the photographs which would serve to either prove or imply that these photos were taken in the United States.

The applicant has not submitted any credible evidence to establish that he has met the criteria for residence and physical presence described in 8 C.F.R. 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

An alien applying for temporary protected status has the burden of proving that he or she meets the requirements enumerated above and is otherwise eligible under the provisions of section 244 of the Act. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.