



Interim Committee Meeting, Mexico City, April 29-30

DIRECTIONS FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY in the medium-term through 1980 were outlined by the Fund's Interim Committee at its tenth meeting, which was held at the Hotel El Presidente Chapultepec in Mexico City April 29-30. In addition, the Interim Committee asked the Executive Board to complete reports by the time of the next Annual Meetings on a number of aspects of the recent entry into force of the Second Amendment and on the Seventh General Review of Quotas.

The Committee met under the Chairmanship of Denis Healey, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, and its conclusions were outlined in a press communiqué and then discussed at a press conference which Mr. Healey and the Managing Director gave jointly following the Meeting. Mr. Healey said that the ministers agreed that the primary requirement for the medium-term is "action to reduce the divergences in economic performance, particularly in the balance of payments and inflation fields, which inevitably are reflected in a free market economy in changes in the value of currencies." The economic strategy the Committee supported is designed to promote non-inflationary growth, leading to higher employment, a reduction in international payments imbalances, and energy conservation.

As the background for their discussions, the ministers had before them the Managing Director's report on the World Economic Outlook, which was also released publicly in Mexico City. This report drew heavily on the work of the staff supplemented by discussions by the Executive Directors.

Among the matters which the Executive Directors will be working on in the period leading up to the Interim Committee's next meeting, to be held in Washington on September 24, the day before the opening of the Annual Meetings, is a report on additional types of uses of SDRs. Also in relation to its consideration of the future role for the SDR, the Committee asked for appropriate proposals, together with draft recommendations, on a further allocation of SDRs, and a report on the Managing Director's suggestion that a Substitution Account administered by the Fund might be established to combine an allocation of SDRs with a reduction in the amount of reserve currency outstanding. The Committee also agreed on the basis for an increase in the SDR interest rate.

The Committee noted concern at the delay in completing the Seventh Quota Review. It reaffirmed its view that there was a need for an increase in total quotas that would be adequate to meet the expected need for conditional liquidity over the next five years. Most Committee members considered that a quota increase of at least 50% would be appropriate. At the same time, the Committee also expressed its concern at the long delay in bringing the supplementary financing facility into operation and urged that all necessary steps should be taken to bring this into effect at the earliest possible date.

Finally, the Committee, noting that Mr. Witteveen is about to relinquish his position as Managing Director, expressed "their deep appreciation and gratitude for the superb manner in which he has discharged the responsibilities of his office in difficult circumstances."

There was widespread praise among all those who participated in the meeting in Mexico City for the work performed by the Mexican authorities both in organizing the facilities for the Interim Committee and in providing full support services during the period of the Meeting. Some delegates and staff found an opportunity to see some of the notable sights of the Mexican capital, including the National Palace, the shrine of Guadalupe, the Museum of Anthropology, and the pyramids of Teotihuacan.

Registration lists reflected the attendance of 400 officials from Fund member countries, 85 Fund staff members, and nearly 200 press representatives (see following story). In addition to the Joint Press Conference given by Mr. Healey and Mr. Witteveen, formal press conferences were conducted by the Chairman of the Group of 24 developing countries, and by senior representatives of the United States, Japan, and Mexico, while numerous briefing sessions were conducted by other delegates. The Mexican authorities offered a dinner, followed by a program of Mexican dance, on the Friday evening before the Meeting opened, and an extensive program of Mexican folk ballet was presented at the Palace of Fine Arts on Saturday. The few staff members who had also attended the 1952

Annual Meetings in Mexico City were struck by the tremendous development of the metropolitan area which had occurred in the intervening years. (Our front page photo-montage was by Susan Jaquet.)

ALMOST 200 NEWSPAPERMEN were registered at the Mexico City meeting of the Interim Committee, the largest total for any Interim Committee meeting held outside Washington. About one-third of the total registered were foreign correspondents - who came from the United States, Germany, Denmark, Japan, and Latin America. Mexican newsmen represented all branches of the media - daily newspapers, magazines, radio, and television.



The press operated from an improvised but effective press room constructed in the first floor of the basement parking garage in the Hotel El Presidente Chapultepec. The press room offered telephone and telex communications to all parts of the world, and was used almost around the clock on the Saturday and Sunday of the Interim Committee meetings, as journalists wrote against deadlines in Tokyo, Sydney, Frankfurt, London, and Washington.

The Managing Director paid a visit to the press room during the meeting, chatting with and being interviewed by newsmen for about half an hour (photo left).

Press coverage of the meetings started with the Group of 24, representing the developing countries, on Thursday and Friday of the meeting week, with a formal press conference of the Group given on Saturday morning, before the start of the Interim Committee meeting. A second general press conference was given by Interim Committee Chairman Denis Healey and the Managing Director on Sunday afternoon. Press conferences and briefings by national delegations included those given by Mexican Finance Secretary David Ibarra Muñoz (photo right), by Japanese Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama, and by U.S. Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal.



A focus for reporting was the release to the press of the Managing Director's report to the Interim Committee on the world economic outlook and the Interim Committee communiqué, with its comments on the consensus reached on the general outlines of a coordinated strategy designed to promote non-inflationary growth of the world economy, leading to higher employment, a reduction in imbalances in international payments, and the conservation of energy. In addition, considerable attention was paid, especially by the Mexican press, to the IMF Survey's report on the Mexican economy, which was published in the English edition of April 17 and the French and Spanish editions of April 24. The foreign press also filed reports on a number of issues directly affecting the Fund, including the Seventh Quota Review, and the proposed Substitution Account. In the Press Room, as many as four editions of the Morning Press a day were produced in the period leading up to and during the Meeting to keep the participants informed on the world-wide coverage the occasion was receiving.



RECENT SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS, which became effective on May 1, included that of David Williams as Deputy Treasurer. A British national, Mr. Williams (photo left) came to the Fund in August 1963 as an economist in the European Department after an academic career in the United Kingdom. In May 1966 he transferred to the then Research and Statistics Department, where he was promoted to Senior Economist in May 1967. In May 1968 he transferred to the Treasurer's Department as Assistant Chief in the Financial Relations Division. In May 1969 he was promoted to Division Chief of the Financial Relations Division. He became Assistant Treasurer in May 1972 and, in May 1976, was appointed Senior Advisor, his most recent post.



Other senior staff changes included a number of appointments at the Assistant Director level. Evangelos A. Calamitsis was appointed Assistant Director, Central African Division, African Department. Douglas Scott became Assistant Director, South Pacific Division, Asian Department. Richard H. Miller transferred from the Treasurer's Department to Central Banking Service as Advisor at the Assistant Director level. Hans O. Schmitt became Assistant Director, Southern European Division, European Department. In the Legal Department, Stephen A. Silard was appointed Assistant General Counsel. In the Middle Eastern Department, Andrew D. Crockett was appointed Advisor at the Assistant Director level; Said Habib Hitti, Assistant Director, Red Sea Division; and Bashir A. Karamali, Assistant Director, Mediterranean Division. Margaret G. De Vries was designated Historian at the Assistant Director level in the Secretary's Department. In the Treasurer's Department, in addition to the promotion of Mr. Williams, David S. Cutler was named Assistant Treasurer and Guenther J. Wittich, Advisor at Assistant Director level. In the Western Hemisphere Department, Joaquín Ferrán was appointed Assistant Director, North American Division, and Linda M. Koenig, Assistant Director, Pacific Division.

New appointments at the Advisor and Division Chief level were those of Kunio Saito as Advisor in the Asian Department; Andrew H. Gantt as Division Chief in the IMF Institute; and Horst J. O. Struckmeyer as Division Chief and Frits Van Beek as Advisor in the Western Hemisphere Department. In addition, a new Administrative Division has been established in the IMF Institute with Arthur H. Whitfield as Division Chief.

"THE NUMBERS-COLLECTING PHASE IS OVER" announced the Institute for Social Research in releasing to the staff a summary of the statistical findings of this spring's questionnaire. In circulating the summary, the Managing Director said that the survey was "an opportunity for all of us to take a critical look at some of the key aspects of the Fund and to engage in improvement activities based on this examination...The process that has now begun will be of real assistance in improving our internal effectiveness."

In furnishing the survey results, the ISR noted that the data gathered are not new "discoveries" about the Fund. "They just reflect attitudes and opinions at one moment in time. The data simply amount to a working profile of the Fund -- a collective personality." The responses from the Fund were computed in relation to a series of composite indices which detail how well an organization is functioning along certain lines, relating chiefly to job satisfaction and challenge. In general, it was found, the Fund means were in relatively low percentiles compared with those from the national distribution of 130 different organizations. However, the summary cautioned: "These lower scores do not necessarily mean that conditions in the Fund are worse than elsewhere... Fund staff are much more highly educated than members of most organizations. They are also predominantly from other countries. There may therefore be an 'education bias' or 'cultural bias' or a combination of the two that produce low scores."

STAFF ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS will be held on June 6. Candidates who have been nominated to fill the seven-member Committee are: Michael J. Brimble, Bureau of Statistics, Francis D'A. Collings, African Department, Sharon L. Foley, Asian Department, Yves Gisse, Bureau of Statistics, Ian S. McDonald, Office of the Managing Director,

Elizabeth A. Milne, Western Hemisphere Department, Marc Rosseel, Administration Department, Massimo Russo, African Department, Hans O. Schmitt, European Department, and Mai Stuart, Exchange and Trade Relations Department.

THE G-4 CHILDREN'S COALITION WORK has recently been conducted mainly by Edward Wright, the Coalition's legal adviser. For the most part, Mr. Wright has been working to persuade the U.S. State Department to arrive at a single view of the subject, so that if legislation is introduced in the U.S. Congress the Coalition will know where it stands and will be able to convey its view to legislators. Mr. Wright has received a letter from R.W. Dalton, The Assistant Legal Adviser for Consular Affairs at the State Department, saying in effect that more attention would be paid to the Coalition's request if the appropriate legislation were introduced in Congress. Consequently, Mr. Wright is now making appointments with Congressmen to discuss the issue. Staff members with G-4 dependents who would like also to visit Congressmen should call John Kay, ext. 74175, and communicate their interest to him.

Mr. Wright has also heard from Carl G. Shepherd, Chief of the Advisory Opinions Division in the Visa Office at the State Department, who said that while he would prefer to see the issue handled by legislation, he would not oppose a temporary extension of the meaning of the term "immediate family" to enable children to earn money without being either at home or at college. This extension could help a number of people.

The Coalition is still in need of funds with which to pay its legal adviser. Any contributions should be forwarded to Mrs. Kaija Juusela, care of room 10-218, ext. 76493.

A LENGTHY OVATION was accorded the Bank-Fund Choral Society after its spring presentation of Haydn's "Paukenmesse," held in the Atrium on Tuesday, May 16, at 1:00 p.m. Under the direction of Jean Tarnawiecki, four professional soloists joined the chorus, which was accompanied by an orchestra comprised of some local musicians and eight staff members from the Fund and the World Bank. Special thanks should be given to Manuel Bendito, a pianist from the Bank, who faithfully accompanied the chorus throughout the months of preparation. Despite only one dress rehearsal with the instrumentalists before the concert, the performance was superb.



The "Paukenmesse," or "Mass in Time of War," is a difficult piece which requires an exceptional amount of work, and the chorus was understandably nervous beforehand. However, when a recording of the concert was played the following day at the traditional party, one chorus member commented, "It was one of our best performances. We were pleased to find that we sounded incredibly good!" The enthusiastic audience undoubtedly agreed.

The Choral Society will be bidding farewell to Jacqueline Prust, who plans to leave the Fund in June. Mrs. Prust has served on the Society's Board of Directors for the past four years.

Originally a small group of music lovers who enjoyed singing Christmas carols, the Choral Society, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary, now has a membership of approximately 80-90 persons. Even some retirees continue to participate in the Society's activities. A strong musical background is not a prerequisite; some members, in fact, cannot even read music. But Mrs. Tarnawiecki has a talent for teaching untrained individuals to sing an entire piece from memory. New members are always welcome. (Male vocalists are particularly in demand.) Rehearsal for next year's program will begin in September, with practices held every Monday at 12:00 noon. For further information, please contact Guy Potvin, ext. 73320.

THE IMF SURVEY was the only publication in its class to be accepted in the International Art Competition for display at the Industrial Graphics International Show, which will be held at the Shoreham Americana Hotel June 28-30. Three recent issues of the IMF Survey will be on display during the show, which is being advertised as the biggest combined seminar, art exhibit, and trade show to have been held in Washington.

A PIETRO LAZZARI RETROSPECTIVE, on the occasion of the artist's 80th birthday, was held in the Atrium during May under the sponsorship of the Art Society in cooperation with the Franz Bader Gallery. A large number of staff members and invited guests from the Washington art community attended the opening of the exhibition on May 9. Our photograph shows Mr. and Mrs. Lazzari, with Mr. Bader and Ming Wang, who has also exhibited at the Fund.



Mr. Lazzari was born in Rome in 1898, where he began his professional career and earned a degree of Master Artist at the Ornamental School. In 1925 he left Italy for the United States and the following year exhibited in New York City in the company of a number of the modern European masters. During the Depression years he was a fresco painter for the Works Progress Administration and developed a unique method of casting and painting in concrete. In the 1940s he moved to Washington where he further developed his technique as a painter and also as a sculptor of a number of the leading contemporary figures. In 1950 he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for research in ancient art techniques. The show of Mr. Lazzari's paintings

and sculpture at the Fund was supplemented by an exhibition of his drawings and some additional sculpture at the Franz Bader Gallery.

The exhibition of works by staff members of the Fund and members of their immediate families will open in the Atrium on Monday, June 5, at 5:45 p.m. More than 90 works have been submitted for this exhibition, which promises to provide an interesting sampling of the varied artistic talents of staff members and their families.



THE ANNUAL BANQUET of the International Camera Club will be held on Friday, June 9, in the Fund Cafeteria. The banquet, which should provide an enjoyable evening for members and non-members alike, will begin with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. After the dinner, slides of the year will be selected and then the awards to the photographers of the slides of the year will be presented and the Photographer of the Year will be chosen. Tickets for the banquet (\$7.50) may be purchased from Rosalia Miller, room 4-120, ext. 73728.

Fred Dirks, a long-standing member of the I.C.C., presented his "Memories of Japan" to a large and appreciative audience in room C-1114 of the World Bank on Wednesday, May 24. Mr. Dirks' slide presentation, which was accompanied by traditional music, covered both the modern cities of Japan and the distinctive manifestations of Japanese traditional culture.

AN INTERNATIONAL MINI-COMPUTER CLUB (IMCC) has been established in response to the interest expressed by many Fund and World Bank staff members at the first meeting of mini-

## New Members of Fund Staff



Miss Ada J. de Korver  
Netherlands - OED



Mr. Gerard G. Raymond  
Canada - BUR



Mr. Koenraad Van der Heeden  
Netherlands - FAD

computer hobbyists, which was held on April 24. The major objectives of the Club are to train and educate its members and to diffuse information regarding mini-computers; to share experiences on the selection, purchase, assembly, and applications of mini-computers; to pool resources for group purchases and development of hardware and software; and to exchange software programs written by club members. Like their bigger brothers in the computer field, typical mini-computers are based on electronic "chips" -- each equivalent to 4,000 or more transistors. Recent developments have brought mini-computers within the reach of anyone. They can be purchased or assembled from kits for as low as \$600. A number of Bank staff members have already purchased or assembled their own mini-computers. Assembly is comparatively simple, requiring only a few tools, time, and a lot of patience!

Membership in the IMCC is open to all staff members. The Club's activities will consist of workshops, seminars, visits to computer workshops and mini-computer exhibitions, and joint hardware and software development. The membership fee, tentatively set at \$5.00 for 1978, will initially be used to subscribe to various small systems journals that will be made available to all IMCC members.

All IMCC members are invited to attend the first IMCC Workshop on June 28, at 1:00 p.m. in World Bank room D-556. The subject of the workshop will be: "What the Beginning Computer Hobbyist Needs to Know; An Introduction to Personal Computing." For membership details and other information, please contact Guido J. Deboeck, World Bank room D-832, ext. 73042.

THE FUND PICNIC will be held on Tuesday, June 27, at BWRC. The rain date will be Thursday, June 29. All staff members and their families are invited to join in the fun and refreshment!

BANK/FUND SQUASH CLUB: Staff members and their relatives wishing to obtain further information about the Club should contact Meherji Madan, ext. 71472, or Peter Cordukes, ext. 72180. The NCSRA Summer League play will commence in mid-June 1978.

BANK/FUND HOCKEY CLUB: The hockey season is now getting well underway. In a friendly local game last week, the Men's team won 4-3. Practice sessions are on Sundays at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, N.W., at 11:00 a.m. (women) and 12:00 noon (men). For further information please ring Yolande Bonnell, ext 61330, or Meherji Madan, ext. 61472.

"CARIBBEAN NIGHT", BWRC Social Committee's first poolside party, will be held on June 17, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. A moonlit terrace, a star-filled sky, and tropical music by the "Trinidad Steel Band" promise an enjoyable evening for all. Tickets are \$4.00 per person before June 16, and \$5.00 at the gate. Tickets may be purchased in the Fund from Judy Gros, room 6-401, ext. 73247, or from Sergio Leite, room 8-109, ext. 75178.

THE BANK/FUND TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION GROUP'S next advanced meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, at 12:00 noon, in room E-855 of the Bank. A video-tape and discussion on the release of tension from stress through the practice of the TM technique is planned. Studies have indicated that the practice of Transcendental Meditation reduces anxiety, irritability, and nervous tension, and enables individuals to recover more quickly from stress-induced situations. All those practicing the TM technique are encouraged to come. For further information of the TM Program, call Darryl Brown, ext 75157.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEAR STAFF.** In May, Mr. James G. Evans, Jr., Deputy General Counsel, Legal Department, commemorated twenty-five years of service with the Fund.

**THIRTY YEAR STAFF.** In May, Mr. William H. White, Senior Economist, Research Department, commemorated thirty years of service with the Fund.

**MARRIAGES.** Mr. Tyrone B. Harris, Administration Department, was married on March 25 to Ms. Deborah Jean Bushod; and Ms. Mireya Castro, Administration Department, was married on April 22 to Mr. Christer Ahl, Administration Department.

**BABIES.** A son, Michael, was born on March 3 to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Trapp; a daughter, Thida, was born on March 7 to Mr. and Mrs. Chong Pin Ong (Mahla); a son, Christopher Robert, was born on April 15 to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Niebling.

**RESIGNATIONS IN APRIL.** Mrs. Mariellen P. Grutz, Mr. H. Robert Heller, Ms. Kathleen I. Horvath, and Mr. Kano Yamamoto.

**MRS. JACOBA S. ACKERMANN,** Secretarial Assistant in the Office of the Netherlands Executive Director, will retire from the Fund at the end of May. A Netherlands citizen, Mrs. Ackermann joined the Fund in June 1953 after having previously served, since 1949, in the Office of the Executive Director at the World Bank. During her years with the Fund, Mrs. Ackermann served successive Netherlands' Executive Directors including, for 21 years, Pieter Lieftinck, who was the Dean of the Executive Board at the time of his retirement in 1976. Following her retirement, Mrs. Ackermann plans to continue to live in the Washington area for the time being and hopes to have the opportunity to travel in Europe and elsewhere.



weekend, when our photographs were taken, that the sun shone brightly enough to attract the multitude to Bretton Woods. While some splashed in the water, others lounged by the poolside, enjoying conversation and refreshments, playing chess, or simply soaking up the sun.

**SUMMER YOGA CLASSES,** an 8-week session open to men and women, will begin in the Fund on June 7. For further information please contact Marlene Elbin at 667-5199.



**STAFF NEWS**

Published monthly by the  
Information Office of the  
International Monetary Fund  
Washington, D.C. 20431

