

STAFF NEWS



April 1971

A SINGLE LINE SAYING "IT IS PROPOSED TO SEND MR.", in a Fund paper, is often the sole indication to other staff members why a familiar face has suddenly disappeared from Fund circulation. Department colleagues may know a little more but otherwise staff members on long term technical assistance are seldom heard from

until, as suddenly, they're back in their office, or the cafeteria, with a somewhat uncertain look of trying to readjust. But the Fund's "man in Kabul" is as much part of the staff as we regular Washington rush hour drivers and that's why STAFF NEWS has asked the twenty-two members now on long term assignments in eighteen different countries to tell something about their personal life in all those farflung places, five, ten thousand miles from 19th and H Streets.



At the moment, Fund staffers are living in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Liberia, Mali, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Somalia, the Sudan and Uruguay, one in each country, except Indonesia, where the Fund staff numbers five.

Arifin Siregar, who is of Indonesian nationality and who is stationed in Vientiane, Laos, and Taher Dajani, a Jordanian national now living in Monrovia, Liberia, have been the first to report on their living conditions.

Taher, who is featured with his wife Sheila and their daughters Amira and Zena in front of their house writes: "Our house in Monrovia is situated in the suburbs close to the seashore, about one half hour's drive from the centre of the city. Three sides of our garden are surrounded by bush which gives the house privacy. However, snakes and small crocodiles are occasionally seen crossing the dirt road cutting through the bush to our house. Our watchman was bitten on the hand by a snake while cutting the grass in front of the house. We took him to the hospital in a rush but he was not satisfied with modern medicine and had to apply a mixture of certain plant juices to ease the swelling of his arm.

Domestic help is readily available and we have a steward to help run the house. This gives free time for some recreation in the mornings such as coffee parties, tennis



and French lessons. Driving is nerve racking and we had to have two drivers, one of whom is provided by the Government. (Since my wife and I are writing this together, it's obvious who makes leisurely use of the morning hours!)

The beaches around Monrovia are picturesque with golden sand and palm trees but swimming in the ocean is dangerous because of strong cross-currents. However, there are several beaches with salt water lagoons where the children enjoy swimming during the weekends.

There is a large international community in Monrovia and we find the social life quite busy. The town offers a variety of restaurants and cinemas; shopping presents no problems as there is a number of supermarkets, but prices are high."

As everywhere, life in Monrovia may have its ups and downs. And its highlights, "Our most exciting experience has been a trip with the President and Mrs. Tubman on board their yacht, the m.v. Hoffman River, to Cape Palmas, the birthplace of the President. We spent one night on board the boat and one night in the Executive Mansion in Cape Palmas and were made to feel most welcome."

Arifin reports in detail about his arrival in Vientiane, in March 1969, his hospitable reception and some of the minor snags he encountered in settling down. As he tells it: "About a month after our arrival the rainy season started which made us realize for the first time the exact meaning of 'flood-free' and 'snake-free' neighborhoods. After a two-week period of daily rain, our yard was transformed into a natural 'lake' complete with fish, which had come probably with the stream from far-away rice fields. My son and I took advantage of the situation by fishing in the 'lake'; the fish we caught were kept as souvenirs in our bathroom for a couple of months. While the level of the water in our yard showed considerable daily fluctuations, the 'lake' existed for about a month. When it later became a (muddy) yard again, we found to our great horror that there were also a number of other water animals and snakes in it. About 15 snakes, including some poisonous ones, were killed by our gardener. Our yard was thus a kind of natural zoo for about a month."

Arifin also tells something about his work which he enjoys very much, although the country has its obvious problems. He received excellent cooperation from the authorities and made many Laotian friends. "It was thus," he says, "out of gratitude and happiness that my wife and I have given the Laotian name 'Panya' to our son who was born six months ago." (Arifin is shown in page 1.)

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR returns next week from a brief trip to Europe which took him first to Switzerland for meetings of the Development Assistance Committee and the U.N. Administrative Committee on Coordination. On April 28, Mr. Schweitzer addressed the Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce and Industry and on April 29 and 30 he conferred with German financial officials.

THE DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR, this year as last, was invited to address the Annual Meeting of the Mexican Bankers Association. Speaking at Guadalajara on April 3, Mr. Southard saw for 1971 an appreciable recovery in prospect in the over-all rate of expansion of total real output in the industrial countries but warned that the resumption of expansion, notably in the United States and also in some other industrial countries as well, will need to be accompanied by great caution to avoid a renewed surge of inflationary trends.

A CHANGE IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS brings P.S. Narayan Prasad back to the Fund as an Executive Director replacing B.K. Madan, who returns to the Reserve Bank of India. Mr. Prasad was an Executive Director of the Fund from 1953 to 1957.

New Members of Fund Staff



Mr. Esmail Amid-hozour
Iran - YPP



Mr. Jorge Carey
Chile - LEG



Mrs. Susana C. de Sosa
Uruguay - BUR



Mr. M. M. El-Shazly
U.A.R. - OED



Miss Miriam Farfan
Bolivia - TRE



Mrs. Genevieve Gharib
U.S. - ADM



Mr. Mahinder S. Gill
Malaysia - RES



Mr. Albert D. Goltz
U.S. - YPP



Miss Isher Judge
India - WHD



Mr. Thomas P. McLoughlin
Ireland - YPP



Mr. Adriano Romano
Italy - SEC



Mr. Edward Shann
Australia - OED

TWELVE PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS were received at the Fund on April 13. They were in Washington as guests of the IADB, which will have its 11th Annual Meeting in Lima next month. Fernando Vera, Deputy Director of the Western Hemisphere Department, discussed the work of the Fund during the morning and the conversation continued at a lunch hosted by Mr. Del Canto, Director of WHD, and participated in by Paul Brand and Carlos Sanson, Senior Advisors, and by Mrs. Linda Koenig, also of WHD. The journalists represented

the newspapers La Prensa, El Comercio and Correo as well as four magazines -- La Cronica, El Mundo, Siete Dias and Oiga -- and Peruvian TV and Radio.

A GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE STUDENTS from the Free University of Amsterdam visited the Fund on April 22 for an afternoon session on the Fund and related topics. Mr. Gerard Teyssier, Deputy Director of the IMF Institute introduced the subject and led the discussion that followed.

THE COLLEGE OF GENERAL STUDIES of George Washington University announces its summer sessions. Registration for the off-campus programs in a great variety of subjects, at undergraduate as well as graduate level, is scheduled for May 25, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms A, B, C, off the lobby of the Department of Commerce building, 14th and Constitution Avenue. The registration on May 25 is for the twelve-week and the first six-week session. On July 13, candidates can register at the same address for the second six-week session. Lectures are given in the evening. More detailed information is available at the Staff Relations Office.

DEPUTY TREASURER BOB FAMILTON, who brought his New Zealand expertise to Washington rugby, has recently been elected President of the Potomac Rugby Football Union.



THE ART SOCIETY took over again from the Camera Club and its beautiful photographic exhibit in the Fund's Twelfth Floor Gallery with a group show that brought artists together from Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, the United States and Yugoslavia. The artists' work was at least as varied as their countries of origin, strongly representational art alternating with abstracts and enamels. Four of the six artists, M. Jean Gorrita and Mr. Vincente Carneiro, Boris Milutinovich and Marija Tourangeau, were present at the opening where Art Committee Chairman Nancy O'Rourke introduced the artists and their works to an audience of close to four hundred. Our pictures show Miss O'Rourke during her Twelfth Floor maiden speech, and some pretty visitors.

Earlier, she and Mr. F. Palamenghi-Crispi, the Italian Executive Director, had already opened a more intimate show in the Staff Lounge. The Washington Star described as "Works of Art - Kid Style" the exhibition of children's and adolescents' paintings from the Padua-Loreggia Art Center which had been

brought over to the States by the Center's Director, Mrs. Carmen Meo Fiorot. Mr. Palamenghi-Crispi had introduced the interesting work of Mrs. Fiorot to the Art Society Committee and, at the opening, also provided an introduction to the show itself. He presented Mrs. Fiorot who attended the opening. The center picture shows Mr. Palamenghi-Crispi during his speech. The lady in black is Mrs. Fiorot. The event was honored by the presence of Italian Ambassador Egidio Ortona and Somalia Ambassador A.A. Addou.



THE FUND'S SOCCER TEAM headed by Francisco Garcia beat the World Bank team led by Innocent O. Eligwe with a score of 5 to 4 in an April 18 encounter at Bretton Woods. Hundreds cheered the Fund team towards a hotly - sometimes too hotly - disputed victory.

CYCLING IS A FAVORITE SPORT in many staff members' countries. The Capital Cycling Club is seeking enthusiasts to rejuvenate itself and increase its activities. It is organizing a racing event, the National Capital Open, on June 27, on the Ellipse. Call H.M. Whitney, 256-5457.

THE BWRC RIDING CLUB has started its new season. Riding classes are still being formed. Call Miss Patricia Dunkle, tel. 299-3107. For more accomplished riders, a greatly varied program is available which includes advanced instruction and trail rides.



THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION was held at the end of last month. Outgoing president Piero Sella reviewed the 1970 operations. He noted that the Credit Union has been able to pay dividends at a rate of 5.75% p.a. for the past two years even though the trend is now toward lower rates. For the first time, interest rates charged on all loans have been reduced to 8.4%

p.a. (7% is still the rate on loans against shares.) A new Board was elected with some familiar faces returning, as our picture shows. From left to right: John H. Stewart, Timothy Cole, Robert Harris, Mrs. Rose Porras, Henry G. Hilken (new President), Robert Noë, Mrs. Monique Roche-Rainhorn and Stanley J. Perch. Henry Koch (Treasurer) was absent on mission.

JOZEF SWIDROWSKI retired at the end of March from his position as a senior economist in the Exchange and Trade Relations Department. He joined the staff of the Fund in 1947, after serving as head of the foreign department of the National Bank of Poland. Dr. Swidrowski was educated at the Academy of Commerce in Warsaw, and the London School of Economics. He is the author of two books in Polish: "Bretton Woods" (1946) and "Nature and Methods of International Settlements" (1946), and many articles published in Polish before World War II. More recently, he has prepared a number of articles on exchange rate policy and practices which have been published here and abroad. He is shown with Mr. Thorson, Director of Administration, at a farewell party given by his many friends on the Fund staff.



MISS CORRY VAN ROY, of the Netherlands, retired on March 31 after service on the Fund staff since October 1955. Miss van Roy was a Bilingual Secretary in the Asian Department at the time of her retirement.

A "DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY" form which covers death benefits payable under the Staff Retirement Plan, travel accident insurance and accrued pay and allowances is required for all staff members upon appointment.

Personnel would like to remind staff members that they may wish to review their designation, because of changes that could occur in the status of their beneficiaries through age, marriage, etc. Forms are available from Personnel.

A PHILIPPINES FOLK GROUP has formed and is preparing its contribution to the Chorus program of folk music to be presented as one of two concerts in late May.

TWENTY-YEAR STAFF. Mrs. Anna Watkins, Assistant Division Chief in the Treasurer's Department, completed twenty years with the Fund on April 2; Mr. H.K. Zassenhaus, Deputy Director of the IMF Institute, completed twenty years with the Fund on April 16; Mrs. Jeanne H. Letts, Secretarial Assistant in the Office of Executive Directors, will complete twenty years with the Fund on April 30.

MARRIAGES. Miss Usha Rani Jassal of the Secretary's Department was married to Mr. Roshan Lal Punn on February 9, 1971.

BABIES. A son, Daniel Bruno, was born to Mr. and Mrs. I. Bruno Valentini on February 25, 1971; a son, Faris Patrick Said, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Said H. Hitti on March 17; a son Felipe, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Carey on March 22; a daughter, Sarah, born on March 27, was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Eliahu S. Kreis; a son, Manoj Kumar, was born to Mrs. Sue Khandagle on April 3.

THE TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT RAN AWAY WITH THIS YEAR'S BRIDGE COMPETITION. Robert Dunn and Masaki Shiratori, who both work there won the 1970/71 engraved silver championship trophy of the IMF Bridge Club. They came in first out of a field of 21 players who took part in at least 8 of the 12 biweekly duplicate bridge sessions which began last November. Their average percentage game was 60.48.

The runners-up in this year's competition were Charles Olsen of the Joint Library and his partner, Jerry Oelbaum of Kiplinger's; their average score was 58.11 per cent. Other Fund staff members who ranked high on the list were Mrs. Linda Shanahan (retired), Miss Marjorie Spelts, and Robert Praetorius.

The engraved silver trophies were given to the winners at the session of the Bridge Club on Tuesday, April 20. The Bridge Club meets every other Tuesday night in the Fund cafeteria for a friendly game of duplicate. Persons interested in playing should contact Mr. Praetorius, ext. 2971.

THE BANK-FUND TENNIS CLUB has already started its tennis activities for the 1971/72 season. The Club has hired the same facilities as every year, soft surface courts on Saturdays and Sundays at Carter Barron (16th and Kennedy Streets, N.W.) from 10:00 a.m., and courts on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Pierce Mill (Beach Drive and Tilden Street in Rock Creek Park) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Players are requested to register and pay their dues to Miss Denise Pegoux, D-1203, ext. 3477.

THE BWRC TENNIS COMMITTEE is also organizing various activities on the Center's courts including tournaments for adults and school age players. Tennis instruction is also offered by tennis pro Bob Hutchins who proposes ten one-hour lessons for classes of four players on Tuesday and Thursday evenings commencing May 18. Individual instruction is also available. Call Bob Hutchins at 938-6776.

THE IMF-BANK SKI CLUB marked the end of the winter season with a culinary slalom through mountains of Tyrolean Knoedl, Bavarian Weisswurst, Leberkaes, Swiss fondue and Apfelstrudel at the club's annual Après-Ski Party in the Bretton Woods Golf

House on April 3. The event was completely sold out days in advance. Notwithstanding their gustatory exertions, many swung around the dance floor until well past midnight.



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