EL SALVADOR

During the past two years of GSP review of El Salvador, the Government of that country has failed to correct the problems documented in our petition of June 1, 1990, and our testimony of October, 1990 and October 1991. Instead, there is new evidence that worker rights continue to be violated.

As noted in the past, despite the fact that de facto collective bargaining occurs in some public employee sectors not covered by law, compliance with the resulting agreements are entirely dependent on the whims of management. For example, Ministry of Labor employees were not given during the first quarter of this year, the salary raise promised them in a de facto collective agreement as pointed out in an April 14, 1992 letter to the Subcommittee from Juan Jose Huezo, General Secretary of FENASTRAS.

The AFL-CIO agrees with the Subcommittee that public sector bargaining rights must eventually be incorporated into a new labor code in order to be effective. Unfortunately, the government has not moved vigorously to secure such reforms.

Despite the signing of the peace accord, trade unionists are still being threatened and intimidated for legitimate union activity. All too often, the threats are carried out. The AFL-CIO would like to call your attention to the cruel torture and murder of Nazario de Jesus Gracias, the night watchman at the FEASIES trade union headquarters, on March 2, 1992. 

Because of these and other violations which will be provided to the Subcommittee at a later time, the AFL-CIO urges that GSP trading privileges for El Salvador be terminated.