

MASTER FILES
ROOM C-525

0409

BUFF/96/84

July 9, 1996

**Statement by the Staff Representative on
the Fund/WTO Cooperation Agreement
Executive Board Meeting 96/65
July 10, 1996**

The staff would like to make a few points on procedures concerning approval of the proposed Fund/WTO cooperation agreement and the recommendation to grant permanent observer status to the WTO Secretariat at the joint Bank Fund annual meetings.

The WTO's General Council has not yet met formally to consider the cooperation agreement. The Bank's Executive Board also has not yet met to recommend approval of its cooperation agreement to its Board of Governors, although we understand that it will meet on Thursday for an informal discussion. That cooperation agreement includes a specific provision granting permanent observer status to the WTO Secretariat at the Annual Meetings. In the case of the Fund, the Executive Board is authorized to approve the cooperation agreement, but the Board of Governors would need to grant permanent observer status to the WTO Secretariat at the Annual Meetings through an amendment of the Fund's By-Laws.

In the circumstances, and with a view to coordinating the timing of the approval of the respective cooperation agreements and recommendations to the Boards of Governors of the Fund and the Bank, it is proposed that at today's meeting, the Executive Board agree in principle to the cooperation agreement, the proposed change in the By-Laws, and the decision on transmittal of documents. The formal decisions would be proposed in due course for adoption on a lapse-of-time basis. If Directors agree, this approach would be reflected in the Summing Up of today's discussion; that summing-up could also contain the endorsement of the recommendations of the CWTO and other issues that may arise out of today's meeting.

