

## SPORTING GOODS : THE WFSGI-IOC AGREEMENT



*Seated next to President Samaranch, at the press conference held at the conclusion of the meeting on 12th December, are Messrs. Kihachiro Onitsuka and Armin Dassler, President and Vice-President of the WFSGI. At right : Mr. Pierre Ryser, WFSGI Secretary General, Mr. John Vermeulen and Mr. Raymond Gafner, Administrateur Délégué of the IOC. At left : Messrs. Horst Dassler and Hajime Onoda, members of the Board of WFSGI.*

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We announced in our previous issue that a specific programme of sports aid had been launched at the end of December 1985. This plan of action was set up with the aim of fulfilling the equipment needs of developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America and thereby participating in the promotion and expansion of sports activities in these countries.

An agreement was concluded between the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI) and the IOC. This agreement stipulates that these operations will be coordinated by the WFSGI and the IOC and will be the result of their joint efforts to the exclusion of any other private company.

All the equipment provided will be of good quality and in normal sizes. It may be from discontinued lines or surplus models which conform to the standards currently in force. It will be provided entirely free of charge. Transportation costs will be born by the donor.

The IOC, in cooperation with the Solidarity programme and the NOCs, will ensure that the equipment may be imported duty free. Negotiations with a view to obtaining fiscal concessions are currently under way. Favourable responses on the basis of tax reductions have already been received from a number of countries.

The formalities for the best procedure to be adopted remain to be defined. In the United States, for example, a company donating appreciated inventory can deduct the original value plus half the appreciation.

The best method of distribution also poses a problem. Simply to send the goods is not sufficient. It is also necessary to ensure that the distribution is carried out via the correct channels and under the correct supervision, so as to avoid the donated items being placed on the market.

Together, the WFSGI, the IOC and Olympic Solidarity have opted for what seems to them to be the best solution.

Olympic Solidarity, in cooperation with the NOCs and the IFs, organises and supports courses and seminars in a variety of sports disciplines and in a great many different countries. This programme has been established for a number of years. One or more experts delegated by the IOC or the International Sports Federation concerned will be sent to the country in question and will have the responsibility for supervising the distribution of the supplies.

The National Olympic Committees concerned will be asked to provide information on the categories of goods they most lack and to suggest a distribution plan.

The coordination of the transportation of this equipment will be organised by the WFSGI Secretariat, which will inform the donating company, taking into account the goods which are available.

The programme will commence with the courses and seminars to be held in Africa. As soon as the NOCs' wishes become known, the information will be passed on to the donor companies.

