

U.S. Refuses Visa to Cuban Director to Get Film Award

David Binder

The State Department announced today that it had denied a request by the Cuban film director Tomás Gutiérrez Alea for an entry visa to accept the award of the National Society of Film Critics in New York Sunday.

A visa application was also turned down for Saul Yelin, director of Cuba's National Film Institute,* who had asked to accompany Mr. Gutiérrez as an interpreter.

The award of \$2000 and a plaque was to honor the 45-year-old director's 1968 film, *Memories of Underdevelopment*.

Hollis Alpert, chairman of the critics group, said he was warned today by a United States Treasury official that it would be a violation of the Trading with the Enemy Act for anyone to accept the award on behalf of Mr. Gutiérrez. . . .

The official said the United States had granted visas to "well under 100 Cubans" in the last year to attend international conferences, go to the United Nations and participate in certain amateur and professional athletic events and "for humanitarian purposes."

"The denial represents a continuation of U.S. policy toward Cuba," he added.

From the *New York Times*, 17 January 1974, p. 41.

* Yelin was actually Head of Foreign Relations for the Institute. -ed.