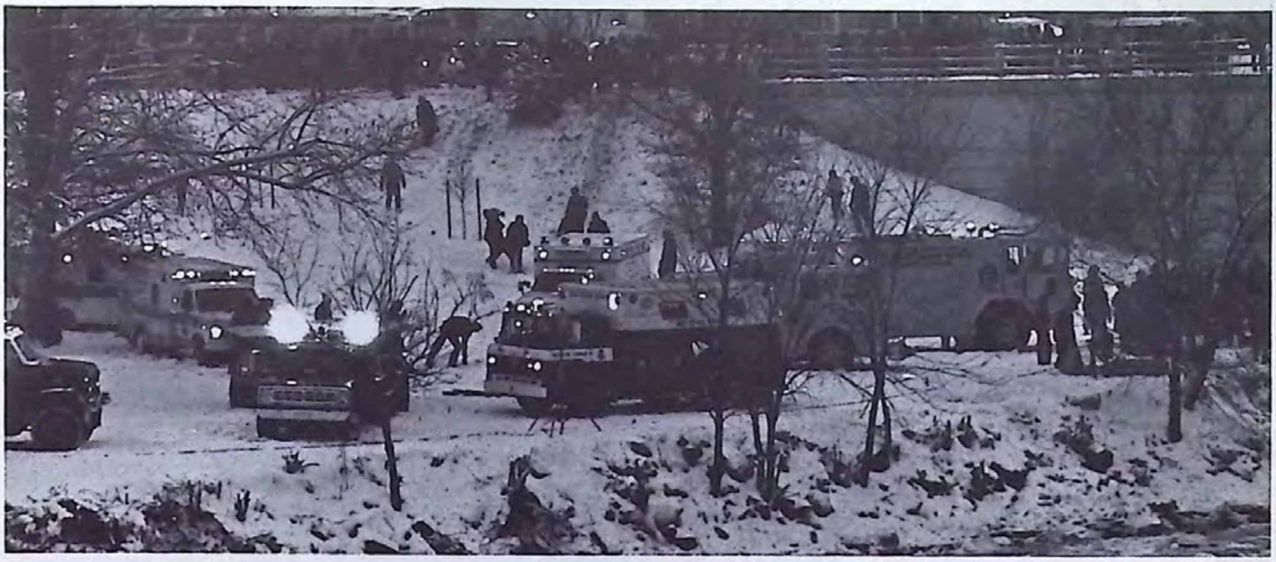
*STAFF* **NEWS** INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND JANUARY 1982



THE COLDEST WINTER IN MEMORY inevitably brought considerable disruption to the normal work of the Fund and inconvenience to staff members during January. In addition, two of the worst transportation disasters to hit the Washington area since 1949 joined with the cold weather to play havoc with the traffic, bringing the metropolitan area to a virtual standstill. The Fund, like the Federal Government, was not immune to the forces of nature, and on Wednesday, January 13, most staff members were granted early dismissal. The next day, in accordance with procedures established after the February 1979 snowfall, when the Fund was officially closed for the first time in its history, the closing of the U.S. Federal Government was the signal for the second closure of the Fund. In many cases, senior departmental officials and Administrative Officers took the initiative to notify staff members. Even though the building was officially closed, essential services had to be maintained. A skeleton force of contractual staff, security guards, and building maintenance personnel, under the overall direction of Christian Wirz, Chief of the Service and Supply Section of the Administration Department, was brought in to ensure the safe operation of the building. The cafeteria also opened briefly to serve free refreshments to the building personnel. Michael Dennison and a number of the staff of the Communications Division of the Secretary's Department came in to maintain operations in the Cable Room and Mail Room. Staff members reported to work in several departments, including External Relations, where David Armour came in to scan the ticker machines for any fast-breaking news developments. The picture on the right shows Mr. Wirz talking to Charles F. Vollmers, Food Service Superintendent, Harold J. Maloney, Security Officer, and Thomas Price of Shannon and Luchs.

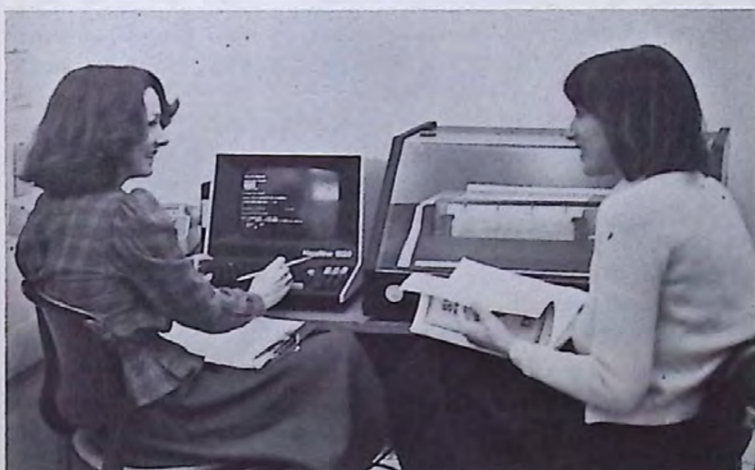
Whether the Fund is open or closed the Building Services section has to take additional precautions in order to forestall any weather-related problems, and the harsh winter of '82 has made these efforts all the more essential. Whenever the temperature drops to 20 degrees Farenheit, the operating engineers are under standing orders to run the heating for 24 hours a day to minimize the risk of a freeze. The garage doors are kept closed as much as possible to lessen the loss of heat, and an additional cleaning effort has to be made to keep the four levels as clean and free of slush as possible. Likewise, the contractors must send additional crews outside the Fund building to clean the sidewalks and entrances.

In addition, the construction of Phase II-A has complicated the task of heating the main building. The breaks which have had to be made in the outside wall on the north side have caused a number of air leaks and increased the risk of weather-related problems, including frozen pipes. To forestall problems, special temporary partitions have been erected and heaters used in cold weather to warm the exposed areas. However, even though the Fund was better able to withstand the extremely harsh weather than the great majority of office buildings in Washington, it did not escape completely unscathed. Two burst pipes caused a limited amount of damage to the west end of the cafeteria and to the Ombudsman's office. In both cases, the burst was caused by the sophisticated four-pipe ventilation system used to heat and cool the Fund. During cold weather, the air conditioning pipes in the system are not used. Consequently, when the temperature drops considerably below freezing, the water in the cold pipes occasionally freezes. Special steps are always taken to try and prevent any burst but, if there is one, clean-up crews work long hours to minimize any damage and to restore normal operations as rapidly as possible. It was through their diligence that the damage was confined to a small area and that the Fund continued to operate as usual. The photographs on this page and on the front page, depicting the aftermath of the Air Florida crash, were taken by Denio Zara, of the Administration Department, an avid photographer who has worked in Joseph Diana's Photo Lab for the last four summers, in addition to covering special assignments such as the Christmas party. Although most staff members had been dismissed early on January 13, Mr. Zara decided that it would be wiser to stay in the building until the traffic had cleared somewhat. While listening to the traffic reports on the radio, he heard about the Air Florida collision and rushed to the scene of the accident, camera in hand. His pictures vividly capture the shock and desolation caused by a disaster that, in one way or another, has touched almost every person in the Washington area.

THE NEXT TIME YOU HAVE A QUESTION, the answer can perhaps be found through the Joint Library's new on-line data base systems. Introduced in October, these systems have greatly expanded the range of information services that the reference staff can provide to Joint Library patrons, while substantially reducing the time spent on individual requests. At present, there are seven separate information retrieval systems that cover publications dealing with most fields of human endeavor. Most of these systems are bibliographic in nature, providing citations and/or abstracts for books, periodical and journal articles, papers, government documents, and other printed materials, while the others offer full text retrieval of articles as well as financial and statistical data in specialized subject areas.

Should your research fall in the areas of agriculture, economics, energy, life sciences, medicine, engineering, population, energy, political science, education, or a number of other specialized fields, the reference staff can call upon the resources of DIALOG, ORBIT, or BRS to help you find the answers you seek. These three data bases are maintained by Lockheed Information Systems, System Development Corporation, and Bibliographic Retrieval Services, respectively. If you are interested in abstracts of articles appearing in any of 50 newspapers and journals, a few keyboard strokes will put the reference staff in touch with NYTIS, and digests of articles appearing in The New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, The Times of London, Middle East, Latin American Economic Review, Fortune, and many others will be at your disposal.

Current quotes on exchange rates, gold prices, stocks, corporate bonds, U.S. Treasury issues, options, and mutual funds are readily available though the Dow Jones data base, which also provides daily financial highlights as well as material from The Wall Street Journal, Barrons, and the AP/Dow Jones News Service. Staff members interested in the outcome of bills passing through the U.S. Congress will find a wealth of information in LEGI-SLATE, a system that contains a complete history of the actions on every bill and resolution, including a synopsis, sponsors and cosponsors, and committee and subcommittee actions. Finally, the full texts of all stories and articles from a number of major newspapers, magazines, and wire services are easily retrievable through the use of NEXIS, which holds in its memory such widely read publications as Business Week, Dun's Review, Newsweek, the Japanese Economic Journal, U.S. News and World Report, and, last but not least, the all-encompassing Encyclopedia Britannica.



The success of the new online retrieval service, which was introduced under the direction of Librarian Maureen M. Moore, has been unequivocal. It is estimated that in the few months since their introduction, the information retrieval systems have been used for conducting almost 300 searches, and even though some of these were demonstrations to alert staff members to the capabilities of the service, most searches were done to provide patrons with quick and focused access to information needed for their assignments.

The twin attractions of these online systems are speed and flexibility. A trained searcher can select the appropriate database and design a search which will focus on the patron's question and, at the same time, screen out irrelevant information, thus permitting the user to cover a wider number of sources and still avoid an overload of useless data. For example, imagine the amount of time that would be needed if conventional research methods were used to compile data on the operation of multinational investment guarantee organizations or on the worldwide energy requirements of the steel industry. In fact, two Library patrons came to the reference staff with just such requests, and thanks to the data base systems the information was gathered in record time.

Because designing search strategies and mastering the idiosyncracies of the various systems require skill and practice, all searches are at present done by Joint Library staff. Our picture shows Reference Librarian Patricia Kane doing research work for Fund staff member Dragica Pilipovic-Chaffey. Proud of the new systems and anxious to expand staff access to them, the reference staff is now in the process of conducting demonstrations for potential users of the information retrieval service. Interested parties--groups of no more than three or four are ideal--should contact the Joint Library reference staff to arrange a demonstration.

ADDINGTON PALACE, ONE OF THE HISTORIC HOUSES OF ENGLAND, provided an impressive setting for the Fund's first seminar for nonofficials, which was organized by the External Relations Department (EXR) in line with its mandate to promote an increased understanding of the Fund's work. The palace, located in Croydon, features a vast central hall and richly decorated meeting rooms.

The EXR is presently involved in testing and evaluating the concept of seminars for nonofficials. These gatherings are designed to provide a forum for academicians, journalists, bankers, and business and union leaders to discuss matters related to the international monetary system, including the role that the Fund plays in it. The Croydon seminar, held on the weekend of October 16-18, addressed the subject of "The International Monetary Fund, the Third World, and the Global Payments Problem." The photograph above shows a view of Addington Palace, which was built in the eighteenth century as a summer home for the Lord Mayor of London, and which from 1808 until 1896 was the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Now owned by the Borough of Croydon, the palace currently houses the Royal School of Church Music, which made it available for the seminar.

The gathering attracted 30 participants, 6 of whom presented papers that were later discussed by those attending. The participants included several professors from British universities, a number of economists from research institutes whose published work indicates interest in the Fund, five professors from outside the United Kingdom, two bankers, two journalists, three British officials, and World Bank staff member Stanley Please.

Members of the Fund staff presenting papers at the Croydon seminar included Manuel Guitian, of the Exchange and Trade Relations Department (ETR), who spoke on "Economic Management and Fund Conditionality," and Bahram Nowzad, also of ETR, whose subject was "External Indebtedness of Developing Countries." Azizali Mohammed, Director of EXR, served as host, chaired the opening session, and was discussant of one of the papers. The task of organizing the seminar was the joint responsibility of Hellmut Hartmann, Chief Information Officer in EXR, and members of the Overseas Development Institute.

The second of these seminars for nonofficials, planned with the assistance of the Fund's European Office in Paris, was held there on November 23 and 24. This seminar, which was organized jointly with Paris-I University, addressed the subject of the "International Monetary System and Payments Disequilibria." It was attended by 25 participants, including 9 academicians from France and Belgium, 6 journalists and bankers, 4 central bankers from France, Belgium, and Italy, 2 representatives each from the OECD and the EC, the Assistant General Manager of the BIS, and several Fund staff members. The photograph on the right shows the Paris seminar in session.

Unlike the Croydon seminar, where presentations were made by both Fund staff and other participants, all four papers presented at the Paris seminar were prepared by Fund staff members Jacques Artus, Patrick de Fontenay, Manuel Guitian, and Julius Rosenblatt. The seminar closing session was based on a summary presentation by Professor Paul Coulbois, of Paris-I University. As in the case of the Addington Palace seminar, participants received advance copies of the discussion papers, and the exchange of views and ideas was spirited and frank. Sessions were introduced by the authors of the papers reviewed, and the presentations were followed by commentaries from preselected discussants.

The proceedings of both seminars will be published in book form in the early part of 1982. A third seminar for nonofficials, to be held in Nairobi on March 3-5, will be jointly sponsored with the Central Bank of Kenya.

GOLD'S LUSTROUS JOURNEY IS VIVIDLY CAPTURED in Narinder K. Keith's most recent collage, which pictorially follows the trajectory of gold's role in history. Since the work was created for Hassanali Mehran, who is a national of Iran, Miss Keith chose to include several Middle Eastern touches, such as the Omayyad gold dinar which, floating on a background of velvety burgundy, provides a focal point for the collage.

Bordered by the all-too-true "All that glitters is not gold," Miss Keith's work artistically links the early days in which gold was the supreme standard of value to today's international economy, where gold has been officially dethroned. Included in the collage are drawings of early prospectors and mine workers, gold bars, coins, jewelry, artifacts, and even a picture of the Golden Temple at Amritsar in India.

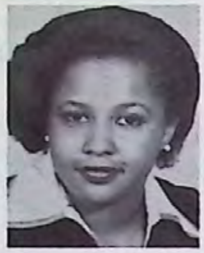
The economic implications of the volatility of gold prices are depicted through charts and drawings, some of which have been reproduced from Finance and Development, with a glossy "1980" on a golden background emphasizing the year in which gold prices reached their record highs. Of course, the Fund's gold auctions were not forgotten, and it is doubtful if any page of the Annual Report was ever more beautifully displayed than in Miss Keith's latest collage. Maybe the world's love-hate relationship with gold is best explained by a quotation from the book Gold Coins of the World by Robert Friedberg, which is included in the collage: "All passes. Art alone/ Enduring, stays with us./ The bust outlasts the throne, /The coin, Tiberius."

Research for the latest of Miss Keith's collages took about six months of patiently perusing all periodicals and books that she thought could provide her with pictorial and graphic material. Mr. Mehran, who had seen one of Miss Keith's previous works, contacted her through a mutual friend to see if she would be interested in creating a collage on a topic that would be somewhat related to the work of the Fund. After considering several alternatives, they agreed that the role of gold could prove to be an appropriate subject, both from an artistic point of view and because of its relevance to the international monetary system. The finished product, a testimonial to Miss Keith's artistic talent, shows that their decision was definitely correct.

Miss Keith took early retirement from the Fund on December 31, after 25 years of service, and is now in the process of obtaining U.S. citizenship. Although she will return to the Fund on a contractual basis, she plans to devote a large percentage of her time to art, which will now include not only collages but also sculptures. According to Miss Keith, being able to create images from soapstone is something she has not done since her college days in India, and she is particularly excited by the prospects of returning to this artistic medium. The photograph above, which shows Miss Keith and Mr. Mehran in front of the collage, was taken by Joseph Diana.

# New Members of Fund Staff


Mr. Orhan Arkan
Turkey - EUR


Miss Sonia Boyle-Hebron
Sierra Leone - TRE

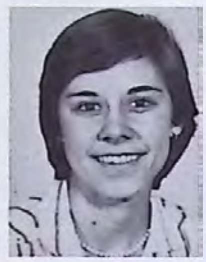

Mr. Ramiro J.J. Costa
Argentina - OED

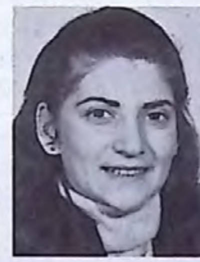

Mr. Lawrence E. DeMilner
U.S.A. - EUR


Mr. Owen J. Evans
Australia - EP


Mrs. Carolyn J. Francis
Jamaica - ASD


Mr. Toma Gudac
Yugoslavia - RES


Miss Dianne E. Harris
U.S.A. - INS


Ms. Elaine Kahn
U.S.A. - TRE


Mrs. Rosalinda Kahoonei
U.S.A. - TRE


Mrs. Mariam Khoursheed
Lebanon - OED


Miss Yesim Kolan
Turkey - ADM

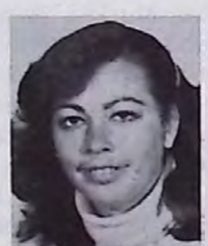

Mr. Thomas K. Morrison
U.S.A. - RES

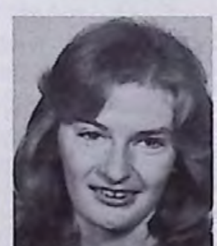

Mr. George W. Morgan
U.S.A. - ADM

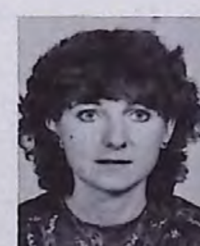

Mr. Carlos G. Muniz B.
Nicaragua - WHD

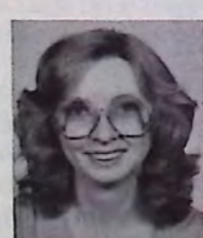

Mr. James A.K. Munthali
Malawi - OED


Mr. Siswanto
Indonesia - ASD


Ms. Marcela R. Toso
Peru - WHD


Ms. Margaret A. Wallace
Australia - EUR


Ms. Diana M. Watton
U.K. - LEG


Miss Susan L. Wheelon
U.S.A. - ADM


Mr. Koffi Yao
Ivory Coast - EP

THE POWERFUL AND OFTEN DISTURBING VISIONS of Jan Sawka were the theme of the Art Society exhibition on display in the Atrium during January. Mr. Sawka, who is 35, was born in Poland and received his training at the Polytechnic Institute and Fine Arts Academy in Wroclaw. He soon became recognized as one of Poland's leading poster artists and was a prominent participant in the intellectual rebellion of the younger generation in his country.

He left Poland in 1976 following an invitation by the Centre Pompidou in Paris and then, in 1977, settled in New York, where he now makes his home. His departure from Poland did not detract from his fame in that country, however. In 1978 he was awarded the gold medal at the Poster Biennale in Warsaw and in 1980 he had a one-man exhibition at the Poster Museum in Wilanow.

Mr. Sawka says: "I try to paint human beings, to say what I see and what I feel. People are the same, absolutely, wherever you find them--whether in Warsaw or in New York." Our photograph, by Rino Giametta, shows the artist with his wife and daughter, Hanka, in front of his four-part series "One Man Show," painted in 1980, which depicts "typical" characters drawn from his American experience. Works on display in the exhibition included acrylics, watercolors, serigraphs, and posters painted both in Poland and in the United States. All of Mr. Sawka's works are executed in expressive, direct colors, with a strong, painterly impact.

On a related topic, the sculptures of Helen Finch will be on exibit at the Arthur Charles Gallery, 2006 R Street, N.W. from February 11-March 6. The work of Mrs. Finch, the wife of David Finch, Director of ETR, is already well known to many staff members. A full description of the exhibition will appear in the next issue of Staff News.

LUCILLE P. WOODARD, a national of the United States who recently commemorated her 35th anniversary with the Fund, retired at the end of January under the Rule of 90. Mrs. Woodard joined the Fund on October 28, 1946 and was assigned to the Graphics Section of the Administration Department as a draftsperson. She held this position until 1954, when she transferred to the Statistics Division of the Research Department--which is now the Bureau of Statistics--as an Editorial Clerk. She was later promoted to Editorial Assistant in 1957 and in 1973 became Editorial Officer of the Bureau's Data Fund Division. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Woodard has been actively involved in every issue of International Financial Statistics ever since its inception in 1947, first in the preparation of charts for the publication and later in the production process itself. In addition, since 1966 Mrs. Woodard has played an active part in the Annual Meetings as Social Officer--a job she will now perform on a contractual basis. Mrs. Woodard, who was born in Richmond, Virginia, but who has lived in the Washington area since early childhood, plans to retire to her water-front home in Reedville, Virginia, by the end of 1982. In the meantime, she intends to spend her free time decorating her home, doing needlepoint work, and taking painting lessons, with emphasis on watercolors. Mrs. Woodard looks forward to keeping in touch with her many friends who have helped make her career at the Fund a most rewarding experience.

THIRTY YEAR STAFF. In December, Mrs. Merle T. Delaney, of the Asian Department, commemorated thirty years of service with the Fund.

MARRIAGES. Miss Madonna R. Alzona, of the Secretary's Department, was married on December 9 to Mr. Philip Gaudette; Miss Renee N. Khoueiri, of the Bureau of Language Services, was married on December 5 to Mr. Roger A-Jaoudi.

BABIES. A son, David Ralston Howard, was born on December 10 to Mr. and Mrs. Howard P.G. Handy; a daughter, Maymuna, was born on December 28 to Mr. and Mrs. Abdinur M. Mursal; a son, Babekir Al-Kiley, was born on December 24 to Mr. and Mrs. Mansour S. Nour.

RETIREES. In December, Miss Narinder K. Keith, of the Administration Department, and Miss Lucille Ouellet, of the Treasurer's Department, retired from the Fund.

RESIGNATIONS. Mrs. Colleen K. Anderson, Ms. Edith Kitzmantel, and Mr. John F. Laker resigned in December.

STAFF TRANSFERS. The following staff members transferred in December: Mr. Shakeeb Atallah, from the Administration Department to the Bureau of Language Services; Mr. M. Haris Jafri, from the IMF Institute to the position of Resident Representative in Honduras; and Mr. John Phillip Lipsky, from the Western Hemisphere Department to the Exchange and Trade Relations Department.

MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR VISITING RELATIVES AND FRIENDS is now available through International Underwriters/Brokers, Inc. of Washington, D.C., the company that offers medical insurance to G(v) domestic employees of staff members.

Properly named VISIT USA HEALTHCARE, the new plan provides coverage for visitors of all ages, and, what is more important, insurability is not contingent upon passing a medical examination. The insurance package includes a $1,000 blanket sickness and accident benefit (subject to a $100 deductible); $15,000 major medical benefit (80/20 co-insurance); $65,000 catastrophic major medical benefit (pays 100 per cent of covered expenses after satisfaction of deductible and co-insurance); and $3,000 each for medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, and group life benefits. The insurance does not cover losses arising from pre-existing injuries or sicknesses within 90 days prior to application for coverage, suicide, or attempted suicide while sane or insane, or intentionally self-inflicted injuries; participation in interscholastic or professional athletics or engaging in any race or speed contest, serving as a pilot or crew member of any aircraft or riding in any aircraft other than as a passenger in an aircraft licensed for the transportation of passengers; pregnancy including childbirth, miscarriage, abortion, or complication of any of these; cosmetic surgery, vision care or dental care (except when required as a result of a Covered Injury); routine physical examinations; treatment of problems related to drugs and alcohol; mental emotional disorders unless hospital confined; and covered expenses incurred outside the United States.

The cost of coverage under VISIT USA HEALTHCARE is $25.00 for 1-15 days, $45.00 for 16-30 days, $75.00 for 31-60 days, and $225.00 for six months. Coverage for periods other than the ones stated above can be obtained in units of 1-15 days, 16-30 days, 31-60 days, or an additional six months at the rates specified above. Staff members who desire additional information or who would like to obtain enrollment forms and descriptive literature are welcome to call Mrs. Diana Fletcher or Ms. Olivia Van Houten, of International Underwriters/Brokers, Inc. at 790-5655.

*STAFF* **NEWS**

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THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE STAFF, Fund contributions to the 1981 United Way Campaign, including contributions by Executive Directors' offices and retirees, rose by 36 per cent over last year's to $37,018.