The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations filed a petition from USTR in February 1997 contending that Swaziland was not providing internationally recognized worker rights, particularly the rights to associational and bargaining collectively. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) agreed.

Subsequently, with encouragement from the United States and technical assistance from the International Labor Organization (ILO), Swaziland developed new industrial relations legislation consistent with internationally recognized worker rights. After the Swaziland legislature adopted the new law, however, the legislation was modified in a manner that makes it inconsistent with ILO conventions on the rights to associate and bargain collectively. Swaziland has not put the modified legislation into effect.

Swaziland’s enactment of ILO inconsistent legislation has led the TPSC to conclude that Swaziland has made no appreciable progress toward affording internationally recognized worker rights. As a result, the TPSC is seeking public comment on the impact of suspending duty-free treatment for articles imported from Swaziland.

Opportunities for Public Comment and Inspection of Comments

The GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC invites comments in support of, or in opposition to, withdrawal of duty-free treatment on imports from Swaziland under the GSP program. The deadline for submissions is 5 PM on Friday, September 29, 2000.

Comments must be submitted in 15 copies, in English, to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 513, Washington, DC 20568.

Information and comments will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6 and 2007.7. If the document contains business confidential information, 15 copies of a nonconfidential version of the submission along with 15 copies of the confidential version must be submitted.

The business confidential version of the submission should be clearly marked “Submitted in Confidence” at the top and on each page of the document. A nonconfidential summary of the business confidential information must be included with the business confidential submission, along with...