

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE



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October 17, 2002

Mr. Steven Falken
Chairman, GSP Subcommittee
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: Support for IPR Petitions Submitted in the
2001 Annual GSP Country Eligibility
Practices Review (Lebanon, Pakistan,
Uruguay and Thailand)

Dear Mr. Falken:

As you know, the IIPA filed three petitions on June 13, 2001, requesting that the Subcommittee initiate GSP reviews of the intellectual property rights practices in three countries: Lebanon, Pakistan and Uruguay. At the same time, a separate petition was jointly filed by six IIPA member trade associations requesting a GSP IPR review against Thailand. The IIPA and its member associations strongly supported the renewal of the GSP Program in the Trade Act of 2002.

Now that the GSP program has been reauthorized, we want to reiterate to you and the Subcommittee IIPA's strong support for the acceptance of these four IPR petitions. IIPA and its members have been keeping the interagency informed of developments in these countries since the filing of the June 2001 petitions. In addition, the IIPA's February 2002 Special 301 report contains information on all four countries (see www.iipa.com) which reflects their ongoing failure to comply with the intellectual property criteria governing eligibility for benefits under the GSP Program. In brief:

- Lebanon: Cable piracy remains pervasive, and enforcement continues to be ineffective.
- Pakistan: The problem of optical disc piracy for export continues to grow (at last count there were 8 known CD plants); the Berne/TRIPS-incompatible book compulsory license remains in full use; and there is a woeful lack of effective enforcement against all types of copyright piracy.
- Uruguay: While pending draft amendments to the copyright reflect an improvement over earlier bills presented over the past decade, more revisions are necessary before adoption

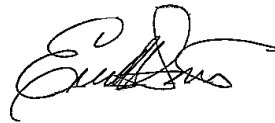
in order to satisfy TRIPS obligations and address issues of WIPO Treaties' implementation; enforcement remains weak.

- Thailand: Optical disk piracy levels are high; an optical disk law is needed, but its progress toward adoption has languished; and there is not effective enough copyright enforcement.

We would be please to provide you and the GSP Subcommittee with any additional information you require in evaluating whether to accept these petitions.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric H. Smith", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Eric H. Smith,
President
International Intellectual Property Alliance