

INTERNATIONAL BANK AND FUND

FOR THE PRESS

First Annual Meeting

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(The following greeting from President Truman was read at the initial meeting of the Boards of Governors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund.)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

September 23, 1946

Dear Mr. Snyder:

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the people of the United States, to welcome to Washington the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and Fund.

The World Bank and the World Fund were conceived in the midst of a great war to help meet the difficult problems of the postwar period and to become a permanent part of the structure of international cooperation visualized by the United Nations. At this first annual meeting of these two organizations, it is impossible to look about the world and fail to see the great responsibility that confronts you.

The world looks to you to provide leadership in helping to build a stable economic world in which nations can trade and prosper in peace. Your governments have accepted the Bretton Woods plans and have placed substantial funds at your disposal to carry them out. Let us put both the plans and the funds to work.

It is with the deepest personal concern that I wish you complete success in your important work.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry S. Truman

Honorable John W. Snyder  
Chairman  
Boards of Governors of the  
International Bank for  
Reconstruction and Development,  
and the International Monetary  
Fund  
Washington, D.C.