

STAFF NEWS



February 1974

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR FLEW TO TEHERAN for an audience with the Shah of Iran on Wednesday, February 20, to discuss the possibility of Iran channeling some of its surplus foreign exchange through the Fund to help meet the balance of payments problems of oil-consuming countries. Mr. Witteveen was joined in Iran by John Gunter, Acting Director, Middle Eastern Department. The Managing Director hopes to be able to visit other oil-producing countries in the near future, possibly next month. President McNamara of the World Bank visited the Shah the following day.

Appearing at a press conference with Mr. Witteveen and Mr. McNamara following the conclusion of their talks, Prime Minister Abbas Hoveida announced that Iran would make the equivalent of \$1 billion available to help both industrialized and developing countries meet their oil bills. A substantial portion of the money would be placed in a special supplementary facility in the Fund, he indicated, to provide loans at commercial rates to assist countries with balance of payments difficulties. The remainder would be used to purchase World Bank bonds and support a new development fund. Iran will present a proposal at the next meeting of OPEC for both the member countries of the organization and the major industrial countries to contribute resources.

Mr. Witteveen's journey to Iran followed the 13-nation energy conference, which met in Washington from February 11 to 13, in which the participating oil-consuming countries decided to give impetus to the work being undertaken in the Fund, the IBRD and the OECD in seeking solutions to some of the financial implications of the oil situation. The conference communiqué called on the three organizations to intensify their cooperation, as requested by the Committee of 20 at its meeting in Rome.

Meanwhile, the news that Italy planned to enter into a large stand-by arrangement with the Fund was released in Rome. The Banca d'Italia disclosed on February 17 that Guido Carli, its Governor, had discussed with Mr. Witteveen the current and prospective Italian economic situation, particularly in the light of the energy crisis. The Italian statement said the stand-by arrangement would be in the amount of one billion special drawing rights (approximately \$1.2 billion). This would be the largest such arrangement since a stand-by with the U.K. for \$1.4 billion in November 1967.



A MAZE OF ELECTRONIC WIZARDRY is concealed within the handsome teak and leather exterior of the new guard's desk on the first floor court. From the bronze metal control panel of this 14 foot long command post the guards, under the direction of Major Howard Jennings, are able to keep a watchful eye and ear on much that is happening around the Fund. A base radio station ensures that the desk is in constant contact with guards on patrol in the building via two-way radios. Two television master cameras scan the

entrance to the garage and the loading dock. Special switches on the desk can be used to control the raising and lowering of the doors to these two vehicle entrances, while

intercoms enable the desk personnel to communicate with the door guards by day and with those seeking admittance at these entrances at night. The intercom is also connected with the maintenance engineer's office on the bottom basement floor and the penthouse on top of the building. Special buzzers connect the desk with building entrances. Another buzzer is linked to the walk-in freezer in the staff cafeteria to sound the alarm if there should be a power failure in the freezer. A red alarm light would indicate any outbreak of fire anywhere in the building and a board in the guard's office would indicate its location. The guards are able to page any floor and, in an emergency, to make announcements by means of loudspeakers in the elevator lobbies on every floor. The computer room has its own special halon gas system to control any fire outbreaks and special detectors would activate this system automatically. The system is also connected to the desk, with an alarm in the guard's office. Other alarms would indicate any troubles in the functioning of the elevator system and show in which elevator the problem has occurred. The guards have an intercom that connects them with anyone inside any elevator.



Apart from the electronic circuitry the desk has two house telephones, a regular telephone and a special red colored emergency "hot-line" telephone. Fund personnel should use the "hot-line" in case they need to summon help quickly, so it has the easy-to-remember number, 3333. Special drawers contain time card files on all contractual help while other drawers make up a key file holding keys for all parts of the building.

Major Jennings is at present assisted in the manning of the desk by Lieutenant John Medeza, Sergeants Anthony Mikut and Obe Allen, and Officers Bert S. Hall, Jerry Tyler and Wanda Wright. Eventually, however, it is planned to have all guards in the building trained in the control of the equipment installed in the desk.



MR. KNUT J. M. ANDREASSEN was appointed the new Alternate Executive Director for Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, effective January 25. Born in Bodø, Norway in 1925, Mr. Andreassen comes to the Executive Board after being on the staff for 6 years. Mr. Andreassen is a graduate of the University of Oslo where he obtained a Masters degree in Economics in 1951. He then joined the Norges Bank as an economist and served in that capacity from 1951 to 1965. During that period, he came to the Fund as a Trainee from 1956-57. Then in 1965, he joined the Fund staff as an Economist in the Exchange and Trade Relations Department. He transferred to the Western Hemisphere Department in 1967 and was later promoted to Senior Economist. In 1969, Mr. Andreassen returned to Norway and the Norges Bank

where he served as Division Chief from 1969 to 1972. Then in 1972, Mr. Andreassen again returned to the Fund, this time to the Research Department as a Senior Economist, where he served until his appointment as Alternate Executive Director, replacing Mr. Sven Lampe of Sweden, who has returned to Sweden and the Sveriges Riksbank. Mr. Andreassen is married and has two children.

Mr. Andreassen is the first staff member to be appointed to the Executive Board since the appointments of Mr. Robert Johnson, who served as the Canadian Executive Director from November 1968 to September 1971, and Mr. Antoine Yaméogo, who is currently on the Board representing a group of West African countries.



A RECEPTION FOR NEW STAFF was held in the Atrium on Tuesday, February 12, at 4:30 p.m. Those staff members who had joined the Fund within the past year were greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Witteveen, Mr. Southard, Philip Thorson, Director of Administration, and other senior staff, together with members of the Staff Relations Office.



THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY on which the Fund staff began to move into the new building was commemorated by the Administration Department on February 1 with a small celebration attended by those who were mainly responsible for seeing that the long and intricate move went off on schedule. William Avery, Assistant Director for Administrative Services, provided a cake with a single candle to mark the occasion. Special mention was made of the efforts of James Littleton, Andrew MacKay, Robert Burrell, Charles Ball and Awad Osman of the Service and Supply Section and Alvin Harper of Special Projects who planned and supervised the operation. The gathering was also attended by Phillip Thorson, Director of Administration, Walter Windsor, Assistant Director, and Thomas Berda, Chief of Service and Supply, as well as the secretaries and other personnel who were involved. Mr. Avery recalled that the transfer of offices across 19th Street had been carried out on alternate weekends over nearly seven months and had required over 5,000 hours of overtime work by staff members who assisted.

NORMAN K. HUMPHREYS has assumed the duties of Chief Editor, permitting Roger V. Anderson to devote himself full time to his duties as Deputy Secretary. In his new position Mr. Humphreys will have responsibility for the editorship of the Annual Report and the chairmanship of the Staff Committee on Publications. He first joined the Fund in February 1964 as an Information Officer in the Office of the Managing Director. He was appointed Editor in the Office of the Managing Director at the beginning of May 1966 and transferred to the Secretary's Department at the beginning of November the same year.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS for 1974 have now been prepared and details of these have been circulated to all Department Heads. This year special attention will be paid to evaluating courses which have been held for several years to determine if these are still relevant and effective, and to make modifications where necessary. Among the courses which are tentatively scheduled are orientation courses for professional and other staff, courses in written communications, electronic data processing, quantitative economic analysis and advanced statistical techniques, as well as management seminars and seminars on the work of the economic staff. A new course on applied quantitative economic analysis and additional follow-up management seminars will be considered.

A REGATTA ON THE MEKONG IN LAOS may not be the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, but it can provide a breathless excitement of its own -- as well as a few surprises -- especially when the British team decides to co-opt the services of the local Fund Resident Advisor. Still weary after the trials and tribulations of this soggy experience, Gunter Baer decided to allow his wife to tell us how it was that they came to be press-ganged into the races. From Vientiane Mrs. Baer describes their excursion to Luang Prabang for the annual water festival ... and what happened to them thereafter:

"After the rainy season replenishes the muddy swells of the Mekong River following seven months of parching, relief in the royal Laotian capital of Luang Prabang voices itself through one of the country's most raucous yet regal festivals -- the annual boat races. The races coincide with the conclusion of Buddhist Lent, marked by a water festival set to appease, or better, exorcise the evil spirits from the Mekong and pay tribute to the benevolent ones. In the late afternoon and evening the celebration finds form in fairs, ferriswheels and fireworks and at night stars are set adrift on the river -- only morning scrutiny reveals they were petroleum filled beer cans on bamboo floats. Throughout the day, His Majesty the King presides over a regatta of splendidly painted dragon-bowed, four-ton teak pirogues extending fifty feet in length. The vessels are propelled by forty and fifty man crews outfitted in vibrantly colored shirts and caps (iridescent rayon has found an enthusiastic market in Laos). They are fiercely competitive and yet still manage to synchronize oars with grace and precision.

For several years now, similar races have been held in Vientiane a few weeks later than the parent competition, and more recently, a cosmopolitan attraction has been added. The Farangs (foreigners) have been invited to organize their own teams in races -- a formidable task! The sleek but massive boats must be rented for anywhere from twenty to fifty thousand Kip (30 to 80 dollars), and then a hardy and, above all, willing team must be enlisted. There is a Lao saying which goes, 'Ability is worth less than experience. Ten sons-in-law are not worth one father-in-law' --



which in great part explains the predominance of Lao team mates in the boats of the brawny Farangs. The Lao are also in the boats because it is not an easy task to convince non-initiates of the joy in perching on a three-inch wooden plank for hours while plunging paddles into murky water. Particularly when the waters are level with the rim of your boat and threatening to engulf it at any moment.

It was such a lack of manpower that plagued the British team this year and forced them to cross national lines for a 'little help from their friends'.

What with our affability, tireless muscles, and naivete, they were knocking on our back door three days before the races ...

So it was that Gunter and I found ourselves on the following day with other 'volunteers' clustered at the river's edge. We had expected to get a few practice runs in before the race but wound up spending most of our time sheepishly looking around for our boat. It had disappeared -- or rather, it had sunk -- and there would be no rowing that day till emergency crews set to bailing her free with empty gasoline canisters and

halved coconut shells. A few more hours of patience patched her yawning seams. It was then and only then that the skeletons came clattering out of closet doors. Our team's nautical history included a number of wet finishes in past years, during which the boys had slid under the end line rather than over it.

No matter. The next afternoon we, in the women's team, did do some serious rowing -- meaning we managed to stop the boat from spinning us in circles down the current. And if our form was not professional, and even if with each stroke of the oars we were scooping vast amounts of the river into the boat and onto the tail rower (me), confidence surged. We were ready.

Ready to join the pagantry.
Ready to skim past wildly cheering crowds. Ready to bow heads ceremoniously as we approached the Crown Prince's red and white pavillion where we would later collect our silver cups. On the Saturday morning of the races, the women's events were scheduled first and by 8:30 a.m., ten British ladies, twenty Lao villagers and I were cramped into rowing positions. The Judge's gun fired and we were ...

not ready. All teams moved forward except our team which was still moving backwards after trying to maneuver into the starting position. Once we got going in the right direction, however, neither our Lao teammates' years of experience, the drummers and singers they brought aboard to set our tempo, or their vigorous spirits (including quantities of the bottled kind) threatened the other boat's lead. Ah well, 'Bo pen yang' (This is the Lao shrug of the shoulder, equivalent to *qué será, será*). We accepted last place with good grace -- particularly after we got a better look at some of our local oarsmen. The term is appropriately in the masculine form since some of the more heavily made up members of the crew did indeed turn out to be men. Being in the rear may providently have spared us an embarrassing disqualification.

Our men suffered a more refreshing fate. Their able Lao coxswain, prudently encased in a yellow Mae West, set them off with an excellent start and as they passed our niche in the river bank they continued to hold the lead ... and hold, and hold until only binocular eyes could follow the progress. And then suddenly they were out of sight. We roared and cheered till someone sent back word that their course had taken a vertical turn and five meters before the finish our boys sank. Yet, within a half an hour, boat and men were fished out of the water and they zealously manned the oars once more. In the second round they spared us the suspense and right after the gun went off, they went down, leaving oars, flags and sun hats in their wake.

There was a just conclusion to the day, however, for valiant efforts did not go unrewarded and the British managed to swim off with third prize. There was some talk of victory by default -- two other teams never showed up for the early morning heats. But of course we like to think of the prize as due recognition for services rendered above and beyond the call of duty."



BWRC HAS A NEW GENERAL MANAGER. Effective February 1, Mr. Thomas Yann is the new General Manager, replacing Mr. Dwight Adams, who after serving for two years will now take on real estate with the House and Home Real Estate Corporation in Gaithersburg. Mr. Yann has an extensive background in country club management.

For the past 8 years he was General Manager at the Lakewood Country Club in Rockville and before that, 1961-65, he was the General Manager of Argyle Country Club in Layhill, Maryland. Mr. Yann says he would like to meet all Club members and answer any questions.

THE SETTLING IN OF NEW FUND STAFF, or the Fund Wives' Volunteer Service, which handles this, is organized through the Staff Relations Office and performs a vital service to newly arrived staff members. There are three area chairmen who direct the activities in their districts: for D.C., Penny Haszard; Maryland, Sheila Whitfield; and for Virginia, Ilse Bornemann. Over 40 volunteers are on call to make contact with new families while they are still at hotels and take them shopping or sight-seeing, contact them again later when they have moved into more per-



manent housing and arrange for them to meet other Fund wives in their neighborhoods. When a newcomer is booked into a hotel, the Staff Relations Office passes this information on to the coordinator of the welcome program (Angele Franks). She contacts the newly arrived wife, and then puts one of the volunteers in touch with her. Later, when a permanent residence has been found, Staff Relations informs the area chairman who in turn contacts the new arrivals and puts other "old wives" in the neighborhood in touch with the "new wife", usually through house calls or coffees.

At a luncheon meeting on February 11, Mrs. Witteveen was introduced to the area chairmen and volunteers and given first-hand information on how the "old wives" help new families get settled. The meeting was also the occasion of wishing "bon voyage" to Nevin Bengur, who served as D.C. Wives' Chairman for the past 3 years, and will leave this spring to take up residence in Turkey. She was presented with a copy of Alistair Cooke's new book "America" as a memento and tribute to her fine work.

THE CAMERA CLUB's fifth meeting was held on February 13, 1974. The guest lecturer and judge was Mr. Carl Purcell, whose photographs have been published in many leading magazines. Members and guests admired his slides before he judged the monthly slide competition. The winners were: Class AA: 1 and 3, Carlo Rietveld (Bank); 2, Peter Nelson (Bank); Class A: 1 and 4, Robert Dunn (Fund); 2, Charles Goor (Bank); 3, David DeRoche (brother of Fund staff member); Class B: 1, José Rodriguez (Bank); 2, Etsuko Murakami (Bank); 3, Malela Torres (Fund); 4, Magdalena Rodenas (Bank); 5 and 6, Jeffrey Balkind (Bank).

The Annual Photographic Exhibition will open at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 1974. Executive Directors, staff members and their guests are cordially invited. The next regular meeting will be held March 12 at 6 p.m. The photos feature Butcher, by Dave De Roche (right), and Three Windows, by Hugh Chambers (left).



New Members Of Fund Staff



Mr. Mark Allen
UK - ETR



Ms. Hjordis Bierman
Denmark - WHD



Miss Pamela Curtis
New Zealand - MED



Mrs. Barbara V. Facey
Jamaica - ADM



Mr. Angelo Faria
Kenya - FAD



Mrs. Karen H. Flood
New Zealand - FAD



Miss Tara Ghoshal
India - ADM



Mrs. Catherine Hung
USA - ADM



Mr. Henry Jakubiak
USA - MED



Mr. Dev Kumar Kar
India - BUR



Ms. Johanna McMillan
Ireland - OED



Mr. Hugo Moreno
Chile - BLS



Miss Victoria Montana
USA - OED



Mr. Ronald Pearson
USA - BUR



Mrs. Alicia Rounsaville
USA - OED



Miss Valerie Rowles
Australia - WHD

THE NEW BUILDING won seven of the 18 awards for excellence in craftsmanship awarded by the Washington Building Congress at its annual Craftsmanship Awards Dinner on Friday, February 15. Two awards went for lighting -- one for the hanging fiberglass lighting fixtures used throughout the building and one for the chandelier in the Executive Dining Room -- two for the lathing and plastering in the interior courtyard, one for "exceptional pattern design and area layout" in the floor and wall marble, and two for the quality of the woodwork in the Board Room and the entrance way. Philip Thorson, Director of Administration, Walter Windsor, Assistant Director, and William Avery, Chief, Administrative Services Division, with their wives, attended the dinner as guests of the Charles H. Tompkins Company, General Contractors.

THE CHESS CLUB is now taking part in the winter tournament of the D.C. Chess League and competing with 24 other teams of the metropolitan area. For the first time the Club entered two teams in this tournament, which will run until April. At the beginning of February, the Club also started its first club championship tournament. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Fund cafeteria. Staff members and their families are invited to join, and beginners as well as advanced players are welcome. For information, call Chris Green, ext. 5169, or Tom Heintschel, ext. 5472.

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR STAFF. Mr. Shrikrishna A. Pandit, Senior Economist, Asian Department, commemorated twenty-five years of service with the Fund in February.

MARRIAGES. Miss Jacqueline Delis, Bureau of Language Services, was married to Mr. John Prust on December 15, 1973; Miss Geeta D. Heble, Bureau of Language Services, was married to Mr. Tilak Krishna Mahesh Agerwala on January 6, 1974; Miss Nancy Kirk, Central Banking Service, was married to Mr. Florencio Ribeiro on January 12; and Miss Nancy C. Christie, Central Banking Service, was married to Mr. S. Eric Kwame Avor on February 4.

BABIES. A son, Kevin Wing Keong, was born on November 1, 1973, to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hee; a son, Michael Anthony, was born on November 3, to Mr. and Mrs. Florencio G. Coquia; a son, Pierre Antonio, was born on November 11, to Mr. and Mrs. Julio Chacon; a son, Peter I-shih, was born on November 17, to Mr. and Mrs. James Huang; a daughter, Stacey Ann, was born on November 21, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson-Anderson; a son, Albert, was born on November 26, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Farrant; a son, David Jacob, was born on December 25, to Mr. and Mrs. Morris Goldstein; a daughter, Paula Rosina, was born on January 15, 1974, to Mr. and Mrs. Subimal Mookerjee; a son, Daniel James, was born on January 17, to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey M. Davis; a daughter, Judith Ann, was born on January 25, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stillson; a son, Adriano Paolo, was born on January 26, to Mr. and Mrs. Franco La Rosa; and a daughter, Beatrice Chantal, was born on February 3, to Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Kebreau.

A TRAVEL SUBCOMMITTEE has been formed within the Staff Association to assist Fund staff in becoming affiliate members of the State-USIA Recreation Association, which makes available a wide range of activities each year, including charter flights, weekend excursions, golf and ski trips, and store discounts. Prospective members are reminded that under U.S. Government regulations they are required to be members of the Recreation Association for a period of at least six months before the date of any charter flight. All flights are restricted to the immediate family of the affiliate member. Persons wishing to become affiliate members of the Recreation Association should obtain an application form from Mrs. Alison Mitchell in room 5-120, ext. 4361, complete it and return it to her together with a check in the amount of \$7, made out to IMF Staff Association. Membership is on a calendar year basis. Further details of the Association are available in the Staff Relations Office, room 6-320, or from the Secretary of the Subcommittee, Ian McDonald, ext. 6023. The other members of the Subcommittee are Joan Pugh and Marie Ah Leong. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Subcommittee and helping in its activities is invited to contact any of the officers.

A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS for the Credit Union will be elected in March at its Annual Meeting, and proposals for nomination should be received by the Nominating Committee by the first of the month. Any member of the Credit Union in good standing is eligible to be nominated to the Board of Directors, which has overall responsibility for the sound conduct of the Credit Union's business, selects its officers and establishes its policies. Members of the Nominating Committee are Thomas M. Noone (ext. 6216), Piero Sella (ext. 2031), and Alan Wright (ext. 3833).



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