

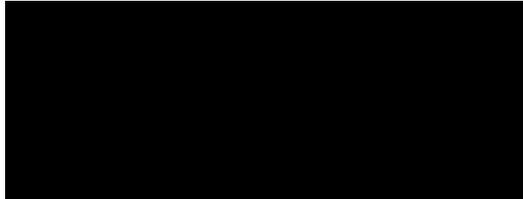
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U.S. Citizenship
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Services



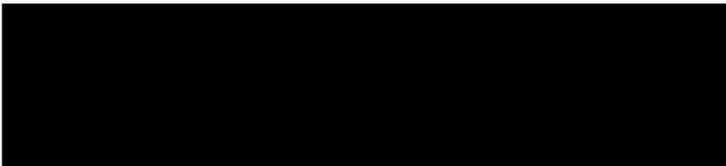
AJ

FILE: [Redacted] Office: WASHINGTON DISTRICT Date: **20 2009**

IN RE: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Status as Permanent Resident Pursuant to Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957, 8 U.S.C. § 1255b.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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 you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required by 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Grissom".

John F. Grissom, Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Field Office Director, Washington, D.C. and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Pakistan who is seeking to adjust his status to that of lawful permanent resident under section 13 of the Act of 1957 ("Section 13"), Pub. L. No. 85-316, 71 Stat. 642, as modified, 95 Stat. 1611, 8 U.S.C. § 1255b, as an alien who performed diplomatic or semi-diplomatic duties under section 101(a)(15)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(A)(ii).

The field office director denied the application for adjustment of status after determining that the applicant had filed the Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Resident or Adjust Status, prior to the termination of his A-2 status as required under Section 13.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant asserts that the applicant has complied with the exception set out in the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245.1(a) as "any alien" who is physically present in the United States, if the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and an immigrant visa is immediately available at the time of filing of the application. Counsel asserts that holding diplomatic status is not incompatible with adjustment of status and the applicant in this matter who executed a Form I-508, Written Waiver, is not ineligible for adjustment of status, but rather is eligible to hold lawful permanent resident status, notwithstanding the holding of diplomatic status during the application process.

Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957, as amended on December 29, 1981, by Pub. L. 97-116, 95 Stat. 1161, provides, in pertinent part:

(a) Any alien admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant under the provisions of either section 101(a)(15)(A)(i) or (ii) or 101(a)(15)(G)(i) or (ii) of the Act, who has failed to maintain a status under any of those provisions, may apply to the [Department of Homeland Security] for adjustment of his status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(b) If, after consultation with the Secretary of State, it shall appear to the satisfaction of the [Department of Homeland Security] that the alien has shown compelling reasons demonstrating both that the alien is unable to return to the country represented by the government which accredited the alien or the member of the alien's immediate family and that adjustment of the alien's status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence would be in the national interest, that the alien is a person of good moral character, that he is admissible for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and that such action would not be contrary to the national welfare, safety, or security, the [Department of Homeland Security], in its discretion, may record the alien's lawful admission for permanent residence as of the date [on which] the order of the [Department of Homeland Security] approving the application for adjustment of status is made. 8 U.S.C. § 1255b(b).

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245.3, eligibility for adjustment of status under Section 13 is limited to aliens who were admitted into the United States under section 101, paragraphs (a)(15)(A)(i), (a)(15)(A)(ii), (a)(15)(G)(i), or (a)(15)(G)(ii) of the Act who performed diplomatic or semi-diplomatic duties and to their immediate families, and who establish that there are compelling reasons why the applicant or the member of the applicant's immediate family is unable to return to the country represented by the government that accredited the applicant, and that adjustment of the applicant's status to that of an alien lawfully admitted to permanent residence would be in the national interest. Aliens whose duties were of a custodial, clerical, or menial nature, and members of their immediate families, are not eligible for benefits under Section 13.

The legislative history for Section 13 reveals that the provision was intended to provide adjustment of status for a "limited class of . . . worthy persons . . . left homeless and stateless" as a consequence of "Communist and other uprisings, aggression, or invasion" that have "in some cases . . . wiped out" their governments. Statement of Senator John F. Kennedy, *Analysis of Bill to Amend the Immigration Nationality Act*, 85th Cong., 103 Cong. Rec. 14660 (August 14, 1957). The phrase "compelling reasons" was added to Section 13 in 1981 after Congress "considered 74 such cases and rejected all but 4 of them for failure to satisfy the criteria clearly established by the legislative history of the 1957 law." H. R. Rep. 97-264 at 33 (October 2, 1981).

In this matter, a review of the record shows that the applicant began his employment as a personal assistant to the Consul General at the Consulate General of Pakistan, Los Angeles in January 2002 and that his tenure ended in July 2006. The applicant applied for adjustment of status on October 7, 2005. These facts are not in dispute. The AAO concurs with the field office director's determination that the applicant was ineligible for consideration under Section 13 as the applicant's status had not been terminated when the applicant filed for adjustment of status.

Contrary to counsel's assertions, the plain language of Section 13(a) requires that an alien not be maintaining status in order to *apply* for adjustment of status. Once the applicant has established that initial eligibility criteria and has applied, then the criteria found in Section 13(b) are considered in determining if the applicant is eligible to be adjusted to permanent resident status. Counsel has cited no authority to support an interpretation contrary to the plain language of Section 13. The AAO determines that an applicant for adjustment of status under Section 13 must not be maintaining diplomatic status in order to apply for adjustment under Section 13, and that his or her status must therefore be terminated prior to the date on which the adjustment application is filed.

In this matter, counsel and the applicant acknowledge the applicant was maintaining diplomatic status when he applied for adjustment of status pursuant to Section 13. Accordingly, the AAO finds that the application for adjustment of status under Section 13 was properly denied. The AAO notes that denial of the application on this ground does not preclude the applicant from filing a new application once the requirement for applying – failure to maintain status – has been met.

For the reasons discussed above, the AAO finds that the applicant is not eligible for adjustment under Section 13. He has failed to establish that his authorized status in the United States was terminated prior to filing the Form I-485 application. Pursuant to section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361, the burden



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of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he is eligible for adjustment of status. The applicant has failed to meet that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.