Minutes of the Labor Standards and Human Rights Meeting
January 26, 2001

Members Present: Kristen Ablauf, Alan Deardorff, Sioban Harlow, Rob Howse, Kevin Kolben, Larry Root, Stevan Rosenberg, Scott Trudeau

Present via Speaker Phone: Louis Green, Veronica Johnson

Kevin Kolben has agreed to attend the organizational meeting of the Living Wage Association Meeting at Notre Dame University, February 2-4.

The Committee discussed an approach to considering conditions under which a licensee's adherence to one of the other major codes of conduct might be considered an acceptable for protecting the workers rights. Modifications were suggested in the proposal discussed in the meeting of Jan. 19, particularly with regard to the sections of freedom of association and hours of work. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend this approach to the President for a two-year trial period.

The Committee discussed the reports on the labor situation in the Kukdong factory. In addition to the preliminary report of the WRC fact-finding mission, reports from the FLA, the International Labor Rights Fund, and Nike were discussed. Scott Nova, Executive Director of the WRC and the organizer of the fact-finding team, joined the Committee discussion by speakerphone.

Based on the reports available, the Committee believes that the most pressing concern is the ability of workers to be able to return to work and, in the absence of that ability, the fundamental threat to their right of freedom of association. The chair was authorized to recommend that the President (or his designee) contact Nike to communicate this and to encourage continued efforts to address this pressing problem. The Committee also noted the complexities of seeking to intervene in a foreign country and the importance of involving local organizations that are knowledgeable and effective in working within that context.

The next meeting will be Friday, February 9 from 8:30-10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Root