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ATTENTION

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ROOM C-120

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EBD/85/96

April 10, 1985

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: Access to Fund Archives: History of the
Bank of England

The Fund has been asked by the office of the Executive Director for the United Kingdom to provide assistance in connection with the preparation of a new volume of the history of the Bank of England covering the period 1945-1961. This project is being undertaken by Mr. J.S. Fforde who was an Executive Director of the Bank of England from 1970 to 1982 and is now Official Historian at the Bank. The project has as its focus the external financial policy of the United Kingdom in the early post-war period, particularly the background to the devaluation of sterling in September 1949. This research also is to include examination of relevant material in other international institutions and in some countries outside the United Kingdom. Because the material involved is of an historical nature and the subject concerns principally the member country sponsoring the research, it would seem appropriate for the Fund to cooperate to the fullest extent possible. Accordingly, it is proposed that Mr. Fforde and his research assistant 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 for this research. Papers concerning the United Kingdom which relate to another country as well, if any, would be cleared first by the Executive Director concerned.

2. The Fund would reserve the right to review the use proposed to be made of information obtained from Fund documents and to make suggestions in connection with that use.

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3. The management would report to the Executive Board on material made available for this research. 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.

The aforementioned guidelines are the same as those approved in January 1983, in connection with the use of the Fund's archives by a researcher preparing a history of the relations between Spain and the International Monetary Fund, 1958-82. It is felt that their application will permit the Fund to protect the confidential nature of its archives, while, at the same time, cooperating in this worthwhile project.

In the absence of a request for discussion by an Executive Director by the close of business on Wednesday, April 17, 1985 the proposal will be deemed to have been approved and it will be so recorded in the minutes of the next meeting thereafter.

Other Distribution:
Department Heads