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FEB 14 2005

FILE: [REDACTED] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date:  
[EAC 02 047 50625]

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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.

  
for Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

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

The applicant is stated to be a native and citizen of El Salvador who is seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant provides a brief statement, some additional documentation and documentation previously submitted.

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 designated by the Attorney General is eligible for temporary protected status only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national, as defined in section 101(a)(21) of the Act, of a foreign 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 except as provided 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 announced by public notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, or
- (2) During any subsequent extension of such designation if at the time of the initial registration period:
  - (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.
- (g) Has filed an application for late registration with the appropriate Service director within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The issue raised by the director to be addressed in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established his continuous residence in the United States during the requisite timeframe.

The phrase continuously physically present, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by virtue of brief, casual, and innocent absences as defined within this section.

The phrase continuously resided, as defined 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 a 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.

The phrase brief, casual, and innocent absence, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until March 9, 2005, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period. The record reveals that the applicant filed his application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on October 19, 2001.

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 CIS. 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).

In a notice of action, dated May 16, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001. In response, the applicant provided documentation not relative to the requisite timeframe.

The director found that the evidence submitted failed to establish the applicant's continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001. The director denied the application on August 26, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states, "I came to the United States on [sic]. I have not been out of the United States since then." The applicant submits: a letter dated September 11, 2003, from the "HR Manager" of Brookville Plaza Management Inc., which states that the applicant has been employed with Brookville Plaza Management Inc., since January 1, 2001; copies of earnings statements previously submitted for June 10, 2002 and June 17, 2002; a copy of a previously submitted contract from the New York Language Center, dated February 3, 2001; a copy of a receipt from Western Union, dated, January 31, 2001; a document in a foreign language from Lexicon Marketing Corp.; and, money transfer receipts from El Triunfo Express for January 6, 2001, January 17, 2001, January 29, 2001, February 14, 2001, and May 2, 2001.

The documentation submitted is not sufficient in establishing that the applicant has continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001. The earnings statements do not cover the relevant timeframe, and the money receipts from El Triunfo Express only cover one month of the relevant timeframe. In addition, the employment letter, without supporting documentary evidence such as pay records covering the requisite period, without supporting documentary evidence, are not sufficient for the purpose of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *See Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972). The applicant has provided no additional evidence on appeal to sufficiently establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, until the filing of his TPS application on October 19, 2001. The applicant has failed to provide sufficient evidence to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS on this ground will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the evidence contained in the record is not sufficient in establishing that the applicant has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. Therefore, the application must also be denied for this reason.

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.