The following communication was received from the delegation of the United States on 24 April 1991.

1. On 1 February 1991, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced four new beneficiaries of the United States generalized system of preferences (GSP) programme.

2. Namibia, which became an independent country on 21 March 1990, was designated as a GSP beneficiary for the first time: the Central African Republic (CAR), Chile and Paraguay were reinstated as beneficiaries. The designations became effective Wednesday, 6 February 1991.

3. In announcing the designations, U.S. Trade Representative, Carla A. Hills indicated that the action reflected the Bush Administration's continuing efforts to administer the GSP in a manner that is responsive to the authorizing legislation's requirements and the economic needs of developing countries.

4. The CAR, Chile and Paraguay had been suspended from the GSP programme for their failure to provide internationally recognized worker rights, as required by the GSP statute. A USTR review begun in April 1990 to consider changes in the countries' laws and practices determined that the countries now meet the worker rights requirements, in addition to the other statutory criteria.

5. Other eligibility criteria include whether countries provide "adequate and effective" protection of intellectual property. A USTR review of Chile's practices in this area, which included comments from the U.S. private sector, determined that Chile was making progress in providing improved protection.

6. The four beneficiary countries can now export more than 4,230 products to the United States duty-free. For the first eleven months of 1990, the CAR exported $70,519 in GSP eligible products to the United States, Chile $131 million, Paraguay $21 million and Namibia $903,160 million.
7. The CAR, Chile and Paraguay became the first suspended countries to be reinstated to the GSP programme.

8. The Presidential Proclamation providing these countries with GSP also makes several technical changes regarding the GSP programme. These are described in the Federal Register notices of 4 February 1991 and 5 February 1991.¹

¹Available at the GATT Secretariat (Tel: 739.50.88) for inspection by interested delegations.