LETTER, THE CURRENT BILL HAD BEEN ENDORSED AS TRIPS-
COMPLIANT BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION AT AN IPR SEMINAR FOR THE DEPUTIES LAST DECEMBER. OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER CONTACTED WPO AND WAS INFORMED THAT NOT ONLY HAD NO ONE FROM WPO ENDORSED THE BILL, THEY HAD NOT EVEN READ IT.

4. (U) AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED FRENCH AMBASSADOR FRANCOIS-
XAVIER DENEAU AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WATSUO AKAZAWA TO EACH SAY A FEW WORDS. DENEAU, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EU COUNTRIES, REITERATED THE POINTS HE HAD MADE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE A FEW WEEKS EARLIER. SHE SHARED WITH ALL PRESENT AN AIDE MEMORANDUM THAT DRAWS ATTENTION TO SEVERAL SHORTCOMINGS IN THE DRAFT PATENT LAW. SHE ALSO NOTED THAT CURRENT DOMINICAN IPR LAWS PREJUDICE EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED THE DOMINICAN PATENT BILL, BUT REJECTED PASSAGE OF A HIGH-STANDARDS BILL IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE NEW INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY BY HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES, THAT WILL SUPPORT CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH OF THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY.

CONGRESS: NOW YOU TELL US!

5. [RESPONDING FIRST]—SOMETHING TONGUE IN CHECK—HE NOTED HIS PROUDNESS IN THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW. THEambassador to Spain, Japan, and Korea were represented at the meeting, and expressed his hope that improvements in the current patent regime would be made. He also noted the importance of high-tech investment in the Dominican Republic and the positive impact it would have on the country.

2. [AMBASSADOR MANATT BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY]

EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION REGIME TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. HE ALSO NOTED THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE DOMINICAN PATENT REGIME IN THE PAST YEAR AND HOPED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE ENACTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY PARTISANS, AND EXPRESSED A WISH FOR WTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD LEAD THEM TO THE RIGHT RESULT.

WILL CONGRESS DO THE RIGHT THING?

7. We will continue to press the government to admit that its original patent bill was seriously flawed. In hopes that it will work with the Congress to redraft a better version. We will also continue to remind Congress and the government that the U.S. will soon be forced to make decisions, based on a review of the Dominican IPR regime, that could have a negative impact on the Dominican economy. We will renew our calls on Congress to take action on the copyright bill, which appears to substantially comply with TRIPS, not be subject to criticism from any domestic source, but mysteriously does not seem to make it to either legislative body’s agenda, with less than two months to go before presidential elections. However, it is hard to imagine that this legislation, which took the government five years to draft and which the Congress has been batting back and forth for over five months without making any of the most necessary changes, will be approved in acceptable form in the near future.

Manatt
RT
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