8/31/2009

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SPECIAL

Executive Secretariat

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL RECORD

CORRESPONDENCE ID: 573099

DUE DATE: 9/14/2009

ORIGINATOR: Christophe, Kouakou K. (Deputy Chief of Mission)

ADDRESSED TO: Solis

CONSTITUENT: E.O. 12126 & E.O. 13126

WH ID NUMBER:

ORGANIZATION: Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act ("TVPRA")

DATE OF LETTER: 8/28/2009

SUBJECT: Concern From Cote d'Ivoire Re: Child Labor List Under TVPRA & E.O. 12126

ACTION AGENCY: ILAB

DATE ROUTED: 8/31/2009

SIGNATURE LEVEL: SECY

REMARKS: Please Clear Response Through ExecSec Before Sending. Fax Copy

INFO COPIES TO: COS, D/S, DCOS, NR, ALO, SOL, ESA, OPA, OCIA

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION:

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RETAIN WITH ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE
IF THE DUE DATE CANNOT BE MET,
CONTACT YOUR CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

573099

Ambassade de Côte d'Ivoire
2424 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

République de Côte d'Ivoire
Union - Discipline - Travail

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TEL. : 202-797-0324
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Washington, D. C., August 28, 2009

N° 0466/AMBCIW/BA/VMLA/09

RECEIVED
AUG 31 AM 12:20

Mrs. Hilda Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210
Fax: 202-693-6111

Dear Madam:

I have the honor to express in the name of my Government our deep concern about the TVPRA list and the Executive Order 12126 to be published soon.

Indeed, we have been informed that the U.S. Department of Labor is going to publish two lists with significant diplomatic and U.S. manufacturing implications under the Trafficking Victims Protection reauthorization Act ("TVPRA") and Executive Order 13126 ("The Prohibition of Acquisition of Products produced by Forced or Indentured child Labor ("Executive Order").

We also understand that cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire may be included in those lists.

If this is true this is a great disservice to our country and to all the efforts we have made with international stakeholders, including the US Department of Labor over the past 8 years to address child and forced adult labor.

We implore you not to include cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire on this list as it will seriously jeopardize the spirit of cooperation in which we have worked. Such a listing will cause us to re-evaluate the value of our efforts and partnerships to address the issues.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

The Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Kouakou K. Christophe
Deputy Chief of Mission