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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
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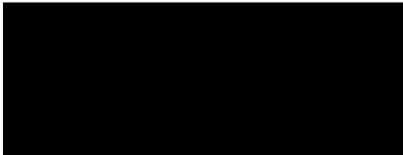
Date: JAN 11 2002

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(L)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



PUBLIC COPY

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which 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 which 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 which 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. Weimann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. The matter is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is described as a stock trader and an on-line seller of goods. The petitioner seeks to continue the employment of the beneficiary in the United States as its president. The director determined that the petitioner had not established a qualifying relationship with the foreign entity.

On appeal, counsel for the petitioner asserts that the director's determination is in error and submits further evidence for consideration.

To establish L-1 eligibility under section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(L), the petitioner must demonstrate that the beneficiary, within three years preceding the beneficiary's application for admission into the United States, has been employed abroad in a qualifying managerial or executive capacity, or in a capacity involving specialized knowledge, for one continuous year by a qualifying organization and seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to continue to render his or her services to the same employer or a subsidiary or affiliate thereof in a capacity that is managerial, executive, or involves specialized knowledge.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(1)(3) states that an individual petition filed on Form I-129 shall be accompanied by:

(i) Evidence that the petitioner and the organization which employed or will employ the alien are qualifying organizations as defined in paragraph (1)(1)(ii)(G) of this section.

(ii) Evidence that the alien will be employed in an executive, managerial, or specialized knowledge capacity, including a detailed description of the services to be performed.

The United States petitioner was incorporated in December of 1998 in New York. The foreign entity was incorporated in September of 1991 as a limited liability company in the Republic of Moldova. The petitioner is requesting the continuation of employment for the beneficiary as president of the United States business.

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the petitioner and the foreign entity are qualifying organizations.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(1)(1)(ii)(G) states:

Qualifying organization means a United States or

foreign firm, corporation, or other legal entity which:

(1) Meets exactly one of the qualifying relationships specified in the definitions of a parent, branch, affiliate or subsidiary specified in paragraph (1)(1)(ii) of this section;

(2) Is or will be doing business (engaging in international trade is not required) as an employer in the United States and in at least one other country directly or through a parent, branch, affiliate, or subsidiary for the duration of the alien's stay in the United States as an intracompany transferee; and

(3) Otherwise meets the requirements of section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Act.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(l)(1)(ii)(I) states:

Parent means a firm, corporation, or other legal entity which has subsidiaries.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(l)(1)(ii)(J) states:

Branch means an operation division or office of the same organization housed in a different location.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(l)(1)(ii)(K) states:

Subsidiary means a firm, corporation, or other legal entity of which a parent owns, directly or indirectly, more than half of the entity and controls the entity; or owns, directly or indirectly, half of the entity and controls the entity; or owns, directly or indirectly, 50 percent of a 50-50 joint venture and has equal control and veto power over the entity; or owns, directly or indirectly, less than half of the entity, but in fact controls the entity.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(l)(1)(ii)(L) states, in pertinent part:

Affiliate means (1) One of two subsidiaries both of which are owned and controlled by the same parent or individual, or

(2) One of two legal entities owned and controlled by the same group of individuals, each individual owning and controlling approximately the same share or proportion of each entity.

The petitioner initially submitted its certificate of incorporation dated December of 1998, a share certificate issuing 100 shares of the petitioner to Guinea Currency Exchange Office

and its 1999 Internal Revenue Service Form 1120 (IRS Form 1120). The petitioner also submitted a certificate of incorporation for the foreign entity and noted that the foreign entity had changed its name from "Guinea" S.R.L. to "Sandero-Grup" S.R.L. in October of 1999.

The director requested additional evidence to establish the United States entity and the foreign entity were qualifying organizations.

In response, the petitioner re-submitted the same incorporation documents and share certificates. The petitioner also submitted copies of letters and e-mails exchanged between the two companies.

The director determined that the petitioner had not established a qualifying L-1 relationship as of the date of filing the petition.

On appeal, the petitioner submits its stock registration ledger and a certified letter from the president of Casa De Schimb Valutar "Guinea" indicating that the Guinea Exchange Office owns all of the outstanding shares of the petitioner. Counsel asserts that all the documents establishing a qualifying relationship have been submitted and that the ownership that existed in February of 1999 continues to exist to present.

On review, the record as presently constituted is not persuasive in demonstrating that a qualifying relationship exists between the petitioner and the foreign entity. The regulation and case law confirm that ownership and control are the factors that must be examined in determining whether a qualifying relationship exists between the United States and a foreign entity for purposes of this nonimmigrant visa classification. Matter of Siemens Medical Systems, Inc., 19 I&N Dec. 362 (BIA 1986); see also Matter of Hughes, 18 I&N Dec. 289 (Comm. 1982); Matter of Church of Scientology International, 19 I&N Dec. 593 (BIA 1988) (in immigrant proceedings). The petitioner has provided confusing documentation regarding the ownership and control of the petitioner. The company that owns 100 shares of the petitioner, as evidenced by the issued share certificate, is called Guinea Currency Exchange Office. The stock registration ledger indicates that 100 shares have been issued to a company called Guinea Currency Foreign Exchange. There are references to a foreign entity called Guinea S.R.L. throughout the documentation submitted. However, there is no documentation indicating that these companies refer to the same foreign entity. The name change of Guinea S.R.L. to Sandero-Grup S.R.L. serves to complicate the matter further. The certified letter from the president of Casa De Schimb Valutar "Guinea" indicates that the owner of the petitioner is called Guinea Exchange Office. It may be that the name discrepancies are due to translation error and imprecise use of language. However, it is incumbent upon the petitioner to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such

inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth, in fact, lies, will not suffice. Matter of Ho, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988). Of further note, the petitioner's 1999 Federal Income Tax Return, IRS Form 1120 indicates that there is no foreign ownership of the petitioner. Based on the contradictory evidence regarding the ownership and control of the petitioner, the Service cannot find that a qualifying relationship exists in this case.

The second issue in this proceeding, and beyond the decision of the director, is whether the petitioner has established that the beneficiary has been employed in a primarily managerial or executive capacity.

Section 101(a)(44)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(44)(A), provides:

The term "managerial capacity" means an assignment within an organization in which the employee primarily-

i. manages the organization, or a department, subdivision, function, or component of the organization;

ii. supervises and controls the work of other supervisory, professional, or managerial employees, or manages an essential function within the organization, or a department or subdivision of the organization;

iii. if another employee or other employees are directly supervised, has the authority to hire and fire or recommend those as well as other personnel actions (such as promotion and leave authorization), or if no other employee is directly supervised, functions at a senior level within the organizational hierarchy or with respect to the function managed; and

iv. exercises discretion over the day-to-day operations of the activity or function for which the employee has authority. A first-line supervisor is not considered to be acting in a managerial capacity merely by virtue of the supervisor's supervisory duties unless the employees supervised are professional.

Section 101(a)(44)(B) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(44)(B), provides:

The term "executive capacity" means an assignment within an organization in which the employee primarily-

- i. directs the management of the organization or a major component or function of the organization;
- ii. establishes the goals and policies of the organization, component, or function;
- iii. exercises wide latitude in discretionary decision-making; and
- iii. receives only general supervision or direction from higher level executives, the board of directors, or stockholders of the organization.

The petitioner initially submitted a vague and general description of the beneficiary's duties. In the correspondence submitted in response to the director's request for additional information the description of the beneficiary's duties indicates that the beneficiary is performing operational rather than managerial or executive duties. An employee who primarily performs the tasks necessary to produce a product or to provide services is not considered to be employed in a managerial or executive capacity. Matter of Church Scientology International, supra at 604. The record does not support a finding that the beneficiary will be employed in a primarily managerial or executive capacity. As the appeal will be dismissed for failure to establish a qualifying relationship between the foreign entity and the petitioner, this issue will not be examined further.

In visa petition proceedings, the burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. Here, that burden has not been met.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.