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January 25, 1985

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: Use of the Fund Archives - Proposed Arrangements

In January 1983 the Executive Board approved guidelines for access to the archives of the Fund in connection with the preparation of a book on relations between Spain and the Fund during the period 1958-82 (ERD/83/13, 1/13/83). The project was carried out by Mr. Joaquin Muns, former staff member and Executive Director. In accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Executive Board, access has been provided to Mr. Muns who has kept in close working contact with the staff which has had the opportunity to comment on initial drafts of his work. The Fund archives have been used only by the author and translation of the material in the archives has been undertaken, when necessary, by the author personally.

The author has now supplied the Fund with the final draft of his book, entitled "History of the Relations Between Spain and the International Monetary Fund, 1958-1982: Twenty-Five Years of the Spanish Economy," to be published by the Bank of Spain. A translation of the table of contents may be found in Attachment I. Comments of Mr. Muns are found in Attachment II. In the introduction of the book the reader is put on notice of the arrangements under which the book was written, and of the fact that the Fund archives, including Fund documents--except for publications--are not available to the public. Exceptionally, references have been made to certain countries other than Spain when the context made this necessary, for example, in connection with the distribution of the profits of the sale of Fund gold.

Mr. Muns has indicated that he is at the disposal of the Fund and of members of the Executive Board for any clarification regarding either the contents of the book or the procedures used in its preparation. The author includes in his text a disclaimer, the English translation of which reads as follows: "Finally, I wish to stress that neither the Bank of Spain, nor the International Monetary Fund, nor any of the persons mentioned (above) should be considered responsible for any interpretation, opinion or possible mistake contained in the text, all of which are exclusively the author's responsibility."

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The final draft of the study comes to 875 pages, all in Spanish. Translation of the draft text into English, it is estimated, would involve many months of work and considerable expense. Several Spanish speaking staff members have reviewed the text in draft and have concluded that the History is largely factual, focused on the relations between Spain and the Fund, and through its thorough and systematic treatment of the subject matter is likely to increase public understanding of the role and activities of the Fund. In their view, the manner of presentation permits the Fund to continue to protect the confidential nature of its archives, and at the same time demonstrates the cooperation of the Fund in a work of historical scholarship.

Accordingly, it is intended to make the draft text available to Executive Directors for a period of time, during which each office of Executive Directors will be approached in order to determine whether any Director has objections to the clearance of the paper. Thereupon, formal approval for releasing the proposed History would be sought from the Executive Board on the usual lapse of time basis.

Att: (2)

Other Distribution:
Department Heads

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MEMORANDUM

Barcelona, October 16, 1984

To: Mr. Leo Van Houtven

From: J. Muns

Subject: Some Comments on the Book History of the Relations Between Spain and the International Monetary Fund, 1958-1982: 25 Years of the Spanish Economy

In submitting a copy of the final draft of the above book, I wish to make the following comments:

1. Above all, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the Fund for all the facilities it has provided me for the preparation of this study. In particular, my gratitude goes to the Executive Board, which permitted my access to the Fund archives and documents, and to all the staff members who helped me so generously. A list of their names appears in the Note of Presentation and Acknowledgement (pages I-III).

2. During the preparation of the book, I have kept in close working contact with the Fund. Copies of the previous drafts of the different parts of the study have been circulated for comments within the Fund. I have benefited greatly from those comments and many of them are reflected in the text.

3. I have had the upmost care in maintaining the confidential character of all the materials to which I had access. In this respect, the following points should be noted: (a) the Fund archives and documents have been used only by the author; and (b) even the translation of these materials has been undertaken, when necessary, by the author personally.

4. Except for the EBM series, all the other Fund's documentary sources have been mentioned in the corresponding footnotes. I believe this enhances both the seriousness and completeness of the study.* However, in the Technical Introduction (pages 1-3), the reader is warned of the special arrangements to which the book responds and of the fact that the Fund documents and archives (except for those publications mentioned in Appendix X) are not available to the public (see page 2).

* As a result of subsequent discussions with the staff, Mr. Muns has agreed to remove from the final text the citations of Fund documents that would not be available to the general public.

5. All the materials, including Fund documents, have been used exclusively from the point of view of their information regarding the relations between Spain and the Fund. This applies also to the references made to Executive Board meetings, which are listed in the Annex. The only important exception refers to the allusions made to a few other countries in connection with the question of the distribution of the profits of the sale of the Fund gold, where the Spanish case was inextricably linked with those countries (pages 286-301).

6. The author will appreciate all the comments and factual corrections which are brought to his attention. At the same time, he is at the disposal of the Fund as well as of its Executive Board for any clarification regarding both the contents of the book and the procedures for its preparation.

7. I would like to draw attention to the disclaimer of responsibility contained in the last paragraph of the Note of Presentation and Acknowledgment, whose English translation reads as follows: "Finally, I wish to stress that neither the Bank of Spain, nor the International Monetary Fund, nor any of the persons mentioned (above) should be considered responsible for any interpretation, opinion or possible mistake contained in the text, all of which are exclusively the author's responsibility" (page III).

Annex

References to Executive Board Meetings

The following references to Executive Board meetings in the text contain some information about the latter. As it will be indicated, in most cases it is of a very general nature. In all cases, except one (gold question), all the references relate to Spain.

Chapter One

The first Board discussion on Spain (July 1959) is presented in some detail. The speakers' views are grouped by subjects. Some names are mentioned (pages 56-62).

Chapter Two

The Board meetings devoted to the examination of the 1967 devaluation (pages 102-105), the 1976 depreciation (pages 116-118) and the 1977 depreciation (pages 120-121) of the peseta are referred to. Some names are given.

In connection with Spain's exchange rate policy, the following Article XIV and Article IV consultations Board meetings on Spain are mentioned: 1971 (page 129); 1972 (pages 129-130); 1974 (pages 130-131); and 1982 (page 137). The references are brief and a few names are given.

Regarding Spain's attitude toward Article VIII, the following Article XIV and Article IV consultations Board meetings on Spain are mentioned: 1965 (page 155); 1971 (page 157); 1973 (page 158); 1974 (page 159); and 1981 (page 161). These are very brief references and only the Spanish representatives' names are mentioned.

Chapter Three

There are references, which are in general relatively brief, to the Board meetings devoted to the examination of various Fund transactions with Spain. They are: oil facility drawings (pages 217-218 and 222); 1978 stand-by arrangement (page 229); compensatory financing facility drawing (pages 235-236); and a Spanish voluntary repurchase (page 241). The Spanish position in relation to the 1979 discussion on early repurchases is presented on pages 249-250.

Chapter Four

The question raised by the problem of the direct distribution of the profits from the sale of the Fund's gold is dealt with in detail (pages 286-301). There are references to Board meetings and other countries which shared the same problem are mentioned.

The Spanish attitudes toward the change of valuation of the SDR (pages 310-312) and the substitution account (pages 340-341) are referred to, but no details of the corresponding Board meetings are given.

Chapter Five

This chapter contains a brief description of all the Article XIV and Article IV consultations with Spain. At the end of each of them, there is a brief reference to the corresponding Board meeting setting out the date, the number of speakers, and a very general allusion to what might be called the thrust of the meeting. No names are given except those of the members of the Executive Board elected by Spain or those who spoke on their behalf. The pages where these references can be found are the following: 1960 (page 370); 1961 (page 371); 1963 (pages 373-374); 1964 (page 376); 1965 (page 378); 1966 (page 380); 1967 (page 382); 1968 (page 384); 1969 (page 386); 1971 (page 388); 1972 (page 391); 1974 (page 393); 1975 (page 395); 1976 (page 398); 1977 (page 400); 1979 (page 409 and my buff document, pages 403-408); 1981 (page 412).

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