

September 8, 1958

Dear Mr. Corominas Segura:

It is a very nice letter that you have written to me now that you are on the point of leaving Washington, and I thank you very sincerely for it. You know how much I valued cooperation with you personally and how much I regret that we shall not any longer have you here among us as a member of the Executive Board. I think, however, that you have been fortunate to see the Fund under a period of intense activity, and I trust that memories of the time spent here will always remain as vivid in your mind as we shall remember you. As far as my own work is concerned, I hope and believe that less time in the future will be absorbed by European problems, and that therefore I can devote more attention to countries on other continents.

Indeed, I count very much on seeing you and Mrs. Corominas Segura in the future, either here or in your own country. You have left an impression among us of great frankness and genuine interest in the Fund's work. I hope that you will continue to take an interest in our efforts.

Wishing you, Mrs. Corominas Segura, and the whole of your family the very best in the future, and with best wishes also from my wife, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

Per Jacobsson  
Managing Director

Mr. Rodolfo Corominas Segura  
Executive Director  
International Monetary Fund  
Washington 25, D.C.

MD-16,309  
Translated by J. Findlay  
August 27, 1958

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
Washington 25, D.C.

Executive Director

*Findlay*

Dear Mr. Jacobsson:

In a few days, on September 10, I shall leave Washington on the way to the Meeting of Governors in New Delhi in early October. Because of the date and place of the Meeting, I shall not return to Washington on its close, but to my country, with my wife, from Europe.

We shall soon see each other in New Delhi, but I should not like to leave Washington without expressing to you, as I do in these lines, my friendly feeling toward you and my appreciation of the cordiality with which you have dealt with the various problems I have had to bring up in handling the affairs of the very active area it has been my duty to represent on the Executive Board. I especially remember your aid when I was making arrangements for the drawing by Argentina in April 1957.

We assumed our positions with the Monetary Fund at almost the same time. Now I am returning to private life and you will continue in your great task of leading this important international organization. I wish you the best of luck in work of worldwide significance and express to you my wishes that under your direction the aims and resources of the International Monetary Fund may be transformed and expanded so that it can lend to the many countries that comprise it the extraordinary support which an organization of such standing and prestige can offer. Your experience and ability undoubtedly afford magnificent bases for success.

Please express to Mrs. Jacobsson the greatest friendship on the part of my wife and me, and for yourself receive from us both the assurance of our highest consideration and esteem.

/s/ Rodolfo Corominas Segura  
Executive Director

August 20, 1958

Mr. Per Jacobsson  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS  
INTERFUND

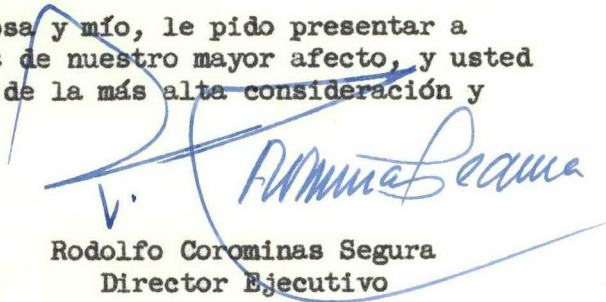
Muy estimado señor Jacobsson:

Dentro de algunos días, el 10 de septiembre próximo, saldré de Washington iniciando el viaje para asistir a la Asamblea de Gobernadores que va a reunirse en New Delhi a principios de octubre. Por la fecha y el lugar en que se reunirá la indicada asamblea, ya no volveré a Washington después que ella haya terminado. Regresaré a mi país, con mi esposa, desde Europa.

Muy pronto nos veremos con usted en New Delhi, pero no quiero irme de Washington sin expresarle, como lo hago por estas líneas, mi simpatía y mi reconocimiento por la cordialidad con que usted ha atendido los diversos problemas que tuve que plantear en ocasión de tratarse asuntos de la zona tan activa que he debido representar en el Directorio. Especialmente recuerdo su ayuda durante mi gestión para el giro de Argentina, en abril de 1957.

Hemos iniciado nuestras funciones en el Fondo Monetario casi al mismo tiempo. Ahora yo vuelvo a mi vida privada y usted continuará en su gran tarea de conducir este importante organismo internacional. Le deseo el mayor acierto en una labor que es de repercusión mundial y le expreso mis votos porque, bajo su dirección, el Fondo Monetario Internacional se transforme y amplíe en sus finalidades y recursos, para prestar al gran número de países que lo integran, el extraordinario apoyo que puede dar un organismo de tanta solvencia y jerarquía. Su experiencia y su talento constituyen, sin duda, bases magníficas de éxito.

En nombre de mi esposa y mío, le pido presentar a Mrs. Jacobsson las expresiones de nuestro mayor afecto, y usted reciba de ambos el testimonio de la más alta consideración y estima.

  
Rodolfo Corominas Segura  
Director Ejecutivo

Agosto 20, 1958

Señor Per Jacobsson  
Director Gerente  
Fondo Monetario Internacional

8/29/58

## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Executive Director

August 25, 1958

Dear Mr. Jacobsson:

I have received your answer of August 15 to my letter of the thirteenth. I have read it with much interest, and have suffered a great disappointment. Perhaps I did not explain myself clearly enough, or made the mistake of not developing the subject fully, emphasizing the importance for the Latin American countries of using Spanish as a working language in international organizations, the Monetary Fund included. I did not do so, because I thought my letter of July of last year and what I have said since to the Executive Board would allow me to dispense with an exposition in extenso of the reasons for a request such as mine.

In your reply, you made certain remarks which I consider to be in error. This has caused me to decide to send you this further letter which, although it will not exhaust the arguments in favor of my request, will advance a series of reasons which I think are valid enough to be taken into account in making a final decision as to the use of Spanish, French, German, and any other language it might be useful to add to the working languages of the Fund and to those used, with simultaneous interpretation, at the Annual Meetings.

Your arguments against my proposal are:

1. that the meeting is held in a different city each year, so that the Fund does not have its own assembly hall with technical equipment permanently installed; and
2. that for this reason it is preferable to distribute English texts simultaneously with the delivery of speeches in other languages, thereby saving time and money.

According to information which I have requested and obtained, a system of simultaneous interpretation to several languages has been or is being used--without the discussions always being held in the organization's own hall, since they sometimes met in different countries--by the following institutions, among many others: Interparliamentary Union, International Labor Organization, P.E.N. Club, World Health Organization, Inter-American Council of Jurists, Civil Aviation Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Inter-American Economic

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1/ During the second world war.



Conference, and Inter-American Press Association.

The Inter-American Defense Board, which operates in Washington, also has a simultaneous interpretation service and uses several languages at its meetings and in its work. And although it has permanent quarters, the Board has other characteristics that should be considered. It is made up of twenty-one American republics. The procedures used by this Board, which is composed of military personnel, are of exceptional significance. It is a true general staff for the defense of the hemisphere, and regardless of the confidential nature of its delicate tasks, directed toward the necessary strategic planning, it uses many interpreters. It performs "the combined work of the most complex multi-nation general staff which has ever existed."

The fact that this Board to which I have just referred has permanent headquarters, while the Annual Meetings of the Monetary Fund and the World Bank do not, is not important. Far more important are the character of the organization and the nature of the problems with which it works.

Nevertheless, you advance this question of the continual change of location for the meetings as a reason for not giving a useful working tool to the enormous number of Governors, Alternates, financial advisers, counselors, etc., of the 66 countries soon to meet in New Delhi. I ask for such a tool, and I persist in doing so, because I consider it my duty to make every effort to add ease, spontaneity, and effectiveness to the interchange of ideas, opinions, and judgments at a meeting of men who will come from the most varied regions of the world.

If you reflect for a moment you will see that the arguments on which you base your refusal have no adequately firm foundation. The technical equipment for a simultaneous interpreting service can be bought and taken to where it is needed. The cost is insignificant in relation to our resources and to the transcendent importance and world repercussions of the discussions which the Governors will hold in the capital of India.

I have already mentioned a few organizations which do not always hold their meetings in the same place. I shall now refer to two of them.

The Inter-American Economic Conference, which meets at relatively long intervals--two or three years--, does so at a different place each time, since it uses no permanent hall. The last sessions were held in Buenos Aires and the next will be in Quito. Then some other city or country will be chosen. This Conference gives its members the advantages of simultaneous interpretation of the discussions to three or four languages, and does the same with documents and publications, as I pointed out in my earlier communication.

Last year, while this Conference was working in Buenos Aires, I saw most of the delegates from the United States and other countries making use of the simultaneous interpretation system. You yourself, Mr. Jacobsson, who do not speak Spanish--the official language of most

member countries of this Conference--had the opportunity of speaking to them in English, but with the legitimate satisfaction of knowing that you were being heard and understood by all of the delegates, whatever their language.

The Inter-American Press Association, also, has no permanent hall for discussions. Its annual meeting is held in different countries. Its members, who obviously do not have available the enormous financial resources of the World Bank and the Monetary Fund, derived from operations with the countries which created them and which appoint Governors--use simultaneous interpretation to several languages at their annual meeting. I have in my possession and would be glad to make available to you a copy of a photograph taken at the October 1957 meeting in Washington, which shows the President of the United States, General Eisenhower, listening with earphones to the English version of the Spanish speech given by the President of the Association. Before this, the other members of the assembly, also by means of interpretation to their own languages, had listened to President Eisenhower deliver the magnificent address which he gave on that occasion.

It can be affirmed with no doubt whatsoever that it is not ignorance or lack of culture on the part of the members of the Press Association that leads to the use of this system, so common today, at meetings of the Association. It is only because it affords the clearest, most correct, and most precise expression of thought and the easiest assimilation of information, among members who meet in a common effort for the defense of freedom of the press, not only in America: but throughout the world.

This matter of the language of others is related to very serious and important aspects of relations among men and peoples. It is not possible, without falling into grave error, to observe it with indifference, contempt, or displeasure. Language is a part of the personality of each nation. To force all countries of the world, or many of them, to use a single language when they are called on to deliberate on common interests is an incomprehensible attitude which for many borders on rudeness and injures the sensibilities.

May I mention a fact which confirms these reflections? The young Queen of England, not long ago, in a gesture proper to the high dignity of her position and demonstrative of her respect for the customs and personality of the country where she was speaking--one of the members of the Commonwealth--in addressing the Canadian Parliament in 1957 spoke first in English and then in French, although this must have been monotonous for her and she had to take a great deal of time and to repeat herself, reading her own speech twice in succession! This was a fine act of respect for the nation--recognition of the immense significance of language in the sentiments of the people and in the moral and spiritual nature of the country.

The Governors and Alternate Governors of 66 member countries of the World Bank and the Monetary Fund are to meet in New Delhi. These delegates are the direct representatives of each nation. With them will be the Executive Directors of both organizations and the economic advisers

and counsellors sent by each country. The representatives of the International Finance Corporation will also be present. It will be a major world assembly, which will assume responsibility for guiding and leading these great world organizations. So important a group of men, from widely scattered countries, must be given all of the working tools which would facilitate and ensure their access to free and ample information, as well as the logical and basic interchange of opinions, in these exceptional times, on the development of world trade and the international economic and financial position.

I cannot fail to point out, in this statement I am making in favor of the use of Spanish and also of other languages accepted as official for the work of the United Nations, that not all of the Governors speak English; that not all of the men representing the various member countries have a knowledge of that language, which is far from a universal one; and that not all of the Governors are disposed to use it. The Governor of France, I believe, speaks only in French at all Annual Meetings.

The cost of a simultaneous interpretation service for the meeting is not impossible to contemplate. I have said that organizations with more limited resources are using one. I must now add that the Monetary Fund at this time has a surplus of over five million dollars from the last fiscal year. There are plans to use this surplus to create a reserve fund, since all investments provided for in the annual budget have been fully covered. The logical thing to do, before creating such a reserve, is to take what is necessary from income to make another useful investment. The World Bank and the Finance Corporation, with their contribution, can and should share the cost of a system as beneficial as this would be. The cost, thus divided, would be easily borne by each institution. But even if this were not true, <sup>an</sup> indispensable investment is involved which would produce advantages outweighing any economic consideration.

When I refer to simultaneous interpretation during the discussions, I am far from limiting my request to interpretation of the discussions alone, since I feel that the translation of the reports, documents, studies, and publications of these organizations is also of great importance.

The problem of multiple translations--one in each country--of the texts of the documents produced by these international organizations adds unnecessarily to expense when they are sent to each country for it to make its own translation; and also creates the undesirable situation of the possibility of contradictory, inconsistent, or at least different translations.

In beginning this letter I mentioned Latin America. I therefore take the liberty of pointing out now that the Latin American countries plus Spain and the Philippines have a total population of about 225 million. Even deducting from this figure those speaking different

languages--Portuguese, French, etc.--, there remain a very considerable number who use Spanish exclusively. Almost a third of the member countries of the Fund use Spanish. A measure like the one I have suggested would strengthen support for international organizations in these countries through the use of their languages in the work of the organizations, to encourage a more widespread knowledge of their functions, their specific activities, and their great usefulness.

Measures of economic policy, which are one of our chief concerns, the abandonment of subsidies to commerce, the adjustment and balancing of budgets, taxes and charges on exports and imports, export and import restrictions of all kinds, the free quotation of foreign currencies, convertibility, limitations on the use of credit in the public and the private sector, etc., require general solidarity, which will be easier to achieve by giving wide publicity to what is done and the reasons for doing it. Such problems require well-informed public opinion for the continuity and success of collective efforts under a democratic system.

Finally, I omit other considerations that might be mentioned, because they are obvious and have led many international organizations to provide the technical aid that makes possible the immediate and simultaneous interpretation to various languages of their discussions and papers. I ask you to reconsider my suggestion and, if you think necessary, obtain the support of the World Bank and the Finance Corporation.

I have gone into this subject at length because I hold it to be a typical case of the defense of the right.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Rodolfo Corominas Segura  
Executive Director

Mr. Per Jacobsson  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund





INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS  
INTERFUND

November 22, 1957

Mr. Per Jacobsson  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund  
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Jacobsson:

The consideration by the Board of Directors of the Staff paper on the progress of the Chilean Stabilization Program is concluded. Before closing this chapter of the relations between the Fund and Chile, I feel that I should enlarge on some of the remarks I made at the end of my exposition to the Board.

I refrained at that time from making certain considerations that were relevant, because I preferred to bring the matter confidentially to your attention.

I think that mistakes have been made in the handling of this subject. On July 22 an admonitory note was sent to Chile, on behalf of the Fund, without the knowledge of the Executive Director who represents Chile before the Board. The Minister of Finance and the Central Bank of Chile answered that communication in August, pointing out errors in the appraisal and in some of the considerations contained in the Fund letter. It was only accidentally that this reply became known to me.

The Staff paper we have discussed was prepared and circulated without previous interchange of ideas with the Executive Director representing Chile, and omitting any prior special consultation with that country.

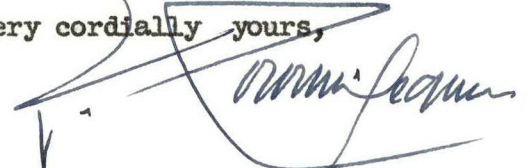
Subjects of this nature and importance should be undertaken in a joint effort by the Staff and the corresponding Executive Director, and also with the aid of a continuous flow of information provided by the country concerned. This would avoid placing the Fund in the embarrassing position of having its authority weakened due to incorrect judgments.

The communications which have been addressed to Chile and the contents of the paper we discussed, convey the impression that those who are acting on behalf of the International Monetary Fund

forget to bear in mind that, when they address the authorities of a country, they should not adopt a tone of Magister dixit in reference to local problems which, we can assume, the authorities of that country know fully and are following closely.

Dear Mr. Jacobsson, I trust I am not being misinterpreted. I am sending you this confidential communication with the purpose in mind of bringing about closer relationship and better understanding between the countries I represent and the Fund. But I feel that in order to achieve this happy result, the method of approach of a country's problems, and the way in which they are handled assume paramount importance. Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that the Executive Director is the natural link through which the Fund should contact its member countries.

Very cordially yours,



Rodolfo Corominas Segura  
Executive Director

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Translated by Sophia Ramm  
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8/9/57

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PER JACOBSSON

INTERFUND WASHDC

I AM INFORMED THAT YOU HAVE DESIGNATED AUGUST 22 and 26, 1957  
AS FIXED DATES FOR URUGUAY TO SUBMIT CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATES  
AND CIRCULATE OPINIONS ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS SAID COUNTRY STOP  
I FEEL THIS PROCEDURE MAY BE INADVISABLE STOP I AM TRYING TO  
FIND FAVORABLE SOLUTIONS AND AM AFRAID THEY WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED  
IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN THIS MANNER STOP I SUGGEST  
YOU DO NOT ESTABLISH DATES UNTIL YOU HAVE SPOKEN IN THIS CITY  
WITH URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES STOP MY ADDRESS CITY HOTEL BUENOS  
AIRES CORDIAL GREETINGS

COROMINAS SEGURA

608P

Received in the Code Room  
August 8, 1957





# Office Memorandum

TO : Mr. Per Jacobsson, Managing Director

FROM : Rodolfo Corominas Segura

SUBJECT : Translating Services

DATE: July 17, 1957

From time to time I have been requesting from the Translating Office translations into Spanish of Fund papers, not only in order to help me in my work but also to facilitate communications with the authorities of the countries I represent, all of them Spanish speaking. My office, with its limited personnel, has been undertaking the major part of this work, but it is impossible to continue so doing without neglecting other ordinary work related to the six countries which I represent. On some occasions I have received assistance from the Translating Office, but recently I was given a negative answer on the basis that the Fund is not equipped to provide such service, and that Rule C-13 of the Statutes establishes English as the Fund's working language.

Neither of these arguments can be used when an Executive Director makes a request with the purpose of increasing the efficiency of his work and of transmitting Fund information to several Fund members. The Fund does not lack means and can, therefore, obtain both the personnel and the equipment necessary to facilitate the work of its Executive Directors and the flow of information to its member countries. Furthermore, Rule C-13 does not prohibit the use of any other language that might be necessary to use at any time under certain circumstances; it only establishes that, ordinarily, English is the working language.

I am writing today to some offices of the United Nations - where a similar problem has been solved - with the purpose of gathering background material so that this matter can be presented in due course to whoever may be entrusted to consider it, with all the necessary information.

I feel certain that a solution of a general nature will favor other Executive Directors and all the Spanish speaking member countries. But knowing of your experience, your knowledge and your practice in the life of other international agencies and, I must add, the special interest with which you have previously heard me on this subject, and your invariable courtesy in dealing with the Executive Directors and facilitating their work, I am writing to you to let you know the negative answer I have received. Further, I should like to ask your intelligent intervention so that, in the meantime, the Translating Office of the Fund may continue to give me the cooperation that I request so that my work may be facilitated and the countries which I represent may be rapidly and efficiently informed.





INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 15, 1957

Dear Mr. Jacobsson:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks to you, your Deputy Managing Director, and members of the Board, for your kind note of sympathy on the death of my brother.

Since I am so far from home, it has been a great source of comfort to me to receive your expressions of sympathy and understanding.

Sincerely yours,

  
Rodolfo Corominas Segura

Mr. Per Jacobsson  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund  
Washington, D. C.