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**IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION**

MASTER FILES

ROOM E-120

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EBD/84/89

March 20, 1984

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Request for
Reports on Recent Economic Developments

The Fund has received from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) a request for cooperation in a major FAO study which is intended to provide the basis for advice and guidance to policymakers and analysts in developing countries on the relative importance of agricultural and food price policy, and to draw out specific lessons from past policy experience. The study would involve some 40 countries: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, and Zambia. A certain amount of relevant data is being obtained from the FAO and from the World Bank, but there is a need for further data relating to fiscal revenues from and expenditures on agriculture, expenditures on consumer food subsidies and financial statistics for the public agencies, or parastatals, involved in the agricultural and food system. The FAO wishes to obtain such data for a period of about ten years.

Although such information has not been collected systematically by the Fund, the recent economic development (REDs) reports contain a fairly wide representation of relevant data of the kind requested by the FAO. In order to avoid the need to transmit an enormous quantity of REDs to the FAO, it is proposed that FAO researchers be permitted access to the relevant REDs within the Fund. This procedure would parallel the procedure currently being followed at the World Bank where a FAO team now in Washington has been given access to World Bank documents in order to extract relevant data. The FAO stresses that the final study would use aggregate figures and would not identify country data or sources, but would only in a general manner indicate cooperation, inter alia, from the Fund; the study would also carry a disclaimer of Fund responsibility for any of the findings of the study.

In the absence of an objection from an Executive Director by noon on Monday, March 26, 1984, the proposal will be deemed approved by the Executive Board and it will be so recorded in the minutes of the next meeting thereafter.

Other Distribution:
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