

Staff News



April 1979



Spring...



THE EXECUTIVE BOARD during the coming months will concentrate on important concerns related to both the world economic situation and Fund administrative matters, including the decisions which will have to be taken on the Report of the Joint Committee on Staff Compensation Issues and on the salary adjustment for 1979.

Early in the new financial year the Board will begin its consideration of the world economic outlook, and will place special emphasis on the international payments situation, and on the short-term prospects of the developing countries. The Board's discussions of the Annual Report for 1979 will continue through June and July. Some consideration of surveillance is also likely, although a formal discussion may not be required until after the Annual Meeting. Other subjects on the Board's agenda include the Fund's financial position, early repurchases, international capital markets, and the operation of various Fund facilities.

The Board will discuss the question of a Substitution Account in the Fund, and will put forward its conclusions, along with papers on types of operations involving the use of SDRs, at the next Interim Committee Meeting, to be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting (October 2-5 in Belgrade). In preparation for the Development Committee meeting on September 30, the Board will discuss the subjects of financial flows to developing countries and the adjustment process, and stabilization of export earnings.

On April 30, the Board considered the Managing Director's recommendations on the Report of the Joint Committee on Staff Compensation Issues (see following story), and, decided to postpone further consideration of this matter and of the salary adjustment for 1979 until the latter part of May. The Board will also begin to consider shortly the Managing Director's proposals for a revision of the N-Rules governing staff conduct, including the recognition of the right of the Fund staff to associate in order to present its views to Management and the Executive Board, and provisions for the establishment of grievance procedures.

RESPONSES TO THE KAFKA REPORT (the Report of the Joint Committee on Staff Compensation Issues) from both the Managing Director and the Staff Association Committee have been considered by the Executive Board, which has also begun discussion of the Gutowski proposal, that the portion of some expatriates' salaries spent in their home countries should be protected against exchange rate fluctuations.

In its reply, the SAC said that the Report was unacceptable as a package because the data on which the Joint Committee's recommendations were based were deficient and the conclusions drawn therefrom reflected a distinct political bias. The SAC warned that, in its view, if there weren't considerable modifications of these recommendations, the impact on the Fund would be very serious, notably with regard to the Fund's ability to recruit competitively in most of the countries from which it draws a large proportion of its staff. The SAC urged that a new survey based on appropriate national and international comparators be conducted immediately, adding that, in the meantime, real Fund salaries, (which, in fact, already lag behind those of other international organizations,) should be maintained through a full salary adjustment for 1979 that would take into account the rapid rate of inflation prevailing in the Washington area.

The SAC also circulated to Staff Association members copies of four legal opinions which were received by the Staff Association of the World Bank. Two of these, by Theodore C. Sorensen, former White House Aide to President Kennedy, and David A. Morse, former Director General of the International Labor Organization, concerned the subject of contractual and acquired rights in general; the other two, by Steptoe and Johnson, Attorneys at Law, were concerned with tax reimbursement issues and social security.

The separate but complementary opinions of Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Morse emphasized that the relationship between the employer and the staff are essentially contractual in nature and that unilateral implementation of any changes of terms of employment could raise substantial legal questions concerning violations of acquired rights of the staff. The opinion submitted by Steptoe and Johnson on tax reimbursement stated that the proposed average deductions tax system is almost certain to discriminate against tax-paying staff and to fall short of the fundamental objective of equity between tax-paying and non-tax-paying staff. Their opinion on the social security system stated that U.S. taxes on self-employment income should be considered as "taxes" on "income."



CHARLES F. SCHWARTZ has been appointed by the Managing Director to be Director of Adjustment Studies, a new position at the department head level. Mr. Schwartz will have the principal task of continuing to direct economic forecasting and analysis for the World Economic Outlook, which has developed into a large interdepartmental project over recent years. In addition to his primary appointment, Mr. Schwartz has also been named Associate Director of the Research Department, where he was Deputy Director for nearly 13 years prior to his promotion in early March.

Mr. Schwartz came to the Fund in June 1959 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he was Assistant Director and Chief Economist of the Office of Business Economics (now the Bureau of Economic Analysis). He served for about seven years in the Western Hemisphere Department, first as Chief of the North American Division and then as Assistant Director, before transferring to the Research Department in May 1966.

THE FUND HISTORY FOR 1966-71, by the Fund's Historian, Margaret Garritsen de Vries, has received reviews in the leading economic and international affairs journals of Canada. In the February 1979 issue of the Canadian Journal of Economics, H. H. Binhammer of the Royal Military College of Canada, describes the contents of both volumes of the History, and concludes that "these volumes give us institutional history at its best." Indeed, he says: "At no time during my journey through seven-hundred pages of solid print did I have any desire to give up." In the Winter 1978/79 issue of the International Journal, published by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Professor Lorie Tarshis, formerly of Stanford University and now of the University of Toronto, writes: "As official history, this set can claim that it meets all reasonable expectations. The narrative is informative, clear, and balanced, and it provides a great deal of useful information on the more formal activities of the IMF." However, Professor Tarshis thinks that the Fund History, in its description of the Fund's achievements through 1971, may attribute too much success to the Fund. He questions whether it was worth "hammering out the design of SDRs...to convert the Fund into a super-central bank," since "the United States deficit persisted and Eurodollars on a massive scale came on stage."

IN 1978 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS met for a cumulative total of 498 hours, more than twice as long as in 1973. The Board convened for 226 sessions, and spent more than half of its time on policy matters, one-third on country subjects, and less than 10% each on administrative matters and Annual Reports.

Executive Directors attended five sessions of the Interim Committee, ten sessions of the Joint Development Committee, thirteen meetings of committees of the Executive Board, and various Pension Committee meetings and sessions of the Joint Committee on Staff Compensation Issues and its subcommittees. In addition, a substantial number of Executive Directors attended four sessions of the Group of Twenty-Four Ministers and four sessions of the Group's Deputies.

THE WORD PROCESSING UNIT in the Western Hemisphere Department has been renamed the Joyce E. Fountain Unit in honor of Mrs. Fountain, who worked there for the four years preceding her retirement in March. She was a Fund staff member for twenty-two years, twenty of which were spent in the Western Hemisphere Department. In March, she was presented with a plaque bearing her name, which now hangs on the door to the Unit. Our photo



shows Mrs. Fountain with E. Walter Robichek, Director of the Department, Fernando Vera, Director of the Geneva Office, and Carlos E. Sanson, Deputy Director of the Department.

Cardio- Pulmonary Resuscitation Program



CPR RECERTIFICATION CLASSES were held in the Fund during April and will continue through May. These annual refresher courses are being given by three qualified CPR instructors: Robert Frederick of the Office of Managing Director, James R. McKee of the Administration Department, and C. Douglas Walker of the Bureau of Statistics. A total of forty-five volunteer rescuers from the Fund will be recertified in three sessions. Each group must attend two four-hour periods of classroom instruction, a lecture, a training film, and a mannequin practice session. The program covers proper action for: one-person or two-person rescue of an adult victim; rescue of an infant; and rescue of a conscious or unconscious victim with obstructed airway.

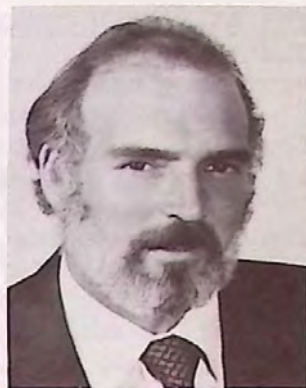
Our photos above show (1) the CPR classroom; (2) an instructor reviewing printout tape from the mannequin; (3) rescue of a conscious, choking victim; (4) two-person rescue; (5) rescue of an infant.

Staff members should familiarize themselves with the names of each floor's rescuers, which are posted in the rest rooms.



THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING could be gracing the walls of your home year round. Several staff members have been learning the unusual and beautiful art form of pressed flower composition. Pressed flowers are arranged into a design, glued to a cloth or paper backing, covered with glass, and framed. Pura Idea of the Documents Preparation Unit, Secretary's Department, attended a five-hour class given by Sunny O'Neil, an accomplished local artist who worked on pressed flower arrangements for the Bicentennial Commission and created the colorful adornment of the 1979 Northern Virginia telephone books. Mrs. O'Neil has been lecturing, writing, and exhibiting in her special field for many years, both in the United States and abroad. Staff members who are interested in attending an upcoming pressed flower art workshop are invited to call Miss Idea, who is shown in our photo displaying one of her designs, on ext. 73702.

THESPIAN TALENTS were proven once again by Robert Franklin of the Secretary's Department in the title role of Georgetown University Shakespeare Theatre's presentation of the English translation of "Tartuffe." The show was staged seven times between March 29 and April 7 in a small theatre on the University campus. Mr. Franklin's humoristic portrayal of Molière's scheming, lecherous character was extremely convincing, and brought true professionalism to the performance. As the sanctimonious Tartuffe, his affected speech and mannerisms were brilliantly contrived. Several staff members expressed the opinion that Mr. Franklin was responsible for the success of the show, adding that he has shown great versatility in his treatment of widely differing characters in plays in which he has acted during the last few years.



FUND SECURITY MEASURES will be rigorously enforced in the future following an incident on April 25 in which the building was entered by a number of demonstrators protesting against Fund assistance to Nicaragua. Staff members, upon entering the building, are being required to show their Fund identification whenever requested by the security guards. All staff members are asked to cooperate fully with the guards in observing necessary security requirements.



CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE PRINTS AND MASTER CERAMICS from Washington collections make up the Art Society exhibition on view in the Atrium through May 25. Presented in cooperation with the Japan American Society of Washington, the show is part of the Japan Today program, an eight-week national symposium of exhibitions, panel discussions, performing arts, lectures, and courses on contemporary Japan sponsored and organized by the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program, Meridian House International, and the Japan Society. The show includes 91 prints by 37 print-makers and 175 ceramic works by some 60 potters, yet represents "only the tip of the iceberg" of Washington collections, according to Japan America Society trustee Jane Griffin, an Oriental art specialist who was curator for the exhibition. Mr. and Mrs. de Larosière (photo left) and Andrea Tebbets of the Art Society and Mrs. Griffin (photo right) are shown at the opening reception on April 19.

The works of the creative print-makers and artist-potters are outstanding among the contemporary arts of Japan for their vitality and originality. These modern interpreters of long-established Japanese cultural traditions are experimental and innovative, displaying a wide range of styles that embrace the ancient and modern, the realistic and abstract, Eastern and Western. The Fund show presents a representative selection from across the artistic spectrum and includes the work of several potters who have been designated by the Japanese Government as "intangible Cultural Assets," living national treasures of Japan.



In June the Art Society will present a show of prints and watercolors by Elie Abrahams, an Israeli artist living in Paris. Watch the calendar of events for the exact date and time.

THE BANK-FUND CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT will be given on Tuesday, May 15, and on Thursday, May 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Eugene Black Auditorium of the World Bank. All staff members, their families, and guests are welcome to attend.

The program will consist of G.F. Handel's Psalm 135, "O Praise the Lord with One Consent," one of twelve Chandos anthems, and the lyrical suite, "A God in Disguise," by Lars-Erik Larsson, one of the best-known contemporary Swedish composers.

Handel's twelve Chandos anthems are named after Lord Chandos, who commissioned them. The setting of Psalm 135 is based on the tune "St. Anne," familiar to many as "O God Our Help in Ages Past," which was used by J. S. Bach in one of his great fugues.

"A God in Disguise" is typical of Larsson's lyrical vein, which came to prominence in the forties. In addition to a choir, the piece calls for soprano and baritone soloists, as well as a narrator.

IN THE EIGHT YEARS SINCE HIS RETIREMENT from the Fund, Joseph Swidrowski has managed to keep as busy as ever. He writes that he has just published a book on exchange and trade controls and four articles on economic subjects, and is working on additional articles and his memoirs.

Mr. Swidrowski's book, Exchange Controls: Principles and Procedures of International Economic Transactions and Settlements, was published in England in 1975 by Gower Press. In his words, it represents "the climax of my writing activities on economic subjects." In a forward to the book, Irving Friedman, former Director of the Exchange and Trade Relations Department, wrote: "Dr. Swidrowski's book will be most helpful to those responsible for the management of their countries' balance of payments in these difficult times...I hope that this book will become a primer on what not to do as well as on what to do." Mr. Swidrowski reports that sales of the book have been good, considering its specialized nature.

Over the years, Mr. Swidrowski has written articles which have been published in economic magazines in Britain, Italy, and South Africa on the subject of exchange controls and export controls. Another article, entitled "Creeping Restrictionism and External Economic Controls," will shortly be published in Italy by Revista Internazionale.

The first part of Mr. Swidrowski's memoirs, covering the years 1906-39, will be published in Poland later this year. He has now completed the second part of his memoirs and a volume of "American Stories." In the coming years, he hopes to translate his memoirs and "American Stories" into English.

Mr. Swidrowski continues to live in Silver Spring and would welcome hearing from any past or present Fund staff members.

THE MUSIC AT NOON SERIES began on Thursday, April 26, and will continue each Thursday through May 24. These free concerts are held right next to the Fund at the Western Presbyterian Church, 1906 H Street, at 12:15 p.m. Buffet lunches are available before and after the performances, at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The 1979 program began with The Evelyn White Chorale on April 26, followed by an Organ and Trumpet Recital on May 3. Still on the schedule are The Capitol Woodwind Quintet, May 10; The University of Maryland Faculty Vocal Quartet, May 17; and The Washington Baroque and Swing Ensemble, May 24.

Sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society, the Music At Noon series is in its third year, and has become immensely popular among people working in the area. So come and enjoy your lunch hour listening to some of the finest musicians in town.

GROUP RATE FARES FOR SPOUSE TRAVEL TO BELGRADE for the forthcoming Annual Meeting can be arranged if enough persons are interested. A round-trip group rate fare for a flight departing from New York can be purchased through Yugoslav Airlines for \$476. (The economy class fare agreed by IATA is \$429 one way.) An APEX fare is available for \$469 round-trip, but it is subject to numerous restrictions, and very few APEX seats are allotted per flight. A travel agent in Bethesda has agreed to handle reservations if there is sufficient demand to make a group fare possible. For further information please contact John Kay, ext. 74175.

New Members of Fund Staff



Miss Nansihud Cabrera
El Salvador - WHD



Mr. Patrick Delannoy
France - BLS



Miss Helen G. Despotides
Greece - EUR



Mrs. Jeanne K. Driscoll
France - BLS



Mr. Jose Fajgenbaum
Argentina - OED



Mrs. Gail Fendley
U.S.A. - ADM



Mr. E. Hernandez-Cata
U.S.A. - WHD



Mrs. Barbara T. Hinton
U.S.A. - EUR



Mr. Juergen U. Holst
Germany - OED



Miss Alice Ioannides
Brazil - AFR



Miss Geraldine S. Jacob
France - OMD



Mr. M. Ashraf Janjua
Pakistan - OED



Ms. Edith Kitzmantel
Austria - EUR



Mr. Geric Lebedoff
Belgium - LEG



Mr. Barry H. Potter
U.K. - OED



Ms. Karen B. Rush
Australia - ADM



Mrs. Maria Cristina Silva
Guatemala - OED



Mr. Charles A. Sisson
U.S.A. - FAD



Miss Joanna S. Smith
U.K. - FAD



Mr. Andre Terrot
France - BLS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECREATION ASSOCIATION has scheduled a number of trips for the spring and summer months, including package holidays to London, Sicily, and Monte Carlo in late May, to the Swiss Alps in June, and to the capitals of Eastern Europe in June and July. Also planned are trips to Acapulco, Hawaii, and Barbados throughout the summer and fall. All affiliated members may participate. For further information, please contact FARA, 632-1610.

THIRTY YEAR STAFF. In April, Mrs. Georgette Etcheberry, Office in Europe, commemorated thirty years of service with the Fund.

MARRIAGE. Mr. Richard A. Radford, Fiscal Affairs Department, was married on March 15 to Ms. Margaret E. Baird.

BABIES. A son, Jatinder Singh, was born on January 10 to Mr. and Mrs. Daljit S. Sehmi (Kamlesh); a daughter, Cecilia Raquel, was born on February 9 to Mr. and Mrs. Edgardo Decarli; a son, William Andrew, was born on March 16 to Mr. and Mrs. William Hemphill; and a daughter, Christina, was born on April 1, to Mr. and Mrs. Leonardo Cardemil.

RESIGNATIONS IN MARCH. Mr. Eimar Avillez, Mr. David Bigman, Ms. Dominique H. Broust, Mr. Jack D. Guenther, Ms. Susan C. Fanning, Mr. Antti Juusela, Mr. John A. Tillman, Mr. Herman C. Verwilt.

MARGARET HUNTER, Secretarial Assistant in the office of the U.K. Executive Director, retired from the Fund at the end of April. Miss Hunter, a Canadian national, first joined the Fund in July 1972. She plans to reside in Winnipeg.



THE INTERNATIONAL CAMERA CLUB held its monthly presentation on March 28. Guy Hammer, President of the National Institute for Technological Art, spoke on "TEK-ART - Lasers and Chronographs." Winners of the members' slide competition are as follows. Class AA: first place - A. Raizen, "The Winning Smile; second place - Maurice Asseo, "A Moment on the Beach, No. 1." Class A: first, second, and third place - Janos Somogyi, for three different views entitled "Snow Scene." Class B: first place - Colin Warren, "Sikka-Ghorapari - View of Dhambigiri - Nepal;" second place - Marie Keech, "My Big Sister;" third place - Michael Wishart, "Cave;" fourth place - Paula Stone, "Midnight Skies." The next ICC meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22. All are invited to attend, and an interesting evening is promised. Details will be announced shortly.



THE IMF SOCCER TEAM has resumed activity for its Spring season. Games are usually held at BWRC on Sunday mornings; kick-offs are at 11:00 a.m. To date in 1979, the club has played seven games, mainly against teams representing local embassies, and has won all but one of them. Shown, (l. to r.), kneeling, are Samuel Nana-Sinkam, Sergio Palazzo, Jim Wright, Robert Dunn, Mark Huybrechts, and Claudio de Rosa; standing, Denio Zara, Erich Spitaeller, Alan Wright, Piero Ugolini, Kenneth Coates, Raúl Guerrero, Francisco de Oliveira, and Joaquim Gomes.

STAFF MEMBERS PLANNING TO LIVE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AFTER RETIREMENT may be interested in becoming members of the British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants (BAFUNCS). This association organizes luncheons and reunions, and provides information for all former international civil servants residing in the United Kingdom. Membership forms are available through the Pensions Office, Staff Benefits Division, ext. 73101.



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

DETAILS ON BIKE HIKES are posted regularly on the bulletin board near the cafeteria.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Front page and photomontage by Susan Jaquet; soccer team, Bruno Valentini; all others, Joseph Diana and Rino Giammetta.