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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



FILE:



Office: Texas Service Center

Date:

**JAN 29 2004**

IN RE:

Applicant:



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

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 for*

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish that he is a national of a foreign state designated by the Attorney General and eligible for the granting of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

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

Is a national of a foreign state designated under section 244(b) of the Act;....

The applicant indicated on his application that he was a citizen of both El Salvador and Canada. In support of his application, he submitted copies from his Canadian passport including the biographical pages and an admission stamp indicating that the applicant's last admission into the United States was at Houston, Texas on March 31, 2000, as a citizen of Canada.

The director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish that he was a national of a foreign state designated by the Attorney General and denied the application on May 6, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant asserted that he is eligible for TPS because he is a citizen of El Salvador. In support of his assertion, the applicant submitted copies of his Salvadoran passport issued on May 28, 2003, his Salvadoran Personal Identification Card, and his Salvadoran birth certificate.

In *Chee Kin Jang v. Reno*, 113 F. 3d 1074 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997), the United States Court of Appeals found that the Service reasonably interpreted the term "PRC national" in CSPA (Chinese Student Protection Act) to Exclude Chinese dual nationals who did not declare citizenship of PRC (People's Republic of China) when they entered the United States, and that the Service's treatment of PRC dual nationals, depending on whether they entered under a PRC passport or a passport of a different country, was reasonable. The Court states that an alien is bound by the nationality claimed or established at the time of entry for the duration of his or her stay in the United States. Thus, a dual national CSPA principal applicant must have claimed PRC nationality at the time of his or her last entry into the United States.

In *Chevron USA, Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Counsel*, 467 U.S. 837, 842-843 & n.9 (1984), the district court held that the practice of binding an alien to his claimed nationality "promotes the congressional policy of insuring that an alien will be able to return, voluntarily or otherwise, to his or her country of origin if requested to do so and provides for consistency in the enforcement of law, especially given the large numbers of nonimmigrant foreign nationals who visit the United States each year."

Additionally, the Board of Immigration Appeals, in *Matter of Ognibene*, 18 I&N Dec. 425 (BIA 1983), concluded that although an alien may hold the phenomenon of dual nationality, an alien may only claim one citizenship at a time for purposes of immigration matters within the United States. As explained in *Ognibene*, clearly, it is not the prerogative or position of the United States to require a dual national alien nonimmigrant to elect to retain one or another of his nationalities. Equally as clear, the national sovereignty of the United States is acceptably and reasonably exercised through section 214 of the Act in holding that a dual national

alien nonimmigrant is, for the duration of his temporary stay in the United States, of the nationality which he claimed or established at the time that he entered the United States.

The Board, in *Ognibene*, further held that under appropriate circumstances in a given proceeding of law, the operative nationality of a dual national may be determined by his conduct without affording him the opportunity to elect which of his nationalities he will exercise. The General Counsel, in GENCO Op. 84-22 (July 13, 1984), reinforced this concept and states, "In interpreting a law which turns on nationality, the individual's conduct with regard to a particular nation may be examined. An individual's conduct determines his 'operative nationality.' The 'operative nationality' is determined by allowing the individual to elect which nationality to exercise. The nationality claimed or established by the nonimmigrant alien when he enters the United States must be regarded as his sole nationality for the duration of his stay in the United States." (Emphasis in original).

Additionally, the General Counsel, in GENCO Op. 92-34 (August 7, 1992), concluded that the Service may, in the exercise of discretion, deny TPS in the case of an alien who, although a national of a foreign state designated for TPS, is also a national of another foreign state that has not been designated for TPS. The General Counsel explains that "TPS is not a provision designated to create a general right to remain in the United States. Rather, the statute provides a regularized means of granting haven to aliens who, because of extraordinary and temporary circumstances, cannot return to their home country in safety. See *id.* 244A(b)(1)(A), (B), and (C), 8 U.S.C. § 1254(b)(1)(a), (b), and (c)."

The applicant stated on his Application for Temporary Protected Status that he last entered the United States as a visitor at Houston, Texas on March 31, 2000. This entry is confirmed by the admission stamp in his Canadian passport. As such, it is clear that the applicant asserted his Canadian citizenship when he presented himself for inspection at that time, and this citizenship must be regarded as his operative nationality during these proceedings. As a citizen and national of Canada, the applicant is ineligible for the provisions of section 244 of the Act. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(a). The director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed, as a matter of discretion.

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.