

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY VINSON
At the BRETTON WOODS SIGNING CEREMONIES

History is being written today as we execute these documents and breathe the breath of life into the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

We can be thankful that the history we are now writing is not another chapter in the almost endless chronicle of war and strife. Ours is a mission of peace - not just lip service to the ideals of peace - but action, concrete action, designed to establish the economic foundations of peace on the bed rock of genuine international cooperation.

Four long years of intensive work have gone into laying the groundwork for this day - the day upon which the International Fund and Bank take their places in the mighty arsenal for peace we of the United Nations are so carefully preparing. But these past four years in which we have wrestled with the fundamental problems of international currency stability and investment are but prologue. The birth of these two great international financial

institutions is not an end in itself but only a means to the end of international peace and prosperity. Our task, therefore, has but just commenced.

If these two great international institutions are to achieve the mission which the world has so hopefully entrusted to their care, it will require the wholehearted and concerted cooperation of each of the member countries and their peoples.

The Government of the United States is resolved - as, I am sure, are the other governments represented here - to do all in its power to make these institutions an outstanding example of the results that can be accomplished by the united action of those who want and are willing to work for a peaceful and prosperous world.