

## WFSGI rallies against child labour

On 21 November 1996, the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI) called a meeting in London between executives from its member companies and representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), non-governmental organizations and child and human rights advocacy groups as a prelude to designing a code of practice aimed at eradicating the exploitation of child labour by manufacturers within the industry.

One of the main issues con-

sidered during the conference was the need for rehabilitation of children and youngsters who were removed from the work force, to ensure that their welfare would not be compromised as a result. It has in fact been observed that the loss of income may force children who are taken out of a working situation to resort to hazardous or even illegal activity in order to survive.

Speaking to the difficult question of monitoring, WFSGI president Stephen Rubin stated that the industry planned to set up its own monitoring body to enforce the code, thereby ensuring, among others, that children

employed by the industry were properly paid and offered favourable working conditions as well as opportunities for education. The IOC was represented as an observer by Amanda Pingree, who is in charge of humanitarian affairs and special projects in the Department of International Cooperation.

