

Staff



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news



SPRING MEETINGS...



Photo Credits: Denio Zara

JUDGING BY THE EARLY REVIEWS, the Fund's *History* for 1972-78 is a success. The latest volumes are receiving praise and recognition from leading economists and financial writers around the world. While this is nothing new for Fund Historian Margaret Garritsen de Vries, who enjoyed similar successes with the previous volumes, the highly favorable reviews are a welcome reward for the many years of hard work that it took to write the latest *History*.

Among the earliest reviews was one appearing in the Winter 1985/86 issue of *Foreign Affairs*. In it, William Diebold Jr., a long-standing staff member (now emeritus) of the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that "Dr. de Vries... maintains the high standards she set in earlier volumes." In an article appearing in the *Times Literary Supplement* of December 6, 1985, Tim Congdon asserts that Mrs. de Vries "gives exactly the right mix of story-telling and appraisal," adding that she has "good claim to be the Gibbon of postwar international finance." He goes on to note that "the IMF has succeeded in a way which few observers can have expected in the early 1970s" and that the Historian "is at her best in discussing the evolution of the IMF as an institution, steadily acquiring autonomy of outlook and independence in decision-making."

One of the most comprehensive reviews of the *History* appeared in the March 1986 issue of *Finance and Development*. In it, Robert Solomon of the Brookings Institution and Vice-Chairman of the now-dissolved Committee of 20, states that the author "has produced a valuable history of this period" for which she and the Fund's management "are to be congratulated." He goes on to say that "Mrs. de Vries has been given, and has used, the freedom to analyze and to exercise independent judgment as well as to narrate," with the result that "had one examined this manuscript without knowledge of its source, one would not have identified it as an official history from its style and substance." Mr. Solomon maintains that the "*History* at its best helps to illuminate the present," and says that it does a "splendid"



Margaret Garritsen de Vries is the Fund's Historian.

job of covering the developments that made the Fund's role in the world a crucial one.

A review by Forrest Capie published in the January 1986 issue of the *Banker* calls the *History* "a good account of the Fund's response to its changed environment and operation....Not much is left out of the story." He suggests that "we should be grateful to the Fund for this voluminous account of its activity and its willingness to produce such detailed material, much of which is frank and will be of interest and value to the student of the international economy."

And in what is up to now the only known review in a foreign language, Don Genachowski--writing in the December 1985 issue of the *Economic Quarterly* of Israel--calls the work "monumental" and an "indispensable primary source for anyone from outside the Fund who wishes to assess not only the institution and

its activities but also world economic developments since the Second World War, and the responses to them." Moreover, he says, the text "is written in a fluent and readable style, with great effort to escape jargon."

The *History* is soon to be complemented by what amounts to a one-volume history of the Fund--also written by Mrs. de Vries--that reviews the first 40

years of the Fund's operations. Entitled "The IMF in a Changing World, 1945-85," the paperback book brings together a selection of articles that were initially written by Mrs. de Vries for the *IMF Survey* and *Finance and Development* and that deal with everything from the Bretton Woods Conference to the debt crises of the 1980s. The book should be out early in May.

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SWISS TELEVISION NETWORK executives thought it might be a long shot, but sometime in March they cabled the Fund's Information Division inquiring about the availability of a film or video tape explaining the history and activities of the Fund. The response to similar requests in the past would have normally been an expression of regret. This time around, the Swiss TV was told to expect a response shortly. On April 18th, 1986, a shipment went out to the Swiss TV in Zurich. It contained a newly completed 16 mm color film entitled "The IMF at Work"--the fruit of a four-year venture into the world of motion pictures.

Quietly, and in the middle of pressing business--including preparations for the spring meetings of the Interim and Development Committees--members of the Executive Board and their associates had gathered in late March at the just-finished IMF Visitors' Center auditorium to view the results of the Fund's first attempt to produce a film for general distribution explaining the work and functions of the institution. This premiere had been preceded by earlier showings for Department Heads and senior staff. And earlier, on a cold December evening, the Managing Director had visited the studios of Rosenberg & Issemer Production Co. in Bethesda to take a look at the "rough-cut," or draft copy, of the film and give his approval.

Reactions among the first viewers were varied. Some thought it was excellent, others said it was very good, and yet others saw the need for improve-

ments. But in all the showings that took place so far, everyone voiced amazement that a film on the Fund could be produced at all.

For the External Relations Department and many others throughout the Fund, the film's completion signaled the end of a long, uncertain, and at times frustrating effort. It all started on December 16, 1981, when Azizali F. Mohammed, Director of the External Relations Department, wrote a "Memo for the Files" where he addressed the possibility of making a film on the Fund. "The choice of a producer is critical to the success of the venture," he wrote, since he must be both creative and "a businessman who will keep to the terms of a contract. An independent producer will usually insist upon copyright and thus be responsible for distribution. On the other hand," he continued, "truly creative individuals are not usually good at business matters."

And so the search was on for that creative yet businesslike independent producer who would be able to make a film on the Fund at a "reasonable cost." Proposals ranged from \$85,000 for an in-house modest production, to the more than \$500,000 casually suggested by a big-name producer who was not even sure he would be able to do it for that price.

Equally important to finding a producer was defining the objective of the film and its audience. In a follow-up memo to the Managing Director, dated February 19, 1982, Mr. Mohammed proposed to "organize production of a 28-minute

16mm color documentary film designed to tell the story of the International Monetary Fund and its activities." Since the goal was to obtain widespread dissemination of the film, the "story line" had to be "fresh, lively, and interesting, with high quality photography and optical effects," he added.



George Rosembert (left) and Gerard Isseibert (right) relax in Ecuador during the filming of a Fund consultation mission.

The goal was to reach out to a broad audience throughout the member countries by using image and sound. The film was intended to serve as a surrogate for personal appearances in some countries and as a substitute for, or complement to, Fund publications. [Television sets in member countries were conservatively estimated at more than 400 million in 1985.] No assumptions were made as to how many countries would actually show the film, but it was felt that the demand was there, and a film was needed to fill that demand.

With the objectives defined, nine prominent producers were identified with the help of such long-time film makers as the National Geographic Society, the United Nations, and several national information agencies. The nine were invited to submit outlines defining their artistic approach to the subject as well as preliminary estimates of the cost involved. Before submitting their proposals, the nine producers spent several weeks researching the subject and interviewing staff-members and others who knew something about the institution. A review committee in EXR then narrowed the nine proposals down to two, and

finally selected the Rosenberg & Isseibert Production Co. to make the film.

Although budget was a major consideration--the bid of Rosenberg and Isseibert was 30 percent below that of the next lowest competitor--it was not the decisive reason for selecting the firm. The selling point was their concept for the film and their prior experience in producing films for the National Geographic Society on such subjects as capitalism, socialism, and communism--difficult subjects to capture visually. They proposed not to dwell on complex issues that only the specialists would understand, but to tell an informative and entertaining story about the Fund.

The production team consisted of Gerard Isseibert, the company's French-born president and producer; George Rosenberg, a talented cinematographer; and Herb Rosen, the script-writer. In the process of writing the script, the team interviewed the Managing Director--both on and off camera--as well as such Fund veterans as J.J. Polak and Sir Joseph Gold. Literally all Fund departments and bureaus were involved one way or another. Milton Chamberlain of the Secretary's Department played a major role by researching the historic footage available on the Fund.

The finished product, "The IMF at Work," is intended for a general audience. It attempts to inform the public about the origins, structure, and functions of the Fund, while avoiding technical language. Conceived as a semi-documentary, the film starts off by illustrating the basic concepts of trade and exchange, and then proceeds to explain how problems in the functioning of the international trade and monetary system led to the creation of the Fund.

Following this introduction, the film describes in straightforward language and real images the structure of the institution--from the Board of Governors, Executive Board, and Management to the various departments and bureaus. Using direct narration and interviews with the Managing Director, the film describes how the Fund functions, stressing relations with member countries.

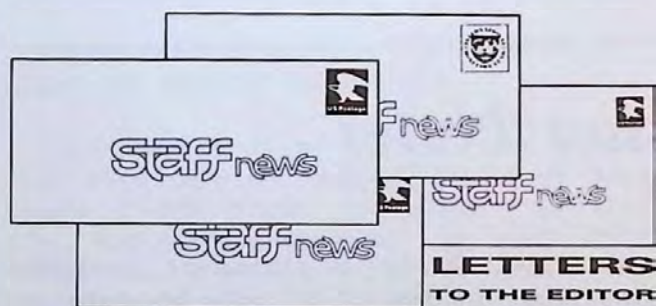
To help visualize the financial and regulatory aspects of the Fund's work, the film shows two actual consultation missions at work—one for Ecuador and one for the United States. It concludes with a reaffirmation of the objectives that have guided the Fund for over 40 years, helping its members work together toward a stable world financial system and sustainable economic growth.

The film is available in 16-mm as well as in video cassettes in various formats and standards including VHS, Beta, U-matic 3/4 inch in PAL, SECAM, and NTSC. In addition to English—the

version that was sent to the Swiss TV—the film will soon be available in French, German, Spanish, and Arabic.

Copies will be made available to the authorities of member countries and will be distributed on lease or sold by the Publications Unit. Fund staff members may obtain copies of the tape version from the Publications Unit for \$15.00. Showings of the film will be featured regularly at the IMF Visitors' Center, which will open formally later this year.

Ahmed M. Abushadi



To the Editor:

"Hay Fever"

May I, a long-time martyr to the common-or-spring blossom variety of hay fever prevalent in Washington around this time, express a few seasonal thoughts now that I, in common with many others, have also contracted "Hay Fever." It is sad that the otherwise vigilant Health Room has not issued a Healthgram, since Hay Fever detracts from health (which the WHO defines as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (underscoring added)).

Hay Fever is not traceable to any known virus, but it is believed that, unlike AIDS, it can be communicated without physical contact and is, therefore, even more contagious. It has distinctive symptoms, notably acute nausea, perpetual griping, and episodic

hallucinations of Jacob's Snakes and Ladders (Amend Genesis xxviii, 12). Certain staff species are known to be particularly susceptible, especially blood groups A-14 to B-3 (except those who are blue blooded by birth or transfusion).

The Health Room is keeping the disease under observation. Meanwhile, it has prescribed an interim therapy called "grandfathering," a neologism which I, having lost both sets of grandparents before I was born, find hard to comprehend. Is it a noun, a verb, or a participle? Anyway, it is cold comfort. What happens when your grandfathering expires two years from January 1, 1986? Thereafter, "Thou shalt seek godfathering" (the Eleventh Commandment).

Pending the Health Room's definitive case-by-case therapy, it is strongly recommended that patients, before they go completely "Hay Wire," see Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" at the Kennedy Center). [It is a mere coincidence that Coward's other comedy, "The Fallen Angels," was also put on boards in the same year, 1925.] Advance bookings are recommended; those whose Hay Fever Temperature Points are ungraded will be allowed as "standees." Downgrades of the World Unite! You have nothing to lose except your golden handshakes.

Name withheld by request

To the Editor:

Hurray for the irreverent letters on job grading (*Staff News*, January-February 1986). They certainly were rays of

sunshine that pierced the otherwise gloomy clouds hovering over the Fund staff since February 14, 1986.

Evangelina L. Pasaylon

To Our Readers:

If you have any opinions that you feel may be shared by staff members, or questions that you would like to ask, please send them in to us and we will publish them in this column.

As a matter of editorial policy, we request that all letters be signed, so that we may verify their legitimacy. In those few cases in which the writer asks

for anonymity, we will not publish the writer's name without permission. However, if we feel that the opinions expressed in the letter call for a signature, we will advise the writer and give him or her the final word on whether the letter will be published.

Liliana Fidel Hamilton
Editor, *Staff News*,
Room 10-548, Ext. 8589

Administration Notes

FROM STAFF RELATIONS...

Parents of G-IV children are reminded that students intending to work in the United States during the 1986 vacation months should submit to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) their applications for work authorization at least 60 days before reporting for work. Keep in mind that authorization is not effective until receipt of a notice of approval from the INS.

Along these lines, work authorizations for G-IV spouses and dependent children are valid for two years and are granted exclusively for employment with a specific employer. Applications for renewals or extensions of existing work authorizations for the same employer are currently taking 6-8 weeks. Renewal of the authorization takes place only upon receipt of a new work permit from INS. If there is a gap between the termination date of the current authorization and the authorization date of the renewal, the G-IV dependent cannot legally work during that period. If the dependent works illegally and subsequently at-

tempts to obtain a permanent resident visa, he or she will not be able to obtain the visa in the United States and will instead have to go to a U.S. Consulate abroad for the necessary residency interviews.

Staff members are therefore encouraged to initiate the procedures for renewal at last two months before the current authorization expires. Renewal applications may be obtained from the Staff Relations Unit, Room 6-320.

Summer is the heaviest season for salary advance requests for educational purposes. Staff members are therefore encouraged to submit applications for educational advances for the 1986/87 academic year as soon as they know what the charges (for tuition, room and board, etc.) will be. In cases where a staff member received an advance for a previous academic year, the Staff Relations Unit will not process the new request until it receives full documentation (proof of payment and attendance) for that previous year.

It takes an average of least ten working days from the time the salary-advance application is submitted until the check is issued, and staff members should take this into consideration when

FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTION...

Household employees holding G-V visas should have their visas renewed every 12 months. Requests for extending these employees' temporary stay in the United States must be made one month prior to the expiration date indicated on the I-94 form attached to the employee's passport (processing takes about three weeks). Staff members who wish to have the extension arranged by the Trans-

FROM THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT...

The health rooms are designed to meet the work-related medical needs of staff members and their families. As such, the facilities provided in the health rooms do, indeed, extend to family members those services directly related to their travel whenever such travel is undertaken at Fund expense.

submitting their requests. Similarly, requests for salary advances for the purchase of a first home should be submitted well before settlement so as to allow sufficient time for processing.

portation Section should submit:

a. The employee's passport (with form I-94 attached). The passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the date when the extension of stay is requested.

b. A covering letter from the staff member indicating that the person will remain in his employ for at least another 12 months.

The health rooms also routinely extend their services to anyone in the building in case of a genuine medical emergency. Staff members should not expect, however, to call upon the medical staff in the health rooms to serve the personal medical needs of their families. It is important to remember that the health rooms are neither equipped nor staffed for family care.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICS CAN BE TASTY, as was discovered in late March by staff members who gathered at the Bureau of Statistics to celebrate the publication of *A Manual on Government Finance Statistics*. The guest of honor was a lime-green cake in the shape of the *Manual*, with the art work for the front cover cleverly done in white icing.

The real *Manual* is a 382-page reference work providing the necessary guidelines for the optimal presentation of government statistics. It is the result of more than a decade of work by the staff of the Bureau's Government Finance Division, headed by Jonathan Levin, and the Fiscal Affairs Department. The new *Manual* supersedes the *Draft Manual*, which since its publication in 1974 had



Jonathan Levin prepares to cut the *Manual*-inspired cake. He is flanked by BUR Director Werner Danneman (left) and by Assistant Director John B. McLenaghan (right).

been used by correspondents in 129 countries that regularly report government finance data to the Fund.

The late afternoon party brought together everyone who had a hand in the *Manual's* publication. Sipping champagne and munching on salads, caviar, imported

cheeses, and, of course, the cake, guests lightheartedly shared anecdotes and breathed a sigh of relief that the *Manual* was finished. One of the guests even suggested in jest that eating the cake could serve as a substitute for reading the *Manual*!

VAN POOL DIRECTORY

<u>Areas Served</u>	<u>Arrival(a.m.)/Departure (p.m.)</u>	<u>Remarks/Contacts</u>
Alexandria, Va. (Seminary Plaza)	8:55/5:40	Seats available. North Van Dorn to Bradlee Shopping Center/Fairlington Vill./Quaker Ln. Call Ms. Ghattas, Ext. 3-2609.
Bethesda, Md. (Montgomery Mall)	8:25/5:10	Permanent seats available. Call Mr. Rivera, Ext. 74689.
Columbia, Md.	8:25/5:15	From Owen Brown/Rte. 29 to BW Parkway. Call Mr. Alloy, Ext. 60084.
Fairfax, Va.	8:20/5:10	Now forming. From Greenbriar/Franklin Farms via Rt. 50 to Rte. 66. Call Mr. Mantri, Ext. 69391.
Falls Church, Va. (Baileys Cross Rds.)	8:55/5:35	Now forming. From Skyline. \$20 below metro fare. Call Mr. Veizaga, Ext. 3-3295.
Lewisdale/Chillum, Md.	8:25/5:10	Now operating. University Blvd./Riggs Rd./East-West Hwy/New Hampshire Ave. Call Ms. Masson-Bruno, Ext. 75318.
Potomac/Bethesda	8:55/5:45	Spot seats. Bradley Blvd./Seven Locks/River Rd. Call Mr. McMullen, Ext. 75374.
Reston, Va. (Hunter Woods)	8:45/5:35	Spot seats. Via Dulles Toll Rd. Call Ms. Gormont, Ext. 74598.

Springfield, Va.	8:50/5:40	Spot seats. Backlick and Old Keene Mill Rds. Call Mrs. Aguirre, Ext. 76347.
Springfield, Va.	8:50/5:40	Now forming. Springfield Plaza. Call Mr. Tran Ext. 75641.
Vienna, Va. (Wolf Trap)	8:55/5:35	Belulah Rd. to Idylwood to Rt. 66. Call Mr. McFayden, Ext. 60568.
Wheaton, Md.	8:25-5:10	Conn. Ave. through Kensington. \$30 less than metro. Call Mr. Thanit, Ext. 61246.
White Oak/ Adelphi, Md.	8:50/5:40	Spot seats. Call Mr. Weng-Leong, Ext. 72847.

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TWENTY-YEAR STAFF. The following staff members commemorated 20 years of service with the Fund: in February, Stamatis Kiminas of ADM; in February, Federigo Arcangeli of ADM; and in April, Anne-Marie Reolon of BLS.

MARRIAGE. Jane Godfrey of ADM married Gene Miller of IBRD on March 22.

BIRTHS. A daughter, Lana Truong Tang was born on February 1 to My H. Truong and Vu H. Tang; a daughter, Arisa, was born on March 2 to Mr. and Mrs. Kazuya Murakami.

RESIGNATIONS. In February, Naddeem Ul Haque and Miroslav Sarenac; in March, Aliou Dia, Toni Gordon, Richard Laurent, Ada Munante, and Kazuya Murakami.

RETIREEES. Carl P. Blackwell retired from the Fund in February and Richard R. Selby retired from the Fund in March.

TRANSFERS. The following staff members transferred in December: José Braz, from

WHD to ETR; Leonardo Cardemil, from ETR to WHD; and Jukka M.T. Paljarvi, from Support Group, Resident Representatives and Advisors to ETR. In January: Robert Franks, from RES to AFR; Andrew Gantt, from Support Group, Resident Representatives and Advisors to WHD; David John Goldsbrough, from RES to ASD; Morris Goldstein, from RES to EXR; Peter Griffith, from FAD to MED; Graham Hacche, from CBD to ETR; Howard Handy, from EXR to MED; Peter Joyce, from BUR to MED; Thomas McLoughlin, from WHD to AFR; Mohammad Shadman, from MED to FAD; Robert Boykin, from ADM to SEC; Shah Jewayni, from ADM to SEC; Camille Nelson, from LEG to ADM; Lan Anh Nguyen, from CBD to BLS; and Eugene Williams, from ADM to SEC. In February: Richard Abrams, from ETR to EUR; Jorge Bonvincini, from ETR to WHD; Robert Di Calogero, from ASD to BUR; Ana Maria Jul, from WHD to ETR; Orlando Roncesvalles, from TRE to WHD; P. van den Boogaerde, from TRE to Support Group, Resident Representatives and Advisors; Andrea Chisholm, from ADM to RES; Suzanne Mit-

New Members of the Fund Staff



Catherine A. Brooke
TRE - U.K.



Bernhard Fritz-Krockow
WHD - Mexico



Lloyd H. Giesy
BCS - U.S.A.



Maria T. Kieslich
BUR - U.S.A.



Martin Klein
BUR - Germany



Guillermo R. Le Fort
WHD - Chile



Deborah J. Loos
RES - Sri Lanka



Jean-Claude Nascimento
AFD - Senegal



Rosalind May Oliver
FAD - Uruguay



Stephen F. D. Powell
EUR - U.K.



Ute Evelyn Sachs
BLS - Germany



Carmen A. Sanabia
LEG - Dominican Republic



Joseph A. Shepard
ADM - U.S.A.



Istvan Szalkai
BUR - Hungary

chell, from EXR to ETR; and Jean West, from RES to ADM. In March: Peter Clark, from WHD to TRE; Robert Floyd, from MED to ADM; Yusuke Horiguchi, from EUR to WHD; Wayne Lewis, from EUR to

Support Group, Resident Representatives and Advisors; Alexander Mountford, from Support Group, Resident Representatives and Advisors to EUR; Catherine Byrne, from MED to EUR; and Anne Yee, from TRE to MED.

DEATH OF RETIREES. Guillermo Walter Klein, who retired from OED in 1964, died on March 4, and Vladimir de Lipski, who retired in 1979 from BLS, died on March 16.

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news**

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