

Unofficial Translation

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The United States of America
Washington DC.

Managua, October 3rd, 2007

Dear Madame Speaker,

In the last 20 years Latin American countries have made notable progress towards the purpose of building stable democracies, promoting free trade and improving the standard of living of its inhabitants. On this proposed path we have come across, more than once, obstacles which we more often than not, have overcome with vigor and imagination.

The United States has played an important role in the opening of markets (for our countries) by subscribing, ratifying and implementing free trade agreements. Mexico, Chile and the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic currently count with the valuable developmental tool of a free trade agreement with the U.S.

Three additional countries; Colombia, Panama and Peru, also signed -before the final expiration of that special procedure known to us as '*Fast Track*'- free trade agreements with the U.S. We consider that it would be in their greatest benefit, as well as for the United States, and in general for the good relations between your country and Latin America, that those free trade agreements be ratified. The ratification process of free trade agreements comes across obstacles born of incomprehension; nevertheless, all which have subscribed them have completed, or are about to complete, their respective constitutional procedures.

We are sure that the Congress of the United States is looking forward to being able to ratify these treaties. In doing so, it would send an important message of the commitment we all have towards commercial integration and interdependence within our Continent. It is because of this reason that we permit ourselves to ask you to do all that is within your reach, throughout your official functions, in order that Colombia, Panama and Peru may also soon be able to enjoy the benefits of a valid free trade agreement.

In thanking your kind attention to this letter, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to reiterate to you the sentiments of our highest consideration and appreciation.

Elías Saca
President of El Salvador

Manuel Zelaya
President of Honduras

Oscar Berger
President of Guatemala