Going beyond even the AFL-CIO's most dire predictions, recent events in Thailand prove that the powers that took over the country in the 1991 coup have all along displayed a deep-seated contempt for human and worker rights that should be answered decisively. That broad sections of the populace, including workers and their leaders, put their lives on the line to force the military to back down, is a testimony both to the repressiveness of the current regime and the courage and commitment of the Thai people to restore democracy and their rights. Despite the political maneuverings in recent days, there is still no commitment to roll back the laws which dealt a near-death blow to the Thai labor movement.

It is within this atmosphere that the AFL-CIO calls for Thailand's immediate removal from the GSP program. With the abundant evidence collected over the past several months, the AFL-CIO will file further briefs with the Subcommittee detailing the continuing abuse of worker rights in Thailand, and will call for the removal of GSP benefits from Thailand at the earliest possible date.