

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL UNION
1900 L STREET, NX, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20086-5080

PRESIDENT JAMES J. NORTON

Public

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14 April 1999

Mr. Jorge Perez-Lopez
Director, Office of International Economic Affairs
U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of International Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Perez-Lopez:

March 22, 1999

***Re: Comments Re: March 4, 1999
Public Comments Request***

In response to your letter of March 4, 1999, please be advised that I am James J. Norton, President of the Graphic Communications International Union, an affiliate union of the AFL-CIO, of the United States of America.

Our Union is not opposed to trade per se, but the methods of permitting trade policies to be practiced between our country and others who wish to participate in our markets must be such that they permit equal participation in the markets of those countries who will be trading with the US.

If those standards cannot be reached immediately, then a limited trade exchange can be entered into with a time requirement urged upon the trading partner of the US and if that time period has not produced an equal "footing" between the trading partners, then the limited trade privilege should be withdrawn.

Trading countries should also include human rights provisions that resemble those within the US along with Labor rights for its citizens who wish to participate in a Labor organization. Workers should not have to "match" their counterparts in the US, but they have to have the capacity to seek such gains as can be achieved through prudent collective bargaining, where it is desired.

The labor unions in our trading partners should be free and independent of government control.

Jorge Perez-Lopez
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The AFL-CIO has an effective department which is prepared to work with the Department of Labor and has been doing so for a number of years to bring such a position about. Those position papers are already available and can be supplemented through the Department of International Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity of presenting a position adopted by the GCIU.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

James J. Norton,
President

JJN:mmc

cc: Paul E. Golden, Executive Assistant to the President, GCIU
Chairman of the Committee of Government Representatives
Civil Society Participation
AFL-CIO International Affairs Department