STAFF NEWS

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

WITH MUSIC AND DANCING INTO THE WEE HOURS, Fund staff and their family members and friends celebrated the coming of the holiday season at the traditional Christmas party. The party was held this year on the evening of December 11; as always the Atrium was transformed into a blaze of light and color. Mr. and Mrs. de Larosiere were the hosts and the Managing Director opened the proceedings soon after nine by delivering season's greetings to all the staff.

Altogether some 1,800 persons attended the festivities, dressed in everything from strictly formal to disco modern. The threat of inclement weather apparently raised the number of "no-shows" and complicated the task of the planners. But all those who came feasted on oysters in the cafeteria raw bar, then hors d'oeuvres in the Atrium, followed by beef roulades, chicken crepes, Williamsburg salad, and teriyaki vegetables. Two wines were selected to accompany the main course: Chateau Castera 1981, a red Bordeaux, and Nicolas 1981, a Muscadet. For those who preferred a little spice with their meal, tacos and empanadas were served in the second floor rear corridor and in the Atrium.

Once again the main dance music in the Interior Court was provided by the Ambiance Orchestra. Miguel Vega and his Orchestra thundered out the ever-popular Latin beat in Dining Room 5, while the cafeteria was turned into a discotheque, with strobe lights and glitter, as the Sound Service Disco belted away with the latest hits. As always, the party could not have taken place without the hard work of a lot of dedicated persons. Planning for the evening was coordinated by James Kaiser, Peter Swain, and Margaret Miller, who began preparations many months ago. Patsy Coffey, Rosemary Eory, and Sharon Dove in Staff Relations handled the distribution of tickets through departmental Administrative Officers and also organized a team of volunteers to collect tickets at the entrances. The physical arrangements for the party were handled by James Littleton, Awad Osman, and Harold White, with the assistance of the Fund messengers and the movers, while John Wharen competently cared for the all-important sound systems.

Next year, with the completion of Phase IIa, the physical space to accommodate the party will be expanded substantially. The gallery will be opened out with the completion of the new wing to the building, and a new snack bar space will also be available for use. This, Mr. Kaiser explains, should eliminate some of the present circulation problems in crowded corridors and service areas. But, cramped or not, this year's party was a glittering success that was enjoyed by all who attended.

The collage on the front page was designed by Susan Harrison and features photographs by Denio Zara.

THE ROLE OF THE FUND IN THE WORLD ECONOMY was discussed at a colloquium held on October 20-28 in Beijing in collaboration with the People's Bank of China. The gathering was attended by more than 250 Chinese academics and postgraduate students (plus some officials) who welcomed the opportunity to exchange views and philosophies with a number of senior Fund staff members. The latter included William C. Hood, Economic Counsellor; Leo Van Houtven, Secretary of the Fund; Azizali F. Mohammed, Director of the External Relations Department (EXR); Prabhakar R. Narvekar, Deputy Director of the Asian Department; Manuel Guitian, Senior Advisor in the Exchange and Trade Relations Department; and Augustus W. Hooke, Acting Chief of the Editorial Division of EXR.

The presentation of papers on a number of subjects of interest to the participants was followed by question and answer sessions that became increasingly animated as time progressed. Papers delivered by Fund staff centered on the world economic situation, the role of the Fund in the evolving monetary system, policymaking in the Fund, Fund-supported adjustment programs and coordination of such programs with those of the World Bank, the SDR, and the role of the Fund in developing countries. A somewhat different point of view on the world economy was expressed in papers presented by the two Chinese speakers--Professor Luo Yuanzheng, of the Academy of Social Sciences, and Associate Professor Hong Junyan, of Beijing University--both of whom discussed China's role in the world economy and the current economic situation in the market economies. The papers delivered during the colloquium and a summary of the discussions will be published shortly in Chinese and their publication in English is under consideration.

WARREN N. MINAMI, a national of the United States, has been appointed Director of the newly created Bureau of Computing Services. The Bureau has been established to provide data processing services for the Fund, including feasibility studies, systems analysis, programming, and documentation of automated systems.

Mr. Minami, 44, was educated at San Jose State College, in California, where he received a B.S. in Industrial Management in 1962, and at The American University in Washington, D.C., where he completed his Ph.D. in Business Management, Computer Systems, and Economics in 1974. He worked as a Systems Analyst/Programmer with the Washington-based Smithsonian Institution from 1966 to 1969 and as a Programmer Analyst in the Fund's Treasurer's Department in 1969. Subsequently, Mr. Minami took the position of Associate Director of Data Processing at the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. He remained at the Federal Reserve Board until 1976, when he joined the Chase Manhattan Corporation of New York as its Vice President. In 1979, Mr. Minami became Vice President of the American Security Bank of Washington, D.C., where he worked until his present appointment.

E. WALTER ROBICHEK, formerly Director of the Western Hemisphere Department, has been appointed to the newly created position of Advisor to the Managing Director. In this capacity, Mr. Robichek will advise the Fund's management on ways in which the Fund, acting in concert with the central banks and banking supervision authorities of the member countries concerned, can operate to prevent the emergence of debt service difficulties for member countries, particularly vis-a-vis commercial banks.

Mr. Robichek, a national of the United States, received a B.A. degree in Economics from Harvard College in 1942 and the degree of M.P.A. (Economics, Government) from Harvard University in 1944. From 1946 to 1947 he served as Economic Analyst in the U.S. Treasury Department. He joined the Fund in 1947 as an Operations Assistant and subsequently held the positions of Operations Officer, Economist, Assistant Division Chief, Division Chief, and Deputy Director. Mr. Robicheck was appointed Director of the Western Hemisphere Department in 1977, following the retirement of Jorge del Canto, of Chile.

EDUARDO WIESNER, a national of Colombia, has been appointed Director of the Western Hemisphere Department, succeeding E. Walter Robichek.

Mr. Wiesner, 48, received a B.A. in Economics (with honors) from the University of the Andes, Colombia, in 1959. He later attended Stanford University, where he was awarded an M.S. in Economics in 1961. He also obtained a Diploma in Management Studies from the University of the Andes in 1971.

After holding teaching and advisory positions in universities and commissions in Colombia and working on the staff of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, Mr. Wiesner became President of the Bankers' Association of Colombia in 1976, and President of the National Professional Economic Council of Colombia in 1977. From August 1978 until August 1982 he held Cabinet positions in the Turbay-Ayala Administration, first as Director of the National Department of Planning and then as Minister of Finance. Mr. Wiesner is the author of numerous books and articles on development, international and monetary economics, and public finance.

CHINA HOLDS A SPECIAL KIND OF FASCINATION for most people, although only a lucky few can ever expect to experience the country's attractions at first hand. The Beijing colloquium offered a number of staff members, along with their wives, the opportunity to take the journey of a lifetime to this enigmatic and history-rich country. The following article is by Constance Guitian, who accompanied her husband on the trip to China, and who agreed to share with us some of her impressions of Beijing. A photographer who exhibits under the name of Zinnia, Mrs. Guitian guides us on a tour of the city as seen through the eyes of an artist and invites us to savor Beijing's mixture of colors, textures, and sounds.

"This was my first visit to China, a country whose very name conjures up images of the exotic. It was also my first time in a country whose language was completely alien to me. After the first week I began to feel that I should be capable of understanding some words just from repeatedly hearing them but, of course, I never was able to. Not being able to read the language or relate the written characters to spoken sounds was a disorienting experience and, as a result, my impressions of Beijing are kaleidoscopic.

"At first glance, the city is overwhelmingly monochromatic. In the new part of Beijing there are wide avenues with gray buildings on either side. In the old part of town the buildings are almost totally hidden by the ubiquitous gray walls that come together to form courtyards and alleys. These walls are broken by small doorways through which people disappear as the sun sets over the horizon. There is a feverish level of construction activity outside the core of the old city, where numerous standard box-style apartment houses are being built in unfinished concrete. I imagine that there must be a tremendous demand for apartments because so much of the city is still composed of one-to-four-story residences.

"Colors seem to come in dashes in Beijing. Along a section of Changan Avenue--the main thoroughfare--which lies just beyond the entrance to the Forbidden City, there is a long red wall that separates the homes of the party leaders from the rest of the city. There are also a few low red brick buildings, but these seem to lose themselves in an environment so dominated by gray. Another dash of color is provided by preschool children, whose bright clothing contrasts sharply with the dark blue or olive green garments worn by most Chinese. The food markets scattered throughout the residential sections offer many gigantic mounds of cabbage, leeks, and chards whose shades of green contrast nicely with the orange, red, and greenish yellow of the persimmons, apples, and pears. There are still very few trees in Beijing, although willows and acacias have been planted on Changan Avenue and around the apartment buildings whose balconies are filled with potted plants, strings of chards, and lines of drying clothes.

"Silence is a sound that is unique to Beijing. I never expected such a large city to be so quiet. The silence is broken only by the occasional honking of horns as official cars, regular and accordion buses, and a multitude of bicycle riders merge on Changan Avenue. I found this flow of usually silent traffic fascinating. Despite the large number of vehicles involved, they flow in an orderly (and seemingly collision-free) manner. The waves of cyclists of all ages who ride alone or in small groups have one important feature in common: they ride so gracefully that their bikes seem to glide. Bicycling is an art in Beijing, and riders seem to have an innate understanding of the concepts of flows and confluences. An interesting point is that cyclists do not stop at busy intersections but, rather, vary their speed and manage to weave through the coming traffic. One wonders how pedestrians manage to cross the street if traffic never stops. The trick is to proceed with steady determination toward the goal. The bike rider can thus figure out where the pedestrian is going in relation to where the cyclist himself will be, and in this manner avoid a collision course.

"Dusk seemed very brief in Beijing, with darkness enveloping the city as early as five or six p.m. Rush hour takes place at about the same time as dusk and it is over just as quickly, as people alight from the buses, walk down the narrow side-streets, and disappear while the cyclists glide past and vanish. Beijing then turns so quiet that it seems impossible nine million people live there.

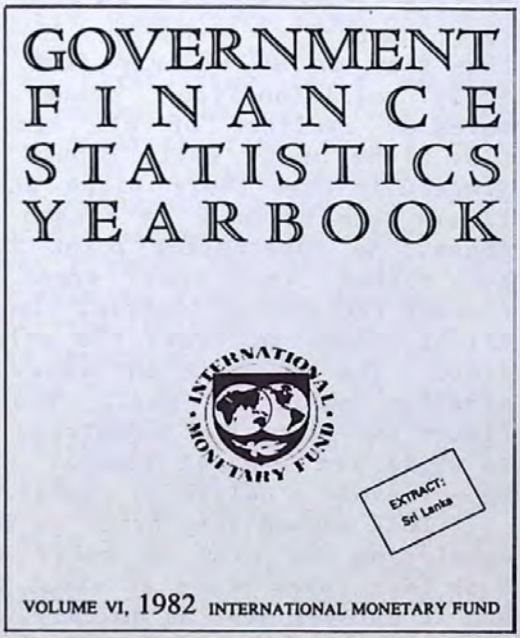
"One evening early in our stay, we were treated to a performance in the Peking Opera Theatre, which was at the time offering a sumptuous production of the Monkey King. The opera house is not decorated and the seats are wooden, without any upholstery. The spartan surroundings were in sharp contrast to the beauty of the production, which told the story of a monk who went to India to study Buddhism and brought the sacred texts back to China. The voyage is full of mishaps, which are solved by the 'monkey king'. Our hosts were concerned that we would not be able to follow the storyline, but the action was so vivid and the dancing so perfect that we had no difficulty. The music is very different from Western operas, with no sustained orchestral line or arias, and with continuity provided by the cacophanous resonance of cymbals and drums. Interestingly enough, the singers have only small parts, but this may be because they also have to dance and perform acrobatics.

"The opera ended abruptly about two and a half hours later. I was surprised that so much time had passed, but I was even more astonished to find myself wide awake at 10 o'clock at night. This production of the Monkey King may just be the perfect antidote for jet lag. (The photographs featured in this article are by Zinnia.)

A NEW APPROACH TO THE PUBLICATION OF SELECTED STATISTICS has been tried, on an experimental basis, by the Government Finance Statistics Division of the Bureau of Statistics, which has reorganized material from the 1982 Government Finance Statistics Yearbook into separate country pamphlets for 51 developing countries. The new pamphlets are expected to familiarize a wider audience within each country both with that country's data presented according to Fund standards and with intercountry comparisons.

Each pamphlet contains approximately 60 pages, compared with the 878 pages of the GFS Yearbook itself, and includes introductory material from the Yearbook, world tables on revenues, expenditures, fiscal balances, and debt, as well as all Yearbook pages relating to the particular country.

The idea of publishing the pamphlets emerged from discussions that took place in Dakar at the February 1982 seminar on government finance statistics, organized by the Central Bank of West African States with Fund cooperation (see the March-April 1982 issue of Staff News). Participants who were responsible for compiling data for



the Fund's GFS Yearbook had complained that the statistics were not widely distributed within their own countries, partly as a result of a mistaken impression among government officials that such statistics were being compiled for Fund purposes only, rather than for use by analysts and policymakers within each country.

The task of producing pamphlets tailored to potential audiences in individual developing countries was entrusted to the Fund's Graphics Section, which successfully met a number of interesting challenges to produce the pamphlets in-house from the pages of the Yearbook. Since the pamphlets were to be published in either English, French, or Spanish, separate introductory sections had to be prepared in each of these languages. Once these sections were ready, the Graphics Section staff inserted the Yearbook pages for each individual country and bound the finished product in simulated Yearbook covers overprinted with the notation "EXCERPT: Sri Lanka," for example.

Pamphlets were mailed, again on an experimental basis, to government and central bank officials and to IMF Survey subscribers in each of the selected developing countries. It is hoped that increasing the number of people familiar with the data in Fund format and with the intercountry comparisons will generate additional interest and support for compilation and use of the data within each country. A limited number of pamphlets is available for use by interested staff members. Requests may be directed to the Government Finance Statistics Division, Room L-984, Ext. 60812.

(The photographs above left shows, from left to right, Herge Kedlaya, Carl Chin, Loa Doyne Holl, Emily Evershed, Federigo Arcangeli, and Francis McAleese at work in the production of the pamphlets. On the right is the cover of one of the pamphlets.)

THE MINISTERIAL MEETING of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was held in Geneva on November 24-29. The Managing Director delivered an address in which he emphasized that pressures for increasing protectionism in member countries have dangerous implications for the world economy (the full text of the speech was carried in the November 29, 1982 issue of the IMF Survey). The meeting was also attended by several Fund and World Bank staff members. The photograph above shows, from left to right: front row, Carlos Sanson, Deputy Director of the Western Hemisphere Department; Mr. de Larosiere; A. W. Clausen, President of the World Bank; and Mahmud Burney, World Bank Representative to UN Organizations; back row, Ishan Kapur, then Senior Economist in the Fund's Office in Geneva; and Shailendra J. Anjara, Chief of the Trade and Payments Division of the Exchange and Trade Relations Department.

D.J. POWLETT-JONES AND THE BAMFYLDE BOYS IN THE ATRIUM? Aficionados of PBS' "Masterpiece Theater" might have been forgiven a sense of "deja vu" at lunchtime on December 13, when scarlet-cassocked young choristers and black-robed "gentlemen singers" filed in. They actually hailed from Seaford College, Sussex, were quintessentially and delightfully English, and performed like a choir of angels under the leadership of their "precentor" Philip Hill. A capacity audience of staff members sat entranced through a repertoire ranging from Elizabethan to contemporary, and including both old favorites and arrangements of French, Russian, Basque, and Austrian hymns and carols. The group has acquired a wide and well-deserved reputation in several countries, and recently gave a concert attended by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Records and cassettes of "A Royal Carol Recital," containing most of the songs performed at the Fund by the Choir, can be obtained at any of the Washington area branches of Record and Tape.

THE EVER TRIUMPHANT STRAINS OF GIOVANNI GABRIELI'S "JUBILATE DEO," rendered by chorus, soloists, and the double brass choir, rang through the atrium on December 15, in one of the highlights of a concert --heralding the International Year of Peace-- presented by the Bank/Fund Choral Society, whose superb performance was directed by Joya Bovington Cox. The entire program was memorable, but David Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata" and "Riu, Riu, Riu," an anonymous 16th century Spanish carol, proved particularly outstanding. A spirited sing-along, establishing beyond doubt that the staff too was in excellent voice, concluded a festive and uplifting performance.

THE SENSE OF TRANQUILITY EMANATING FROM ALI FAILI'S WATERCOLORS, on display in the Atrium until January 14, beckons the spectator into a world of silence and meditation in which the concerns of everyday life are momentarily forgotten. An architect and city planner who since the mid-1970s has devoted his full attention to painting, Mr. Faili uses an interplay of lights to create extraordinarily restrained scenes that seem to convey a feeling of infinity and harmony.

Originally from Teheran, the artist studied at the University of Geneva's School of Architecture and later did postgraduate work at the University College London.

After graduation, Mr. Faili moved to the Netherlands, where he took several courses at the Van Gogh Museum and became involved in screen-printing. His first major one-man show in Teheran (in 1977) was followed by shows in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Switzerland, and France. Mr. Faili moved to Washington in 1981. His works are on permanent display at Jean Efron Associates, an art consulting firm in Washington, as well as at Galerie Racines in Brussels and Galerie Cour St. Pierre in Geneva.

The photograph above shows the artist standing next to Bahram Nowzad, President of the Art Society, along with a group of staff members who attended the opening of the exhibit.

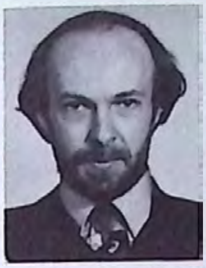
JOSEPH J. DIANA retired from the Fund at the end of August after a long career with the Photo Lab in the Graphics Section of the Administration Department. He joined the Fund in 1947 as a Photographic Assistant in what was then the Office of the Administrative Assistant (later renamed the Office of Administration and subsequently the Department of Administration). Mr. Diana was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Photo Lab in 1948 and was appointed Photographer in 1955. He became Senior Photographer in 1961 and in 1976 was named Photo Supervisor, a position he held until his retirement.

During his 35 years with the Fund, Mr. Diana had the opportunity not only to witness the evolution of the Fund but also to photograph it for posterity. He personally photographed every Managing Director, with the exception of Mr. Gutt, and every U.S. President (beginning with President Truman) who addressed the Annual Meetings. Mr. Diana also attended (and photographed) all Fund Christmas Parties and annual picnics since their inception. In addition, he was instrumental in the establishment of both the Fund's Bowling League and the short-lived softball team (of which he was the captain as well as the president).

Now that he has retired, Mr. Diana plans to do some traveling, particularly in Europe, and to devote part of his free time to photographing subjects of personal interest. He would also like to keep in touch with the many friends he made while at the Fund, and wishes to extend to them his most fervent wishes for a peaceful and happy 1983.

New Members of Fund Staff

Mrs. Carole Albright
U.S.A. - RES



Mr. Michael W. Bell
U.K. - AFD

Mr. Tony R. Boote
U.K. - EUR

Ms. Patricia D. Brenner
U.S.A. - WHD

Mr. Jean-Claude K. Brou
Ivory Coast - EP

Miss Carmen M. Burigan
U.S.A. - TRE

Mr. Terrence J. Checki
U.S.A. - ADM

Mr. John Hicklin
U.K. - EP

Mr. Ronald Johnson
U.S.A. - EP

Mr. Klaus J. Keller
Germany - EP

Mr. Bert E. Keuppens
Belgium - TRE

Mr. Jose Saul Lizondo
Argentina - EP

Mr. Henri R. Lorie
Belgium - AFD

Mr. Louis Mendras
France - EP

Miss Kathleen P. Moran
U.S.A. - EUR

Mr. Paul D. Mortimer-Lee
U.K. - AFD

Mr. David C. L. Nellor
Australia - EP

Mr. Kenneth Rogoff
U.S.A. - RES

Mr. Cesar L. Ramirez-Rojas
Mexico - EP

Mr. Blair E. Rourke
Canada - RES

Mr. Christian A. Salinas
Chile - OED

Mrs. M. Schulze-Ghattas
Germany - EP

Miss Virginia C. Slocum
U.S.A. - WHD

Mr. Jose V. Soromenho-Ramos
Portugal - TRE

Mr. Masaru Tanaka
Japan - BUR

New Members of Fund Staff (Continued)

Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson Telson
U.S.A. - ETR

Mr. Poul Mathias Thomsen
Denmark - EP

Mr. Peter M. Tillotson
Australia - TRE

Mrs. Sylvia J. White
U.K. - EUR

Mr. Guangxi Zhu
China - BLS

BABIES. A daughter, Mayya Nadia, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Suheil Kawar on July 8; a daughter, Anna-Marie Isabelle R., was born to Frances R. and Jack A. Josue on August 12; a daughter, Julia, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Eduard H. Brau on September 23; a daughter, Angelique Ramona, was born to Lorna and Hotipha M. Campbell on September 20; a daughter, Hatice Hulya, was born to Sahika and Ilhami Kayir on September 29; a son, Mohammed Jamal, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ahmed Abisourour on October 12; a son, Mutabazi, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Delphin G. Rwegasira on October 12; a son, Jousef Safwat, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Safwat Y. Azer on October 14; a daughter, Angela Florence Zaki, was born to Mr. and Mrs. James M. Ogoola on October 22; a daughter, Wala'a, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaban N. Ismail on October 25; and a daughter, Katayoun, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hassanali Mehran on November 17.

RESIGNATIONS. Dianne E. Hooke and Penelope G. Louet resigned from the Fund in October. Jose L. Feito, Susan J. Irving, J. R. Novaes de Almeida, John Odling-Smee, Christopher Pinfield, Ana Ponce Santos, Okan Ucer, and Helen C. Walsh resigned in November.

RETIREES. Rita E. Murnane, Bureau of Statistics, retired from the Fund in October, and Mary Dellenoci, Administration Department, retired from the Fund in November.

TRANSFERS: The following staff members transferred: in October, Ada J. de Korver, from the Office of an Executive Director to Support Group (Secretarial Staff); Ali Salehizadeh, from the Bureau of Statistics to the Research Department; Norma S. Samson, from the Exchange and Trade Relations Department to the Legal Department; Viktor R. Sertic, from the African Department to the position of Resident Representative in Bangladesh; and James R. Wein, from the European Department to the Administration Department; in November, Solange T. Charlot, from the Office of an Executive Director to the Support Group (Secretarial Staff); Sheila A. Dobson, from the Fiscal Affairs Department to the Office of an Executive Director; Abdel Rehman Ismael, from the European Department to the Research Department; Lloyd R. Kenward, from the Research Department to the Western Hemisphere Department; A. Gertrude Phiri, from the Office of an Executive Director to the Support Group (Secretarial Staff); and V. Sundararajan, from the position of Resident Representative in Korea to the Research Department.

EDNA C. SHINN died on November 12, 1982 at her home in Washington. Mrs. Shinn joined the Fund in 1949, serving primarily in the Western Hemisphere Department through 1955. She returned to the Fund in 1958 and joined the Secretary's Department shortly thereafter. In 1964 she assumed the responsibility for Executive Board Services until her retirement as Assistant to the Secretary in May 1982. At the time of her retirement, she was also Secretary of the Committee on Executive Board Administrative Matters. Her many years in Executive Board Services were devoted to the needs of the members of both the Offices of Executive Directors and the Secretary's Department.

STAFF **NEWS**

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