



U.S. Department of Justice  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the Commissioner

425 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20536

DEC 21 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL A. PEARSON  
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER  
FIELD OPERATIONS

FROM:

James W. Ziglar  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Suspension of adjudication of Cambodian orphan petitions

I am hereby directing that as of the close of business on December 21, 2001, the INS is suspending the processing of orphan petitions from the country of Cambodia. This suspension is necessary due to concerns over the process through which children in Cambodia are made available for adoption. The deficiencies in this process have impeded the INS' ability to determine that the prospective adoptive children have been made available for international adoption under circumstances that meet the requirements of U.S. immigration laws. I cannot allow the process of adjudicating these petitions to go forward while significant questions about the integrity of the process remain. Therefore, I have ordered the immediate suspension of these petitions until such time as the entire adoption process in Cambodia is investigated and any identified deficiencies corrected. The INS will hold these petitions and adjudicate them in order of receipt once the suspension is lifted. A notice to this effect will be published in the Federal Register.