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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP
ANNOUNCEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 2, 1996**

96 AUG 1 P10:33

THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
8-2-96

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP
ANNOUNCEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 2, 1996**

96 AUG 1 P10 : 33

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

8-2-96

(A)

Before I begin, let me say one word about the new job figures. The economy created nearly 200,000 new jobs in July. This is further good news for the American people. The economy is growing, creating good jobs. Thanks to the good hard work of employees and businesses here in America, we have the economic equivalent of the Dream Team -- strong growth, millions of new jobs, low inflation, low unemployment. That's the lineup we want for America.

Acknowledgments: Vice President Gore, Secretary Reich; Phil Knight of Nike; Kathie Lee Gifford; Senator Tom Harkin; Congressman George Miller; distinguished leaders and guests...

I have just had a very productive meeting with representatives of some of the nation's largest apparel and footwear companies, as well as representatives of labor, consumer and human rights groups and the religious community. They all accepted my invitation to meet here this morning to deal with an issue that is rightly on the minds of millions of American consumers.

One year ago today, the discovery of more than 70 people working in virtual slavery, behind barbed wire, in a garment factory in El Monte, California, awakened Americans to the fact that some of the clothes and shoes they buy are manufactured by people who work under deplorable conditions.

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The well-documented episode involving Kathie Lee Gifford also awakened many people to this problem. We are all outraged by these awful revelations. But, as leaders, we have a responsibility to do something about them. When Kathie Lee learned that some of the garments with her name on them were being produced under terrible working conditions, she didn't bury her head in the sand.

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- 6 -

She reacted quickly, decisively and responsibly. That's what we all must do.

America has always stood for human dignity and the fundamental rights of working people. We believe that everyone should work but no one should have to put their lives or health in jeopardy to put food on the table for their family.

- 7 -

That is why I am so pleased to announce that the companies gathered here today have agreed to begin working together to put an end to this terrible problem.

They have agreed to do two things. First, they will take additional steps to ensure that the products they make and sell are manufactured under decent and humane working conditions.

Second, they will develop options to inform consumers that the products they buy were not produced under those exploitative conditions. They have agreed to report back to me within six months on their progress.

Human and labor rights are not brand names. They are the most basic products of our democracy.

I want to compliment Nike, Liz Claiborne, Phillips/Van Heusen, L.L.Bean, Patagonia and all the companies who have pledged to live up to that responsibility, but I want to see their results. The ultimate test of their commitment will be for them to produce tough criteria to make sure that sweatshops are not used and to make sure consumers know it.

I do not know what final strategies they will come up with. It is my hope that they will develop methods that might include labels, clear signs in stores or other means of getting information directly to consumers at the point of sale.

This is a good start. As I have said before, we know that business has to produce a profit. That is the foundation of the vibrant free enterprise system we enjoy here in America. But I believe that for the system to succeed, good corporations must also be good citizens. America's success in the 21st century depends more than ever on partnerships between government and business.

We are already working with the high tech community to put computers in every classroom and the media and entertainment industry to improve the quality of the television our children watch every day.

Today, we are embarking on a new partnership. We hope that it will become a vital part of the battle against sweatshops here in the United States and against abusive working conditions everywhere.

Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Comments:

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR APPAREL INDUSTRY
PARTNERSHIP MEETING
ROOSEVELT ROOM
AUGUST 2, 1996**

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
8-2-96

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR APPAREL INDUSTRY
PARTNERSHIP MEETING
ROOSEVELT ROOM
AUGUST 2, 1996

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
8-2-96

88 AUG 1 10:35

My administration, especially Secretary Reich, has vigorously enforced existing labor laws to eliminate sweat shops. But government cannot do it all. That is why this partnership is so important.

Today, we will discuss the best way to make sure that the goods you produce are manufactured under decent and humane conditions. And we will explore ways to inform consumers that the products they purchase were not produced under those conditions. Labels in clothes and clear signs in stores are just two of the ways you may find to meet your responsibility.

Consumers sincerely want to avoid purchasing products made under adverse condition -- 4 out of 5 would actually pay more. We need to give them the tools to make informed choices and renewed confidence that the products they buy are produced with respect to workers' basic human rights.

Good business doesn't have to come at the expense of human rights. By being here and working together you have shown your commitment to do well by doing good. I will do everything to help.

Second, they will develop a system to inform consumers that the products they buy were not produced under those exploitative conditions. They have agreed to report back to me within six months on their progress.

Human and labor rights are not brand names. They are the most basic products of our democracy.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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8-2-96

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 2, 1996**

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I have just had a very productive meeting with representatives of some of the nation's largest apparel and footwear companies, as well as representatives of labor, consumer and human rights groups and the religious community. They all accepted my invitation to meet here this morning to deal with an issue that is rightly on the minds of millions of American consumers.

One year ago today, the discovery of more than 70 people working in virtual slavery, behind barbed wire, in a garment factory in El Monte, California, awakened Americans to the fact that some of the clothes and shoes they buy are manufactured by people who work under deplorable conditions. The well-documented episode involving Kathie Lee Gifford also awakened many people to this problem. We are all outraged by these awful revelations. But, as leaders, we have a responsibility to do something about them. When Kathie Lee Gifford learned that some of the garments with her name on them were being produced under terrible working conditions, she didn't bury her head in the sand. She reacted quickly, decisively and responsibly. That's what we all must do.

America has always stood for human dignity and the fundamental rights of working people. We believe that everyone should work but no one should have to put their lives or health in jeopardy to put food on the table for their family. That is why I am so pleased to announce that the companies gathered here today have agreed to begin working together to put an end to this terrible problem.

They have agreed to do two things. First, they will take additional steps to ensure that the products they make and sell are manufactured under decent and humane working conditions. Second, they will develop a system to inform consumers that the products they buy were not produced under those exploitative conditions. They have agreed to report back to me within six months on their progress.

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I do not know what final strategies they will come up with. It is my hope that they will develop methods that might include labels, clear signs in stores or other means of getting information directly to consumers at the point of sale.

This is a good start. As I have said before, we know that business has to produce a profit. That is the foundation of the vibrant free enterprise system we enjoy here in America. But I believe that for the system to succeed, good corporations must also be good citizens. America's success in the 21st century depends more than ever on partnerships between government and business. We are already working with the high tech community to put computers in every classroom and the media and entertainment industry to improve the quality of the television our children watch every day.

Today, we are embarking on a new partnership. We hope that it will become a vital part of the battle against sweatshops here in the United States and against abusive working conditions everywhere.

Thank you.

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8-2-96

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR APPAREL INDUSTRY
PARTNERSHIP MEETING
AUGUST 2, 1996**

This is the beginning of an important partnership between business and government. We're here to find ways to combat the terrible problem of sweatshops, abusive working conditions, and child labor, both here and abroad.

My administration, especially Secretary Reich, has vigorously enforced existing labor laws to eliminate sweat shops. But government cannot do it all. That is why this partnership is so important.

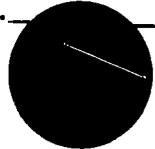
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85 AUG 1 P10:35

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 8/1/96 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/2 8:30 am

SUBJECT: Apparel Industry Announcement - Remarks

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McCURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PANETTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McGINTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McLARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICKES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	QUINN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIEBERMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RASCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	REED	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOSNIK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CURRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEPHANOPOULOS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMANUEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STIGLITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIBBONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STRETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TYSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HERMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HAWLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIGGINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HILLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Waldman</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KLAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Sperling</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LINDSEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Comments to Terry Edmonds

RESPONSE:

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AUGUST 2, 1996**

96 AUG 11 P10
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