

STAFF NEWS



November 1977

DURING THE COMING MONTHS an intensive schedule of activity is projected for the Executive Board and the staff. A number of policy issues are expected to be on the Board's agenda for discussion in the period leading up to the next meeting of the Interim Committee, which is due to be held in Mexico City in late April, and in preparation for the entry into force of the Second Amendment to the Articles. At the same time, a number of requests for the use of Fund resources are likely to be received, and a large group of regular consultation reports will be considered.

One major topic, which the Executive Board has already begun to consider, is that of the future role and characteristics of the special drawing right. Questions on the SDR's yield and on the advisability of a further allocation of SDRs will also be reviewed. Another important subject under consideration is that of the Fund's liquidity, a topic which will have an important bearing on the Seventh General Review of Quotas, work on which has already begun in the staff. In addition, agreements with individual lenders under the Supplementary Financing Facility will be submitted for the Board's approval as they become available.

In advance of the entry into force of the Second Amendment, which has now been accepted by 59 members representing more than 60 per cent of the voting power in the Fund, a large amount of preliminary work will have to be done. This will include the topics of freely usable currencies, charges, notification of exchange arrangements under the new Article IV, and repurchase. Further work will also have to be done on the revision of the By-Laws and of the Rules and Regulations.

Other items which will be brought to the Board in the near future include the subject of the Fund's conditionality, the world economic outlook, and the Administrative Budget for the next year.



EDUARDO MAYOBRE of Venezuela has now taken up his duties as Executive Director for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Mr. Mayobre is the first son of an Executive Director to have been himself elected to the Board; his father, José Antonio Mayobre, served as Executive Director from 1960 to 1962. He will serve for the remainder of the term of Roberto Guarnieri, who resigned as Executive Director effective October 31, and has now returned to Venezuela.

Mr. Mayobre, who was born in 1946, studied at the University of Chile, where he received an M.A. in philosophy, and at Cambridge University, where he obtained a B.A. in economics. He has served as Deputy Director of the Extended University at the Universidad Simon Bolivar in

Caracas, and as a Research Fellow at the University's Integration Institute. He was subsequently Chief of the Secretariat of the Venezuelan Ministry of Finance, before taking up the position of Director of Economic Research.

Among other appointments which he has held have been those of Alternate Director of the Andean Development Corporation, Director of the Transportation Investors Corporation, and Director of the National Cocoa Fund. He has been a member of the Venezuelan delegation to a number of international meetings, including those of the Fund and the World Bank, the Latin American Economic System, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Caribbean Development Bank, and the Economic Commission for Latin America.

In his farewell remarks to the Board on October 28, Mr. Guarnieri paid tribute to

the work of the Fund and the Managing Director. The Fund, he said, "has been able to reassert its role and there is no question of the growing respect that the institution commands in the world community. That this is so is largely accountable to the manner in which you, Mr. Chairman, have presided over this Board. I think you are a courageous Chairman, independent, resourceful, and imaginative. These conditions could not have failed to bring about a resurgence of the Fund as the central institution of the international monetary system."

OUR INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA arrived via the Ghanaian Foreign Ministry. The cable read:

'GRATEFUL INFORM DR. EDDIE AYENSU THAT THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE HIM TO BE FORMALLY INFORMED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE WOULD BE THE GUEST OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES...'

"When my husband phoned me with the news," writes Dinah Ameley Ayensu of the Staff Relations Office, "my imagination began to run wild. I had never dreamed of travelling to the Far East. China, with its ancient culture and its social and political complexities, has for many years been shrouded in mystery. I have always thought of China with something akin to the awe with which I have regarded such biblical sites as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. I had not imagined I would actually have the opportunity to discover personally the People's Republic of China.



"Eddie and I flew out of Washington, D.C. at the end of July, and spent several days in London, Frankfurt, Tehran, New Delhi, Kathmandu, Bangkok, and Tokyo. After two days' rest in Japan, we boarded a CAAC (Chinese Airlines) flight bound for Peking. I felt strangely apprehensive, and was somewhat restless during the four-hour flight. As our plane was taxiing towards the main building at Peking International Airport, I noticed a huge red board with bold white print reading: 'WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES MUST UNITE.' This made me feel reassured and welcome, since I, too, am a worker.

"We saw several people on a balcony, standing quietly in an orderly fashion. The mood was sedate as we alighted from the plane and headed solemnly towards the Immigration area. We were still wondering what to expect, when Eddie spotted some of his

Chinese friends that he had met on a visit two years earlier. They had come to meet us, and were so friendly and hospitable that I began to feel relaxed in a matter of minutes.

"We stayed at the elegant Peking Hotel, which has all the modern conveniences found in a Western hotel. One thing we remarked was that at the Peking Hotel, all doors are kept unlocked, and guests are assured of the complete safety of their belongings. A full-time chauffeur driving a government car and a female interpreter who spoke excellent English, Comrade Wang, of the Institute



of Botany in Peking, were assigned to us throughout the duration of our stay.

"Our tour began the day after our arrival with visits to scientific institutions in Peking where Eddie met with a group of distinguished biologists, a number of whom he had known from before. Since my husband's major interest is post-harvest food conservation, he hoped to find out how the Chinese store their grains and perishables, what kinds of treatment are given to these commodities, and what other developing countries might learn from the Chinese experience. My main concern was with human relations: I wanted to learn as much as possible about the role of women and children in Chinese society today. The Chinese people both work and play together. Food is plentiful. Everyone eats at least three full meals a day, not to mention in-between-meal snacks of fresh fruit and vegetables. The people look strong, and all appear well groomed.

"Perhaps the most impressive of all the places we visited was the 'Children's Palace' in Shanghai (photo right). In no other developing country I have been to have I seen such an extensive and well-organized after-school program for young people. A round of applause by children and tutors greeted us as we entered the Palace, where we received a short briefing and a guided tour of the entire establishment. Musical and artistic development is greatly encouraged among the 8-16 year olds, some of whom displayed a high degree of skill. The puppet shows, ballet dancing, acrobatics, and magic displays performed by the children were very accomplished. Other youngsters were engaged in various crafts, such as painting, cloth weaving, and paper-model building. At the same time, the teenagers were studying physics and, with the help of dedicated teachers, learning to build boats and aircraft.



"Our visit to the factory for the handicapped (photo left) was another memorable experience. Not only are all able-bodied persons reportedly employed in China, but all handicapped persons as well. They are taught a skill which makes them useful to their communities. We saw blind people operating machines for making nuts, bolts, screws, washers, and parts for record players and car radios. Deaf and mute persons manned the machines that made the greatest noise, and also inspected for quality control and prepared for export the products manufactured by the blind. The deaf mutes were astonished and most enthusiastic when I began communicating with them in international sign language, which I had studied two years ago at Gallaudet College for the Deaf, in Washington, D.C. I conveyed to them my appreciation and admiration for their efforts, at which point they came forward and embraced me. I felt so pleased that I was able to reach this group. I realized for the first time how much communication really means, and how it transcends national and cultural barriers, and brings all people closer together.

"Visits to communes outside Peking, Shanghai, and Canton were also among the highlights of our trip. We observed the Production Brigades and the Production Teams in action, producing and storing a volume of crops sufficient to feed China's population of 850 million. Extensive rice, wheat, and maize farms were a frequent sight. We also watched jewelry, fabrics, knitwears, sandals, furniture, simple farm implements, and a variety of other goods being produced, primarily for export. We even saw the force-feeding of Peking ducks, a procedure designed to speed up growth. Later in the evening,



Eddie and I were invited to the well-known Peking Duck Restaurant, where we not only previewed the roasting and garnishing stages, but also were given the rare pleasure of savoring Peking duck -- in Peking! (photo left)

"We were constantly surprised at the throngs of people swarming across Peking's Tien An Men Square, from where one can see the Great Hall of the People, the Memorial to the People's Heroes, and the newly-completed final resting place of Chairman Mao Tse Tung. Just outside Peking lies the Great Wall, which extends some 3,400 miles. We spent about two hours at the Wall walking from one observation

tower to the next under a penetrating sun. Eddie stopped along the way to photograph people, while I climbed up to the highest point. It was exhausting, but arriving at my destination was a crowning experience.

"The Ming Tombs, built for the 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty, are embedded in the low purple mountains. Before entering one of the tombs, we viewed funeral objects that had been excavated from the tomb palaces, and were displayed in large exhibition halls. It was staggering to think that the magnificent stone figures of warriors and fierce-looking animals that guard the approaches to the tombs were created so many centuries ago!

"We mingled freely with shoppers in Peking, Shanghai, and Kwangchow. I became self-conscious, however, when I realized that I was attracting a lot of attention. Perhaps it was my native Ghanaian clothing that aroused so much curiosity, but suddenly the tourist had become a 'tourist attraction'. Later in the day at the

Kwangtung Zoo, where families go to picnic with their children, I turned around to find that a whole crowd had gathered, and was silently following me! Soon after, however, I was put back at ease when we dropped by the laboratories at the Kwangtung College of Agriculture and Forestry. Eddie announced that it was my birthday, and Professor Puiman Lee and his colleagues (photo above right) presented me with a bowl full of fresh, succulent lychees, which everyone shared as we chatted. That unique birthday celebration is one I will long remember.



"Bicycles are everywhere in China. They are the predominant mode of transportation for travelling to and from work. Cycling for pleasure is a common pastime in the evenings. At night, those who are not cycling or walking huddle under the street lamps to play cards. These gentle scenes reminded me of my native Ghana, where people also gather outdoors to play cards, and vendors set up their stands under the street lamps to sell oranges, bread, kenkey, and fried fish. I felt sad when our visit to China came to an end. All of my memories, I reflected, were very happy ones." (Our photographs taken by Dr. Ayensu are copyrighted.)

WITH THE RINGING OF THE ALARM BELL at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 18, fire wardens, building engineers, and members of the Fund's guard force moved to emergency stations and stood ready to perform their duties as outlined in the Fund's Fire Prevention and Emergency Evacuation Manual. At the same time, most staff members left their offices, closed doors, and began filing toward the emergency exits.

Scheduled drills should not be taken lightly, since they provide the only opportunity to practice evacuation routines, test building systems such as the recently installed corridor loudspeakers, and ensure that all would go smoothly in the event of an actual emergency. In tests, as in real emergency, a number of procedures are carried out. Building engineers station themselves at strategic points in order to maintain safe and effective ventilation. They are ready to reprogram equipment to exhaust smoke or fumes from an affected area; to supply emergency electrical power for lighting through use of an auxiliary switching system; and to back up fire and rescue crews if necessary. The guard force, equipped with two-way radios, facilitates evacuation of the building. The radio system assures that guards can be quickly dispatched to locations where they are needed, and also serves as a communications link between various parts of the building. Fire wardens, who are staff volunteers, are assigned two to each floor. Their duties consist of directing staff members to the appropriate stairwells, securing help for any injured persons, and checking each office and restroom so that no one remains behind.

It is everyone's responsibility to know the locations of fire extinguishers in the stairwells and alarm boxes in the Fund, and to be aware of proper reporting procedures. Quick and prudent action can be instrumental in saving lives and minimizing damage. All staff members are urged to cooperate fully in future fire drills.

BUTTERFLIES, SEASHELLS, AND THE NEW YORK SKYLINE were among the themes chosen by the French artist Lucien Tassarolo for the colorful prints and paintings which were on view in the Atrium from November 10 to December 2. The exhibition, which was arranged by the Art Society, was only the second show in the United States for Mr. Tassarolo, who has exhibited widely in Europe, Japan, and the Soviet Union in the 20 years since his first major show, which was at the Festival of Young Artists in Moscow. Mr. Tassarolo grew up on the

French Riviera, and his paintings reflect the intense sun-drenched colors of the Midi. He counts among his admirers the late General Charles de Gaulle and Jacques Yves Cousteau, the oceanographer, who has observed that "Mr. Tassarolo's variations call to mind variations on a musical theme." Guests at the opening, which was attended by the artist,

included the Cultural Counsellor at the French Embassy, André Gadaud, and the French Executive Director, Jacques Henri Wahl (who is seen in our photo left with the artist, his agent, Frank Biasca, and Alexander Mountford of the Art Society Committee).

The Art Society's next show will feature contemporary graphic art from Austria. It will open in the Atrium on December 6 under the patronage of the Austrian Ambassador and will be on display until January 4.



THE WOODSON MALE CHORUS rounded off the program of free concerts presented in the Music at Noon series with a program of American popular and folk songs on November 3. During the five week series of concerts held at the Western Presbyterian Church performances were also given by the National Symphony Brass and Organ, the Inter-American Chamber Singers (conducted by Jean Tarnawiecki), the Alexandria Quartet, and the Washington Sinfonia. A further series of concerts is planned for the spring, details of which will be published later.

The next concert of the Bank/Fund Music Group is planned for Thursday, December 1, at 1:00 p.m. in the Eugene Black Auditorium, World Bank. Pianist Binca Le Breton will perform a program of American music -- specifically Gershwin and ragtime -- in what will be her "au revoir" to music lovers, as she and her husband depart for three years in India.

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMERA CLUB'S presentation on Tuesday, November 29, again featured Gladys and Jack Mott, who presented the second part of their lecture on "The Photographer's A, B, C, and D of Composition." The presentation began promptly at 6:00 p.m. in room E-437 of the World Bank. Following the show, slides taken by members during the ICC field trip to Harper's Ferry, Virginia, were judged. The judge was Mr. Ollie Fife, an Associate of the Photographic Society of America (APSA). A total of some 20 ICC members, accompanied by members of their immediate families, participated in the Harper's Ferry trip on October 30, which took place on a perfect fall day. Further trips are planned for the future.

On Wednesday, November 16, the ICC held the first of its lunchtime meetings for ICC members only. The subject of the meeting was the showing of a Kodak film, "Pictures by Existing Light," which provided an insight into the techniques and opportunities of existing light photography.

A visit to the photographic laboratories of the National Geographic Society is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 6. All those interested in participating should give their names to Christina Hoedemaker, World Bank room E-923, ext. 72087.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on Saturday, December 17, in the Fund building from 8:00 p.m. onwards. As in the past, there will be three separate bands: Dave Wolp and his orchestra will play traditional ballroom music in the Atrium; Miguel Vega and his musicians will provide Latin American music in Dining Room No. 5; and the rock group "Person to Person" will perform in the cafeteria area. Food and beverages will be served in all three locations throughout the evening, though the hot buffet in the Atrium will be served from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. only. Tables in the Atrium area, seating six to ten persons, will be available on a first come first served basis. The Managing Director is scheduled to give his traditional Christmas greetings to the staff at 9:30 p.m. Staff members planning to attend the Christmas party are reminded that admission will be by ticket only and that all tickets are non-transferable. Tickets will be distributed later through Staff Relations.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE will be placed in the lobby during the week of December 12 and a board for staff members' Christmas greetings will be erected at the same time. Gifts for the children of Children's Hospital may, as in previous years, be placed at the base of the tree. They will be collected by the Hospital on December 21.

THE CPR TRAINING PROGRAM attracted 225 volunteers from among staff members. An initial group of two volunteers per floor has been trained so far and will be available to provide cardio-pulmonary resuscitation in the event of any emergency. Additional volunteers will be trained in the coming months as training courses can be arranged.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS CLUB meets every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the E Building cafeteria at the Bank. Membership in the club is open to all Fund and Bank staff, as well as to their relatives and friends. Tournaments are held in fall, winter, spring, and summer. Interested persons should contact Maria Murillo, ext. 72341

New Members of Fund Staff



Mr. Luciano A. Benenati
U.S.A. - ADM



Mr. Kenneth G. Coates
Uruguay - YPP



Miss Jane D. Kalomatis
U.S.A. - INST



Miss Leila M. Kangas
Venezuela - INST



Ms. Margaret E. Kepner
U.S.A. - ADM



Mr. Richard S. Laurent
U.S.A. - BLS



Mr. Chee Sung Lee
Malaysia - YPP



Miss Elizabeth C. Lichner
U.S.A. - WHD



Mr. Albert J.E. Mauger
France - BLS



Miss Vivian G. McKay
Australia - AFR



Miss Sheila A. Meehan
U.S.A. - OMD



Miss Margaret A. Pountney
U. K. - OED



Mr. Thierry J. Rommel
Belgium - YPP



Miss Amber M. Somerville
U.S.A. - TRE



Mrs. Beatriz Strittmatter
Argentina - BLS



Mr. Mohammad R. Vaez-Zadeh
Iran - YPP



Mr. Anne van't Veer
Netherlands - OED



Mr. Stig A. Wanden
Sweden - FAD



Mr. Charles E. Wiggins
U.S.A. - ADM



Mr. Carl A. Wright
U.S.A. - ADM

THE IMF/BANK SKI CLUB will hold its "Get acquainted wine and cheese party" in early December. Note: the date of the party has been changed from December 2 to December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fund cafeteria. A second party is planned for sometime in February. The club promises an exciting season of skiing, highlighted by an adventure on European slopes. For membership information please call Gwen Kelley, ext. 76064 or George Park, ext. 72621.

THE BANK/FUND CHORUS has scheduled its Christmas Concert for December 13 and 14 in the Fund Atrium. The program will include the "Nine Lessons of Christmas", composed by John La Montaine, and "Hodie! Emmanuel! Gloria!", by Milburn Price. All staff and their guests are invited to attend.

BABIES. A daughter, Allida Jane, was born on September 16 to Mr. and Mrs. James E. Born; a daughter, Claire Alexandra, was born on October 8 to Mr. and Mrs. William J. Shields; a son, Brett John, was born on October 22 to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Stevenson; a son, Justin Paul, was born on October 24 to Mr. and Mrs. Delano Villanueva; a son, Alessandro Joshua Niccolo, was born on October 26 to Mr. and Mrs. Emilio Sacerdoti; and a son, Nicholas Kerrison, was born on October 26 to Mr. and Mrs. Paul K. Woolley.

RESIGNATIONS. Mr. Tengku K. Ahmad, Mr. Victor Alipui, Mrs. A. S. Blackwood, Mr. Gerard Caprio, Jr, Miss Pamela E. Cleary, Mr. Ian M. Cobbold, Mr. Ashok K. Malhotra, Mr. Akbar Noman, Mrs. Janet Schulman, and Mr. Andries Van Dorssen.

MANUEL D. FERRER, a Young Professional with the South Pacific Division of the Asian Department, died in Washington on Monday, October 24. Mr. Ferrer, a citizen of the Philippines, joined the Fund in March 1977.



THE IMF BRIDGE CLUB announces that Malcolm Rowat, Division Chief in the Projects Department of the World Bank's South Asia Regional Office, won the silver trophy awarded by the IMF Bridge Club for the 1977 Summer Competition. Patrick de Fontenay, of the European Department was second, and Messrs. Malloy and Marmorstone tied for third place. Twenty members of the Club were in competition for the trophy, which was awarded on the basis of the average score for the best 8 of the 12 games played during the season. The Bridge Club meets every other Tuesday evening in the Fund's Atrium. The next meeting will be held on the evening of December 6. Contact Mr. de Fontenay, ext 76028, if you are interested in signing up for a game.



WORK ON CLEANING THE ROOF to finish the repair of the damage caused by the fire last May began during November. Special trolleys were constructed and travelled back and forth on rails built into the support beams to enable the workmen to handle the task (photo left). For safety reasons, part of the Atrium floor had to be roped off while the work was in progress, and the guards assigned to that area were required to wear hard hats. A section of the Executive Dining was temporarily closed, but things were back to normal shortly thereafter.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECREATION ASSOCIATION is offering a number of charter flights and package holidays for the winter months. Information on these trips is posted on the Concourse Level bulletin board. For further details, contact the DSRA travel office at 632-1610. The DSRA also has stores located at the State Department and in the USIA building, where a number of products are available at a discount. Those who are already affiliate members of the DSRA are reminded that their memberships must be renewed. For any additional information and new or renewed membership cards, please call Joan Pugh, ext. 73767, room 4-320. Miss Pugh also has a catalogue which lists the various products available through the DSRA stores. Members are invited to peruse this in her office.



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