

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

PRESS RELEASE NO. 83/19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 1983

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund has completed the work necessary to enable a revision and enlargement of the General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB), which had recently been agreed in principle by the Group of Ten and the Fund. The main change is a substantial increase to SDR 17 billion in the credit arrangements available to the Fund from the present size of approximately SDR 6.4 billion. Other amendments to the existing GAB provisions will (i) permit the Fund to borrow under the enlarged credit arrangements to finance exchange transactions with members that are not GAB participants, (ii) authorize Swiss participation and (iii) permit certain borrowing arrangements between the Fund and non-participating members to be associated with the GAB, with the possibility that the Fund could activate the GAB as if the associated lenders were GAB participants.

The changes will become effective when all ten participants--Belgium, Canada, Deutsche Bundesbank, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sveriges Riksbank, United Kingdom and the United States--have notified the Fund in writing that they concur in the amendments and in the increased credit commitments. Participants are asked to do so by December 31, 1983. Swiss participation will become effective when the amended decision has become effective.

Under the GAB, which became effective on October 24, 1962, ten industrial members extended credit lines to the Fund. The arrangements have been periodically renewed, with some modifications, and in one case, that of Japan, the original amount of the credit line has been increased.

The Fund will continue to be able to call on GAB resources for any drawings by participants when supplementary resources are needed to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system. As soon as the revision to the GAB becomes effective, the Fund may also call on GAB resources to finance drawings by Fund members that are not participants provided those transactions are made under policies of the Fund requiring adjustment programs. Calls on the GAB will be made, in respect of non-participants, if the Fund faces an inadequacy of resources to meet actual and expected requests for financing that reflect the existence of an exceptional situation associated with balance of payments problems of members that would threaten the stability of the international monetary system.

The revised decision on the GAB and an annex showing the participants and amounts of credit arrangements under both the existing and the future GAB are attached.

Attachment

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BORROW

Preamble

In order to enable the International Monetary Fund to fulfill more effectively its role in the international monetary system, the main industrial countries have agreed that they will, in a spirit of broad and willing cooperation, strengthen the Fund by general arrangements under which they will stand ready to make loans to the Fund up to specified amounts under Article VII, Section 1 of the Articles of Agreement when supplementary resources are needed to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system. In order to give effect to these intentions, the following terms and conditions are adopted under Article VII, Section 1 of the Articles of Agreement.

Paragraph 1. Definitions

As used in this Decision the term:

(i) "Articles" means the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund;

(ii) "credit arrangement" means an undertaking to lend to the Fund on the terms and conditions of this Decision;

(iii) "participant" means a participating member or a participating institution;

(iv) "participating institution" means an official institution of a member that has entered into a credit arrangement with the Fund with the consent of the member;

(v) "participating member" means a member of the Fund that has entered into a credit arrangement with the Fund;

(vi) "amount of a credit arrangement" means the maximum amount expressed in special drawing rights that a participant undertakes to lend to the Fund under a credit arrangement;

(vii) "call" means a notice by the Fund to a participant to make a transfer under its credit arrangement to the Fund's account;

(viii) "borrowed currency" means currency transferred to the Fund's account under a credit arrangement;

(ix) "drawer" means a member that purchases borrowed currency from the Fund in an exchange transaction or in an exchange transaction under a stand-by or extended arrangement;

(x) "indebtedness" of the Fund means the amount it is committed to repay under a credit arrangement.

Paragraph 2. Credit Arrangements

A member or institution that adheres to this Decision undertakes to lend its currency to the Fund on the terms and conditions of this Decision up to the amount in special drawing rights set forth in the Annex to this Decision or established in accordance with Paragraph 3(b).

Paragraph 3. Adherence

(a) Any member or institution specified in the Annex may adhere to this Decision in accordance with Paragraph 3(c).

(b) Any member or institution not specified in the Annex that wishes to become a participant may at any time, after consultation with the Fund, give notice of its willingness to adhere to this Decision, and, if the Fund shall so agree and no participant object, the member or institution may adhere in accordance with Paragraph 3(c). When giving notice of its willingness to adhere under this Paragraph 3(b) a member or institution shall specify the amount, expressed in terms of the special drawing right, of the credit arrangement which it is willing to enter into, provided that the amount shall not be less than the amount of the credit arrangement of the participant with the smallest credit arrangement.

(c) A member or institution shall adhere to this Decision by depositing with the Fund an instrument setting forth that it has adhered in accordance with its law and has taken all steps necessary to enable it to carry out the terms and conditions of this Decision. On the deposit of the instrument the member or institution shall be a participant as of the date of the deposit or of the effective date of this Decision, whichever shall be later.

Paragraph 4. Entry into Force

This Decision shall become effective when it has been adhered to by at least seven of the members or institutions included in the Annex with

credit arrangements amounting in all to not less than the equivalent of five and one-half billion United States dollars of the weight and fineness in effect on July 1, 1944.

Paragraph 5. Changes in Amounts of Credit Arrangements

The amounts of participants' credit arrangements may be reviewed from time to time in the light of developing circumstances and changed with the agreement of the Fund and all participants.

Paragraph 6. Initial Procedure

When a participating member or a member whose institution is a participant approaches the Fund on an exchange transaction or stand-by or extended arrangement and the Managing Director, after consultation, considers that the exchange transaction or stand-by or extended arrangement is necessary in order to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system, and that the Fund's resources need to be supplemented for this purpose, he shall initiate the procedure for making calls under Paragraph 7.

Paragraph 7. Calls

(a) The Managing Director shall make a proposal for calls for an exchange transaction or for future calls for exchange transactions under a stand-by or extended arrangement only after consultation with Executive Directors and participants. A proposal shall become effective only if it is accepted by participants and the proposal is then approved by the Executive Board. Each participant shall notify the Fund of the acceptance of a proposal involving a call under its credit arrangement.

(b) The currencies and amounts to be called under one or more of the credit arrangements shall be based on the present and prospective balance of payments and reserve position of participating members or members whose institutions are participants and on the Fund's holdings of currencies.

(c) Unless otherwise provided in a proposal for future calls approved under Paragraph 7(a), purchases of borrowed currency under a stand-by or extended arrangement shall be made in the currencies of participants in proportion to the amounts in the proposal.

(d) If a participant on which calls may be made pursuant to Paragraph 7(a) for a drawer's purchases under a stand-by or extended arrangement gives notice to the Fund that in the participant's opinion, based on the present and prospective balance of payments and reserve position, calls should no longer be made on the participant or that calls should be for a smaller amount, the Managing Director may propose

to other participants that substitute amounts be made available under their credit arrangements, and this proposal shall be subject to the procedure of Paragraph 7(a). The proposal as originally approved under Paragraph 7(a) shall remain effective unless and until a proposal for substitute amounts is approved in accordance with Paragraph 7(a).

(e) When the Fund makes a call pursuant to this Paragraph 7, the participant shall promptly make the transfer in accordance with the call.

Paragraph 8. Evidence of Indebtedness

(a) The Fund shall issue to a participant, on its request, non-negotiable instruments evidencing the Fund's indebtedness to the participant. The form of the instruments shall be agreed between the Fund and the participant.

(b) Upon repayment of the amount of any instrument issued under Paragraph 8(a) and all accrued interest, the instrument shall be returned to the Fund for cancellation. If less than the amount of any such instrument is repaid, the instrument shall be returned to the Fund and a new instrument for the remainder of the amount shall be substituted with the same maturity date as in the old instrument.

Paragraph 9. Interest

(a) The Fund shall pay interest on its indebtedness at a rate equal to the combined market interest rate computed by the Fund from time to time for the purpose of determining the rate at which it pays interest on holdings of special drawing rights. A change in the method of calculating the combined market interest rate shall apply only if the Fund and at least two thirds of the participants having three fifths of the total amount of the credit arrangements so agree; provided that if a participant so requests at the time this agreement is reached, the change shall not apply to the Fund's indebtedness to that participant outstanding at the date the change becomes effective.

(b) Interest shall accrue daily and shall be paid as soon as possible after each July 31, October 31, January 31, and April 30.

(c) Interest due to a participant shall be paid, as determined by the Fund, in special drawing rights, or in the participant's currency, or in other currencies that are actually convertible.

Paragraph 10. Use of Borrowed Currency

The Fund's policies and practices under Article V, Sections 3 and 7 on the use of its general resources and stand-by and extended arrangements, including those relating to the period of use, shall apply to purchases of currency borrowed by the Fund. Nothing in this Decision shall affect the authority of the Fund with respect to requests for the use of its resources by individual members, and access to these resources by members shall be determined by the Fund's policies and practices, and shall not depend on whether the Fund can borrow under this Decision.

Paragraph 11. Repayment by the Fund

(a) Subject to the other provisions of this Paragraph 11, the Fund, five years after a transfer by a participant, shall repay the participant an amount equivalent to the transfer calculated in accordance with Paragraph 12. If the drawer for whose purchase participants make transfers is committed to repurchase at a fixed date earlier than five years after its purchase, the Fund shall repay the participants at that date. Repayment under this Paragraph 11(a) or under Paragraph 11(c) shall be, as determined by the Fund, in the participant's currency whenever feasible, or in special drawing rights, or, after consultation with the participant, in other currencies that are actually convertible. Repayments to a participant under Paragraph 11(b) and (e) shall be credited against transfers by the participant for a drawer's purchases in the order in which repayment must be made under this Paragraph 11(a).

(b) Before the date prescribed in Paragraph 11(a), the Fund, after consultation with a participant, may make repayment to the participant in part or in full. The Fund shall have the option to make repayment under this Paragraph 11(b) in the participant's currency, or in special drawing rights in an amount that does not increase the participant's holdings of special drawing rights above the limit under Article XIX, Section 4, of the Articles of Agreement unless the participant agrees to accept special drawing rights above that limit in such repayment, or, with the agreement of the participant, in other currencies that are actually convertible.

(c) Whenever a reduction in the Fund's holdings of a drawer's currency is attributed to a purchase of borrowed currency, the Fund shall promptly repay an equivalent amount. If the Fund is indebted to a participant as a result of transfers to finance a reserve tranche purchase by a drawer and the Fund's holdings of the drawer's currency that are not subject to repurchase are reduced as a result of net sales of that currency during a quarterly period covered by an operational budget, the Fund shall repay at the beginning of the

next quarterly period an amount equivalent to that reduction, up to the amount of the indebtedness to the participant.

(d) Repayment under Paragraph 11(c) shall be made in proportion to the Fund's indebtedness to the participants that made transfers in respect of which repayment is being made.

(e) Before the date prescribed in Paragraph 11(a) a participant may give notice representing that there is a balance of payments need for repayment of part or all of the Fund's indebtedness and requesting such repayment. The Fund shall give the overwhelming benefit of any doubt to the participant's representation. Repayment shall be made after consultation with the participant in the currencies of other members that are actually convertible, or made in special drawing rights, as determined by the Fund. If the Fund's holdings of currencies in which repayment should be made are not wholly adequate, individual participants shall be requested, and will be expected, to provide the necessary balance under their credit arrangements. If, notwithstanding the expectation that the participants will provide the necessary balance, they fail to do so, repayment shall be made to the extent necessary in the currency of the drawer for whose purchases the participant requesting repayment made transfers. For all of the purposes of this Paragraph 11 transfers under this Paragraph 11(e) shall be deemed to have been made at the same time and for the same purchases as the transfers by the participant obtaining repayment under this Paragraph 11(e).

(f) All repayments to a participant in a currency other than its own shall be guided, to the maximum extent practicable, by the present and prospective balance of payments and reserve position of the members whose currencies are to be used in repayment.

(g) The Fund shall at no time reduce its holdings of a drawer's currency below an amount equal to the Fund's indebtedness to the participants resulting from transfers for the drawer's purchases.

(h) When any repayment is made to a participant, the amount that can be called for under its credit arrangement in accordance with this Decision shall be restored pro tanto.

(i) The Fund shall be deemed to have discharged its obligations to a participating institution to make repayment in accordance with the provisions of this Paragraph or to pay interest in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 9 if the Fund transfers an equivalent amount in special drawing rights to the member in which the institution is established.

Paragraph 12. Rates of Exchange

(a) The value of any transfer shall be calculated as of the date of the dispatch of the instructions for the transfer. The calculation shall be made in terms of the special drawing right in accordance with Article XIX, Section 7(a) of the Articles, and the Fund shall be obliged to repay an equivalent value.

(b) For all of the purposes of this Decision, the value of a currency in terms of the special drawing right shall be calculated by the Fund in accordance with Rule 0-2 of the Fund's Rules and Regulations.

Paragraph 13. Transferability

A participant may not transfer all or part of its claim to repayment under a credit arrangement except with the prior consent of the Fund and on such terms and conditions as the Fund may approve.

Paragraph 14. Notices

Notice to or by a participating member under this Decision shall be in writing or by rapid means of communication and shall be given to or by the fiscal agency of the participating member designated in accordance with Article V, Section 1 of the Articles and Rule G-1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Fund. Notice to or by a participating institution shall be in writing or by rapid means of communication and shall be given to or by the participating institution.

Paragraph 15. Amendment

This Decision may be amended during the period prescribed in Paragraph 19(a) only by a decision of the Fund and with the concurrence of all participants. Such concurrence shall not be necessary for the modification of the Decision on its renewal pursuant to Paragraph 19(b).

Paragraph 16. Withdrawal of Adherence

A participant may withdraw its adherence to this Decision in accordance with Paragraph 19(b) but may not withdraw within the period prescribed in Paragraph 19(a) except with the agreement of the Fund and all participants.

Paragraph 17. Withdrawal from Membership

If a participating member or a member whose institution is a participant withdraws from membership in the Fund, the participant's

credit arrangement shall cease at the same time as the withdrawal takes effect. The Fund's indebtedness under the credit arrangement shall be treated as an amount due from the Fund for the purpose of Article XXVI, Section 3, and Schedule J of the Articles.

Paragraph 18. Suspension of Exchange Transactions and Liquidation

(a) The right of the Fund to make calls under Paragraph 7 and the obligation to make repayments under Paragraph 11 shall be suspended during any suspension of exchange transactions under Article XXVII of the Articles.

(b) In the event of liquidation of the Fund, credit arrangements shall cease and the Fund's indebtedness shall constitute liabilities under Schedule K of the Articles. For the purpose of Paragraph 1(a) of Schedule K, the currency in which the liability of the Fund shall be payable shall be first the participant's currency and then the currency of the drawer for whose purchases transfers were made by the participants.

Paragraph 19. Period and Renewal

(a) This Decision shall continue in existence for four years from its effective date. A new period of five years shall begin on the effective date of Decision No. 7337-(83/37), adopted February 24, 1983. References in Paragraph 19(b) to the period prescribed in Paragraph 19(a) shall refer to this new period and to any subsequent renewal periods that may be decided pursuant to Paragraph 19(b). When considering a renewal of this Decision for the period following the five-year period referred to in this Paragraph 19(a), the Fund and the participants shall review the functioning of this Decision, including the provisions of Paragraph 21.

(b) This Decision may be renewed for such period or periods and with such modifications, subject to Paragraph 5, as the Fund may decide. The Fund shall adopt a decision on renewal and modification, if any, not later than twelve months before the end of the period prescribed in Paragraph 19(a). Any participant may advise the Fund not less than six months before the end of the period prescribed in Paragraph 19(a) that it will withdraw its adherence to the Decision as renewed. In the absence of such notice, a participant shall be deemed to continue to adhere to the Decision as renewed. Withdrawal of adherence in accordance with this Paragraph 19(b) by a participant, whether or not included in the Annex, shall not preclude its subsequent adherence in accordance with Paragraph 3(b).

(c) If this Decision is terminated or not renewed, Paragraph 8 through 14, 17 and 18(b) shall nevertheless continue to apply in

connection with any indebtedness of the Fund under credit arrangements in existence at the date of the termination or expiration of the Decision until repayment is completed. If a participant withdraws its adherence to this Decision in accordance with Paragraph 16 or Paragraph 19(b), it shall cease to be a participant under the Decision, but Paragraphs 8 through 14, 17 and 18(b) of the Decision as of the date of the withdrawal shall nevertheless continue to apply to any indebtedness of the Fund under the former credit arrangement until repayment has been completed.

Paragraph 20. Interpretation

Any question of interpretation raised in connection with this Decision which does not fall within the purview of Article XXIX of the Articles shall be settled to the mutual satisfaction of the Fund, the participant raising the question, and all other participants. For the purpose of this Paragraph 20 participants shall be deemed to include those former participants to which Paragraphs 8 through 14, 17 and 18(b) continue to apply pursuant to Paragraph 19(c) to the extent that any such former participant is affected by a question of interpretation that is raised.

Paragraph 21. Use of Credit Arrangements for Nonparticipants

(a) The Fund may make calls in accordance with Paragraphs 6 and 7 for exchange transactions requested by members that are not participants if the exchange transactions are (i) transactions in the upper credit tranches, (ii) transactions under stand-by arrangements extending beyond the first credit tranche, (iii) transactions under extended arrangements, or (iv) transactions in the first credit tranche in conjunction with a stand-by or an extended arrangement. All the provisions of this Decision relating to calls shall apply, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 21(b).

(b) The Managing Director may initiate the procedure for making calls under Paragraph 7 in connection with requests referred to in Paragraph 21(a) if, after consultation, he considers that the Fund faces an inadequacy of resources to meet actual and expected requests for financing that reflect the existence of an exceptional situation associated with balance of payments problems of members of a character or aggregate size that could threaten the stability of the international monetary system. In making proposals for calls pursuant to Paragraph 21(a) and (b), the Managing Director shall pay due regard to potential calls pursuant to other provisions of this Decision.

Paragraph 22. Participation of the Swiss National Bank

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Decision, the

Swiss National Bank (hereinafter called the Bank) may become a participant by adhering to this Decision in accordance with Paragraph 3(c) and accepting, by its adherence, a credit arrangement in an amount equivalent to one thousand and twenty million special drawing rights. Upon adherence, the Bank shall be deemed to be a participating institution, and all the provisions of this Decision relating to participating institutions shall apply in respect of the Bank, subject to, and as supplemented by, Paragraph 22(b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).

(b) Under its credit arrangement, the Bank undertakes to lend any currency, specified by the Managing Director after consultation with the Bank at the time of a call, that the Fund has determined to be a freely usable currency pursuant to Article XXX(f) of the Articles.

(c) In relation to the Bank, the references to the balance of payments and reserve position in Paragraph 7(b) and (d), and Paragraph 11(e), shall be understood to refer to the position of the Swiss Confederation.

(d) In relation to the Bank, the references to a participant's currency in Paragraph 9(c), Paragraph 11(a) and (b), and Paragraph 18(b) shall be understood to refer to any currency, specified by the Managing Director after consultation with the Bank at the time of payment by the Fund, that the Fund has determined to be a freely usable currency pursuant to Article XXX(f) of the Articles.

(e) Payment of special drawing rights to the Bank pursuant to Paragraph 9(c) and Paragraph 11 shall be made only while the Bank is a prescribed holder pursuant to Article XVII of the Articles.

(f) The Bank shall accept as binding a decision of the Fund on any question of interpretation raised in connection with this Decision which falls within the purview of Article XXIX of the Articles, to the same extent as that decision is binding on other participants.

Paragraph 23. Associated Borrowing Arrangements

(a) A borrowing arrangement between the Fund and a member that is not a participant, or an official institution of such a member, under which the member or the official institution undertakes to make loans to the Fund for the same purposes as, and on terms comparable to, those made by participants under this Decision, may, with the concurrence of all participants, authorize the Fund to make calls on participants in accordance with Paragraphs 6 and 7 for exchange transactions with that member, or to make requests under Paragraph 11(e) in connection with an early repayment of a claim under the borrowing arrangement, or both. For the purposes of this Decision such calls or requests shall be treated as if they were calls or requests in respect of a participant.

(b) Nothing in this Decision shall preclude the Fund from entering into any other types of borrowing arrangements, including an arrangement between the Fund and a lender, involving an association with participants, that does not contain the authorizations referred to in Paragraph 23(a).

ANNEX

Participants and Amounts of Credit Arrangements

I. Prior to the Effective Date of Decision No. 7337-(83/37)

Participant		Amount in Units of Participant's currency
1. United States of America	US\$	2,000,000,000
2. Deutsche Bundesbank	DM	4,000,000,000
3. United Kingdom	£	357,142,857
4. France	F	2,715,381,428
5. Italy	Lit	343,750,000,000
6. Japan	Yen	340,000,000,000
7. Canada	Can\$	216,216,000
8. Netherlands	f.	724,000,000
9. Belgium	BF	7,500,000,000
10. Sveriges Riksbank	SKr	517,320,000

II. From the Effective Date of Decision No. 7337-(83/37)

Participant	Amount in special drawing rights
1. United States of America	4,250,000,000
2. Deutsche Bundesbank	2,380,000,000
3. Japan	2,125,000,000
4. France	1,700,000,000
5. United Kingdom	1,700,000,000
6. Italy	1,105,000,000
7. Canada	892,500,000
8. Netherlands	850,000,000
9. Belgium	595,000,000
10. Sveriges Riksbank	382,500,000
11. Swiss National Bank*	1,020,000,000
	<u>17,000,000,000</u>

*With effect from the date on which the Swiss National Bank adheres to this Decision in accordance with Paragraph 22.