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September 15, 1983

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: Chairman of the Interim Committee

There follows for the information of Executive Directors the text of a cable which I have sent today to all members of the Interim Committee on the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe as Chairman of the Committee, and on the selection of a new chairman:

There follows for the information of Members of the Interim Committee the text of a letter dated September 13, 1983 by which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former British Chancellor of the Exchequer has informed the Managing Director of his resignation as Chairman of the Committee.

"I am writing formally to tender my resignation as Chairman of the IMF Interim Committee.

In my letter of 15 June I forewarned that I would have to relinquish the Chairmanship and expressed my appreciation of the close working relationship we established. I should like to reiterate how much I enjoyed working with you and your colleagues on the Committee. I wish the new Chairman every success with the major tasks which lie ahead."

The chairmanship of the Interim Committee is therefore vacant. It is thought to be desirable that a new Chairman of the Committee be selected before the convening of the meeting on Sunday, September 25, 1983.

The Honorable Willy De Clercq, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Minister of Foreign Trade for Belgium, has indicated his willingness to serve as the next chairman of the Interim Committee provided that this suggestion would attract wide support among the members of the Committee.

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Informal consultations conducted by Executive Directors with the members of the Committee suggest that the candidacy of the Honorable Willy De Clercq would receive very broad support. I would be happy to hear from you at your early convenience about this course of action and, unless I receive views to the contrary from members, it is planned to issue a press release on Thursday, September 22, 1983 announcing that the Honorable Willy De Clercq has been selected to serve as the next Chairman of the Interim Committee.

Other Distribution:
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