



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Press Release

November 21, 2003

AGUIRRE LEADS CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN



Miami, FL – Eduardo Aguirre, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today led a citizenship ceremony for eight adopted children, from seven countries, and their families. The ceremony comes a day before National Adoption Day, and is part of USCIS’ observance of National Adoption Month.

“The children we celebrate today now have adoptive families and adoptive countries. Though one wonderful journey has come to an end, another more profound one begins, that of their quest for the American Dream,” said Director Aguirre.

This morning, at the Miami District Office, with employees and community leaders on hand, Director Aguirre personally signed and presented Certificates of Citizenship to the children and their families. The children ranged in age from two to 14, and were from the countries of India, Poland, The Peoples Republic of China, Venezuela, Bahamas, Guatemala, and Russia.

Earlier this month, USCIS announced the establishment of a Joint Working Group with the U.S. Department of State for the full implementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, in accordance with the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. The Hague Convention and the Intercountry Adoption Act codify the U.S. Government’s long-standing efforts to ensure that the best interests of adopted children remain the focus of international adoptions.

Also this month, Director Aguirre announced the creation of a Child Citizenship Act Program to simplify and streamline the process by which parents obtain a Certificate of Citizenship for their children. The program will eliminate the backlog of N-643 forms and automatically provide Certificates of Citizenship to certain adopted children within 45 days of entry into the United States.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.



Director Aguirre administers Citizenship Ceremony for internationally adopted children in Miami.