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**IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION**

MASTER FILES

ROOM C-130

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EBD/86/307

November 20, 1986

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Acting Secretary

Subject: Access to Fund Archives

Some time ago, the Fund was asked to cooperate in a project sponsored by the OECD for the publication of a history of the European Payments Union (EPU). The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), which was the agent of the EPU, was also cooperating in the project, as were several individuals who played important roles in the development and operation of the Union. In view of the Fund's direct interest and participation in the subject matter and its longstanding relationships with the OECD and the BIS, the Executive Board responded favorably and approved a proposal (EBD/81/212, 8/17/81) that the researcher assigned to the project be given access to the relevant Fund archives in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Relevant Fund documents, including Executive Board Minutes, would be made available to the researcher. Papers, if any, specifically relating to a particular country, would be cleared first by the Executive Director concerned.
2. The Fund would reserve the right to see what use the researcher proposed to make of information obtained from Fund documents and would make any suggestions in connection with that use which were thought fit.
3. The management would report to the Executive Board on material made available to the researcher. Any quotations of Executive Board Minutes and other Fund documents, and any attribution of views to particular governments or persons, would be referred back to the Executive Board.

These guidelines were designed to permit the Fund to maintain the confidential character of its relations with members, while at the same time cooperating in a worthy project.

The project is not yet completed and the BIS, with the agreement of the OECD, has now assumed full responsibility for the work. In this connection, the BIS has requested that Dr. Gunther Schleiminger and Dr. Jacob J. Kaplan, who have agreed to prepare the history of the EPU, be provided appropriate access to the Fund's archives to facilitate this research undertaking. As Directors would be aware, Dr. Schleiminger has

had a long and distinguished association with international monetary affairs, with tenure as an Executive Director of the Fund in 1968-74 and with the BIS after 1974 including tenure as General Manager in 1981-84. Dr. Kaplan's wide experience in international economic matters encompasses that as U.S. representative to European financial institutions including the Managing Board of the EPU, as a senior official of the State Department and of the Agency for International Development, as a university faculty member and, most recently, as principal of a private consulting firm providing research and advisory services in international finance and economics.

The considerations that led the Executive Board in 1981 to respond favorably to the earlier request for cooperation in the preparation of a history of the EPU are equally valid at the present time and the interest of the project to the Fund continues. Accordingly, it is proposed that Messrs. Schleiminger and Kaplan be given access to the relevant Fund archives in accordance with the same guidelines as applied to the earlier request and which have been reproduced above.

In the absence of a request by noon on Monday, November 24, 1986, that the matter be placed on the agenda for an Executive Board meeting, this proposal will be deemed approved and it will be so recorded in the minutes of the next meeting thereafter.

Other Distribution:
Department Heads