

Final Joint Statement
April 21, 1944

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*Joint Statement by Experts
on the Establishment of an*

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
OF THE
UNITED AND ASSOCIATED NATIONS

April 21, 1944



U. S. TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

For more than a year, the technical experts of the United and Associated Nations have been considering tentative proposals for post-war international monetary cooperation.

A preliminary draft of a proposal for an international stabilization fund, prepared by the technical staffs of the Treasury and other Departments of this Government, was sent by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Finance Ministers of the United and Associated Nations for study by their technical experts. The Finance Ministers were also invited to send representatives to Washington for informal discussions with the technical men of this Government.

As a result of discussions among the technical experts of more than 30 of the United and Associated Nations, the conclusion was reached that the most practical method of assuring international monetary cooperation is through the establishment of an International Monetary Fund. The experts have issued a Joint Statement setting forth the principles which they believe should constitute the basis for this fund.

The Joint Statement of the experts has been published in Washington, London, Moscow, Chungking, and in the capitals of other United Nations. It is, of course, a document representing only the views of the technical experts of the United and Associated Nations. No government is in any way bound by the Joint Statement.

FOREWORD

By HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR., *Secretary of the Treasury*

The publication of the Joint Statement of the recommendations of the experts on an International Monetary Fund is concrete evidence that the United Nations can and will cooperate in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world.

It is a matter of gratification that the agreement of the experts on principles for international monetary cooperation was reached in harmony with the best traditions of democracy. Tentative proposals prepared by the technical experts of the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada were published and widely distributed. In this country, the representatives of the Treasury and of other Departments discussed the tentative proposals with interested groups in Washington, Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York, and other cities. Out of these meetings came helpful suggestions, many of which were incorporated in the Joint Statement. In the meantime, exploratory discussions were going on between the technical representatives of the United States and the technical representatives of more than 30 other countries. As a result of these discussions, an agreement was reached by the experts recommending the establishment of an International Monetary Fund as the most practical method of assuring international monetary cooperation.

The tentative proposals that have been under discussion by the experts are part of a broad program for cooperation on international economic problems among the United Nations. The objectives of this program are the expansion and development of international trade, the revival of international investment for productive purposes, the establishment of orderly and stable exchange rates, and the elimination of discriminatory exchange practices that hamper world trade. The attainment of these objectives will go far toward preventing serious economic disruption in many countries during the critical decade after the war.

The discussions up to now have all been of a technical nature and exploratory in character. What has been done represents the views of the technical experts of this country and other countries that have been studying the question. The United States will not in any way be committed until Congress takes action.

JOINT STATEMENT BY EXPERTS

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Sufficient discussion of the problems of international monetary cooperation has taken place at the technical level to justify a statement of principles. It is the consensus of opinion of the experts of the United and Associated Nations who have participated in these discussions that the most practical method of assuring international monetary cooperation is through the establishment of an International Monetary Fund. The principles set forth below are designed to constitute the basis for this Fund. Governments are not asked to give final approval to these principles until they have been embodied in the form of definite proposals by the delegates of the United and Associated Nations meeting in a formal conference.

I. Purposes and Policies of the Fund

The Fund will be guided in all its decisions by the purposes and policies set forth below:

1. To promote international monetary cooperation through a permanent institution which provides the machinery for consultation on international monetary problems.
2. To facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade and to contribute in this way to the maintenance of a high level of employment and real income, which must be a primary objective of economic policy.
3. To give confidence to member countries by making the Fund's resources available to them under adequate safeguards, thus giving members time to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity.

4. To promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among member countries, and to avoid competitive exchange depreciation.

5. To assist in the establishment of multilateral payments facilities on current transactions among member countries and in the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper the growth of world trade.

6. To shorten the periods and lessen the degree of disequilibrium in the international balance of payments of member countries.

II. Subscription to the Fund

1. Member countries shall subscribe in gold and in their local funds amounts (quotas) to be agreed, which will amount altogether to about \$8 billion if all the United and Associated Nations subscribe to the Fund (corresponding to about \$10 billion for the world as a whole).

2. The quotas may be revised from time to time but changes shall require a four-fifths vote and no member's quota may be changed without its assent.

3. The obligatory gold subscription of a member country shall be fixed at 25 percent of its subscription (quota) or 10 percent of its holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange, whichever is the smaller.

III. Transactions With the Fund

1. Member countries shall deal with the Fund only through their Treasury, Central Bank, Stabilization Fund, or other fiscal agencies. The Fund's account in a member's currency shall be kept at the Central Bank of the member country.

2. A member shall be entitled to buy another member's currency from the Fund in exchange for its own currency on the following conditions:

(a) The member represents that the currency demanded is presently needed for making payments in that cur-

rency which are consistent with the purposes of the Fund.

- (b) The Fund has not given notice that its holdings of the currency demanded have become scarce in which case the provisions of VI, below, come into force.
- (c) The Fund's total holdings of the currency offered (after having been restored, if below that figure, to 75 percent of the member's quota) have not been increased by more than 25 percent of the member's quota during the previous 12 months and do not exceed 200 percent of the quota.
- (d) The Fund has not previously given appropriate notice that the member is suspended from making further use of the Fund's resources on the ground that it is using them in a manner contrary to the purposes and policies of the Fund; but the Fund shall not give such notice until it has presented to the member concerned a report setting forth its views and has allowed a suitable time for reply.

The Fund may in its discretion and on terms which safeguard its interests waive any of the conditions above.

3. The operations on the Fund's account will be limited to transactions for the purpose of supplying a member country on the member's initiative with another member's currency in exchange for its own currency or for gold. Transactions provided for under 4 and 7, below, are not subject to this limitation.

4. The Fund will be entitled at its option, with a view to preventing a particular member's currency from becoming scarce:

- (a) To borrow its currency from a member country;
- (b) To offer gold to a member country in exchange for its currency.

5. So long as a member country is entitled to buy another member's currency from the Fund in exchange for its own currency, it shall be prepared to buy its own currency from that member with that member's currency or

with gold. This shall not apply to currency subject to restrictions in conformity with IX, 3 below, or to holdings of currency which have accumulated as a result of transactions of a current account nature effected before the removal by the member country of restrictions on multilateral clearing maintained or imposed under X, 2 below.

6. A member country desiring to obtain, directly or indirectly, the currency of another member country for gold is expected, provided that it can do so with equal advantage, to acquire the currency by the sale of gold to the Fund. This shall not preclude the sale of newly-mined gold by a gold-producing country on any market.

7. The Fund may also acquire gold from member countries in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) A member country may repurchase from the Fund for gold any part of the latter's holdings of its currency.
- (b) So long as a member's holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange exceed its quota, the Fund in selling foreign exchange to that country shall require that one-half of the net sales of such exchange during the Fund's financial year be paid for with gold.
- (c) If at the end of the Fund's financial year a member's holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange have increased, the Fund may require up to one-half of the increase to be used to repurchase part of the Fund's holdings of its currency so long as this does not reduce the Fund's holdings of a country's currency below 75 percent of its quota or the member's holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange below its quota.

IV. Par Values of Member Currencies

1. The par value of a member's currency shall be agreed with the Fund when it is admitted to membership, and shall be expressed in terms of gold. All trans-

actions between the Fund and members shall be at par, subject to a fixed charge payable by the member making application to the Fund, and all transactions in member currencies shall be at rates within an agreed percentage of parity.

2. Subject to 5, below, no change in the par value of a member's currency shall be made by the Fund without the country's approval. Member countries agree not to propose a change in the parity of their currency unless they consider it appropriate to the correction of a fundamental disequilibrium. Changes shall be made only with the approval of the Fund, subject to the provisions below.

3. The Fund shall approve a requested change in the par value of a member's currency, if it is essential to the correction of a fundamental disequilibrium. In particular, the Fund shall not reject a requested change, necessary to restore equilibrium, because of the domestic social or political policies of the country applying for a change. In considering a requested change, the Fund shall take into consideration the extreme uncertainties prevailing at the time the parities of the currencies of the member countries were initially agreed upon.

4. After consulting the Fund, a member country may change the established parity of its currency, provided the proposed change, inclusive of any previous change since the establishment of the Fund, does not exceed 10 percent. In the case of application for a further change, not covered by the above and not exceeding 10 percent, the Fund shall give its decision within 2 days of receiving the application, if the applicant so requests.

5. An agreed uniform change may be made in the gold value of member currencies, provided every member country having 10 percent or more of the aggregate quotas approves.

V. Capital Transactions

1. A member country may not use the Fund's resources to meet a large or sustained outflow of capital, and the

Fund may require a member country to exercise controls to prevent such use of the resources of the Fund. This provision is not intended to prevent the use of the Fund's resources for capital transactions of reasonable amount required for the expansion of exports or in the ordinary course of trade, banking, or other business. Nor is it intended to prevent capital movements which are met out of a member country's own resources of gold and foreign exchange, provided such capital movements are in accordance with the purposes of the Fund.

2. Subject to VI below, a member country may not use its control of capital movements to restrict payments for current transactions or to delay unduly the transfer of funds in settlement of commitments.

VI. Apportionment of Scarce Currencies

1. When it becomes evident to the Fund that the demand for a member country's currency may soon exhaust the Fund's holdings of that currency, the Fund shall so inform member countries and propose an equitable method of apportioning the scarce currency. When a currency is thus declared scarce, the Fund shall issue a report embodying the causes of the scarcity and containing recommendations designed to bring it to an end.

2. A decision by the Fund to apportion a scarce currency shall operate as an authorization to a member country, after consultation with the Fund, temporarily to restrict the freedom of exchange operations in the affected currency, and in determining the manner of restricting the demand and rationing the limited supply among its nationals, the member country shall have complete jurisdiction.

VII. Management of the Fund

1. The Fund shall be governed by a board on which each member will be represented and by an executive committee. The executive committee shall consist of at

least nine members including the representatives of the five countries with the largest quotas.

2. The distribution of voting power on the board and the executive committee shall be closely related to the quotas.

3. Subject to II, 2 and IV, 5, all matters shall be settled by a majority of the votes.

4. The Fund shall publish at short intervals a statement of its position showing the extent of its holdings of member currencies and of gold and its transactions in gold.

VIII. Withdrawal from the Fund

1. A member country may withdraw from the Fund by giving notice in writing.

2. The reciprocal obligations of the Fund and the country are to be liquidated within a reasonable time.

3. After a member country has given notice in writing of its withdrawal from the Fund, the Fund may not dispose of its holdings of the country's currency except in accordance with the arrangements made under 2, above. After a country has given notice of withdrawal, its use of the resources of the Fund is subject to the approval of the Fund.

IX. Obligations of Member Countries

1. Not to buy gold at a price which exceeds the agreed parity of its currency by more than a prescribed margin and not to sell gold at a price which falls below the agreed parity by more than a prescribed margin.

2. Not to allow exchange transactions in its market in currencies of other members at rates outside a prescribed range based on the agreed parities.

3. Not to impose restrictions on payments for current international transactions with other member countries (other than those involving capital transfers or in accordance with VI, above) or to engage in any discrimina-

tory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices without the approval of the Fund.

X. Transitional Arrangements

1. Since the Fund is not intended to provide facilities for relief or reconstruction or to deal with international indebtedness arising out of the war, the agreement of a member country to provisions III, 5 and IX, 3 above, shall not become operative until it is satisfied as to the arrangements at its disposal to facilitate the settlement of the balance of payments differences during the early post-war transition period by means which will not unduly encumber its facilities with the Fund.

2. During this transition period member countries may maintain and adapt to changing circumstances exchange regulations of the character which have been in operation during the war, but they shall undertake to withdraw as soon as possible by progressive stages any restrictions which impede multilateral clearing on current account. In their exchange policy they shall pay continuous regard to the principles and objectives of the Fund; and they shall take all possible measures to develop commercial and financial relations with other member countries which will facilitate international payments and the maintenance of exchange stability.

3. The Fund may make representations to any member that conditions are favorable to withdrawal of particular restrictions or for the general abandonment of the restrictions inconsistent with IX, 3 above. Not later than 3 years after coming into force of the Fund any member still retaining any restrictions inconsistent with IX, 3 shall consult with the Fund as to their further retention.

4. In its relations with member countries, the Fund shall recognize that the transition period is one of change and adjustment, and in deciding on its attitude to any proposals presented by members it shall give the member country the benefit of any reasonable doubt.

Joint Statement by Experts on the Establishment
Of an International Monetary Fund

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3. To give confidence to member countries by making the Fund's resources available to them under adequate safeguards, thus giving members time to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity.
4. To promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among member countries, and to avoid competitive exchange depreciation.
5. To assist in the establishment of multilateral payments facilities on current transactions among member countries and in the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper the growth of world trade.
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2. The quotas may be revised from time to time but changes shall require a four-fifths vote and no member's quota may be changed without its assent.

3. The obligatory gold subscription of a member country shall be fixed at 25 percent of its subscription (quota) or 10 percent of its holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange, whichever is the smaller.

The obligatory gold subscription of a member whose home areas have suffered substantial damage from enemy action or occupation shall be only three-fourths of the above.

III. Transactions with the Fund.

1. Member countries shall deal with the Fund only through their Treasury, Central Bank, Stabilization Fund, or other fiscal agencies. The Fund's account in a member's currency shall be kept at the Central Bank of the member country.

2. A member shall be entitled to buy another member's currency from the Fund in exchange for its own currency on the following conditions:

- (a) The member represents that the currency demanded is presently needed for making payments in that currency which are consistent with the purposes of the Fund.
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- (c) The Fund's total holdings of the currency offered (after having been restored, if below that figure, to 75 percent of the member's quota) have not been increased by more than 25 percent of the member's quota during the previous twelve months and do not exceed 200 percent of the quota.

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VIII. Withdrawal.

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2. Not to allow exchange transactions in its market in currencies of other members at rates outside a prescribed range based on the agreed parities.

3. Not to impose restrictions on payments for current international transactions with other member countries (other than those involving capital transfers or in accordance with VI, above) or to engage in any discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices without the approval of the Fund.

X. Transitional Arrangements.

1. Since the Fund is not intended to provide facilities for relief or reconstruction or to deal with international indebtedness arising out of the war, the agreement of a member country to provisions III, 5 and IX, 3, above, shall not become operative until it is satisfied as to the arrangements at its disposal to facilitate the settlement of the balance of payments differences during the early post-war transition period by means which will not unduly encumber its facilities with the Fund.

2. During this transition period member countries may maintain and adapt to changing circumstances exchange regulations of the character which have been in operation during the war, but they shall undertake to withdraw as soon as possible by progressive stages any restrictions which impede multilateral clearing on current account. In their exchange policy they shall pay continuous regard to the principles and objectives of the Fund; and they shall take all possible measures to develop commercial and financial relations with other member countries which will facilitate international payments and the maintenance of exchange stability.

3. The Fund may make representations to any member that conditions are favorable to withdrawal of particular restrictions or for the general abandonment of the restrictions inconsistent with IX, 3, above, Not later than three years after coming into force of the Fund any member still retaining any restrictions inconsistent with IX, 3 shall consult with the Fund as to their further retention.

4. In its relations with member countries, the Fund shall recognize that the transition period is one of change and adjustment, and in deciding on its attitude to any proposals presented by members it shall give the member country the benefit of any reasonable doubt.