Joint Computer Center opens; computing power is quadrupled

By Robert Tucker

Visitors to the new Joint Computer Center's open house on September 17 had an opportunity to do something they usually may not do—walk into computer close-up.

Sharing the spotlight at the celebration for the start of service by the new Burroughs B6700 computer system were the computer and its specially designed location in the new IMF building.

Like proud parents showing off a new baby, the JCC staff welcomed visitors from the Bank Group and the Fund and conducted tours of the new facilities, answering questions asked by the curious guests.

"The new computer has a significantly increased file storage capacity and productivity compared to the Burroughs B5700 computer in use since 1968," explained W. R. Erickson, Chief, Data Processing Services Division. "This should mean faster processing, the B6700 will be more economical for users; they will obtain more computer service per dollar," he explained.

More Convenient

"Most Bank Group users will find the new arrangement more convenient despite the location of the JCC in the IMF building because the remote job entry terminals will be more convenient than the old JCC," Mr. Jahr explained. Some of these terminals already are installed and being used.

The study was conducted under the supervision of W. F. Rayfield, Deputy Director, IBRD Computing Activities Department, said Philip Thorson, Director of Administration for the IMF. A thorough in-depth study of the computing needs of the Bank Group and Fund, present and future, and alternatives for meeting them preceded selection of the Burroughs B6700 computing system, according to Mr. Muller. The study was conducted under the supervision of W. F. Rayfield, Deputy Director, IBRD Computing Activities, and R. N. Clark, Deputy Director, IMF Administration.

"One of the very important benefits of the study was the opportunity to..." (Cont'd on Page 6, Col. 1)
Bank security chief warns against thefts; staff asked to increase care and vigilance

The Bank's Security Officer has urged staff members to exercise both care and vigilance in order to help stem a recent upsurge of thefts in the Bank Group complex of buildings.

The rise in overnight thefts has been particularly worrisome, Francis D. Ross, Jr., the Security Officer, said. But he added that personal and Bank property stolen during working hours from unattended rooms is also on the increase.

There are about 2,600 rooms in this Bank complex, and we only have about 20 guards on duty during the day, some of whom are in stationary posts. Obviously the security force can't do it all," he noted.

He added that "no one wants a high-profile security situation," but went on to say that Bank staff must realize that "their offices are not their castles, and that they are really only somewhat less private than the corner phone on a wide front. in South Asia and Africa. "The most important single step the developed nations could take to assist the 1,000 million people of the poorest countries would be to recognize that the effects of inflation alone require large increases in the appropriated money values of Official Development Assistance (ODA)," Mr. McNamara told the almost 3,000 assembled delegates, observers, and guests.

Mr. McNamara also reviewed the Fourth Replenishment of the International Development Association.

To The Editor:

I agree with (the anonymous writer "Bank Notes, July 1974") that the difficulty of designating the dining rooms leads to great confusion.

How would it be if we called the D building Dining Room and the E building Dining Room—being formerly a Fund building—the "Schweitzer" Dining Room? Just a thought.

Ursula Shephard

Oct. 1974

Ursula Shephard

Bank Notes is published by and for the staff of the World Bank Group ten times yearly in the Department of Information and Public Affairs. Inquiries should be addressed to the Editor, Room E-836. Contributions from staff members are welcomed. Deadline for letters and articles (in which brevity is the soul of publishability) is the 13th of each month. The editor reserves the right, for reasons of space or clarity, to edit all copy without notifying in advance the author.

... Peter Muncie

Staff Photographer

Ed Huffman
Underuse of women noted

The highest ranking woman in the United Nations told an audience of about 250 persons in the Eugene Black Auditorium that countries will be ever more concerned with underdevelopment unless they take efforts to bring women into the mainstream of national life.

Helvi L. Sipiläi, Assistant Secretary-General of the U.N. Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, also said that birth control efforts would surely fail as long as women need more children to help in the work and as long as they anticipate that a high percentage of their children will die in childhood.

Mrs. Sipiläi, a mother of four, and a lawyer by profession, was at the Bank on September 16 to meet with Mr. McNamara in regard to the Bank’s participation in International Women’s Year—1975. Mrs. Sipiläi has also been named Secretary-General for the Year which will culminate in a June conference to be held in Bergen.

Staff Association Series: Part Three

Attitudes about women must change, Working Group says

By Sylvia R. Browne

As of July 31, 1974, 90.3 per cent of the women in the World Bank were in levels A-I and 9.7 per cent were in levels J-Q. At the same time only 16.9 per cent of the men in the World Bank were in levels A-I, while 83.1 per cent were in levels J-Q. Of the 1,874 staff members at the J-Q levels, 153 or 8.2 per cent were women; this is down fractionally from the 8.3 per cent women J-Q staff as of June 30, 1973. The Status of Women Working Group (SWWG) will issue a paper later this month analyzing further this data which was made available recently by the Personnel Department.

The distribution of staff in the Bank by sex and by level indicates that the Bank is not fully utilizing the skills of its women staff members. At a time when ever-increasing numbers of women are taking advanced degrees and becoming involved in professions from which women have traditionally been barred, the Bank has only managed to employ 153 women at the "professional" levels.

On the basis of the most recent information available to us, the Bank ranks 14th out of the 17 agencies of the United Nations system in terms of the numbers of women employed at the J-Q levels.

The problem in the Bank does not lie with discriminatory regulations. In the last several years written regulations adversely affecting women staff members have been changed. Rather, the problem resides in the attitudes which militate against women being employed in responsible positions.

The SWWG’s task is difficult because so many areas of discrimination are neither readily quantifiable nor clearly defined. Consequently the Working Group is most concerned with the effect of attitudes on the status of women.

Our most active group is the Open Meetings Committee, whose task it is to plan programs which will focus attention on women and their problems for the purpose of increasing staff members’ awareness of the social changes that are taking place in relation to women, and, hopefully, to make both men and women think twice about their attitudes and behavior patterns.

Members of the SWWG have informally established contact with other international and UN agencies to find out what they are doing to improve the status of women, and to see how their programs are working and how relevant they might be to the World Bank. We hope to meet informally with representatives of agencies in the Washington area this month to compare notes.

Two problem areas which have received a lot of attention in the Working Group are: improper questions asked in employment interviews, and the rights and duties of secretaries. In regard to the former, it is difficult to present cases to management because most women are unwilling to have their names used or to give the names of the interviewers because they are afraid of reprisals.

The latter issue has great importance to the Working Group because approximately 1,180 women in the Bank are in clerical and secretarial jobs. We do not wish to perpetuate the identification of women with clerical staff. But the fact that the majority of women are in the secretarial and clerical staff has produced a vicious circle situation: women do clerical,secretarial work, therefore clerical/secretarial work is inferior; most women are working in clerical,secretarial jobs, therefore women are inferior. And it is in this group that the quality of daily working life in the Bank creates the most serious frustrations for women staff members and which makes them feel like second-class staff members. Taken in isolation, these daily frustrations may seem petty and insignificant but putting them together, several a day, day after day, they have a strong cumulative negative effect on the majority of women working in the Bank.

This kind of equation does not affect only women negatively. Many men in the "special services" category were upset when they found their new grade levels (F and I) interleaved with the old grades 1-7.

We hope that management will also increase its efforts at recruitment of women and utilization of resources among women in its existing staff. In the light of the decrease in the percentage of women in the J-Q levels over the past year, we hope that "the status of women in the Bank" is not a case which, once studied, is assumed to be a problem solved.

Sylvia Browne, Staff Association treasurer, is also chairman of the Status of Women Working Group.

Blanche Dickinson

1904-1974

Blanche Dickinson is no longer with us. A consultant in the 1966 Algeria Economic Mission, she gained many friends in the Bank, who today are deeply saddened and mourn her departure.

Blanche was a decent, honest person, full of enthusiasm and vitality until the very end. The memory of her in the Kabyle mountains, in her West Virginia cabin, will always be treasured by those of us who were fortunate to know this beautiful woman.

Eugenio F. Lari

Jubilee

Ursula Shephard—20 years
Heightened Bank profile provides perils, challenges

By John E. Merriam

The Bank has been reaching the front pages of the newspapers lately—sometimes when we least want it to, but always against tough competition.

Last July 25, when the eyes of the world were devouring every line written about the U.S. House Judiciary Committee proceedings, the Boston Globe gave the bottom of its front page (below the "fold," of course) to an unauthorized leak of a Bank study of the energy situation.

When you’re vacationing in Silver Lake, Maine, or visiting the Magic Kingdom in Florida, it’s quite a jolt to feel the full force of the Bank’s arival of prominence. But it brings home the point.

When news comes from "leaks," this means trouble, because leaks mean distortion at best, and at worst, a complete perversion of what our institution is trying to say. This year, the Bank has had a lot to say.

Last year we in the Information Department found great satisfaction in the outcome of the Nairobi meeting—an outpouring of articles from papers all over the world underscoring the concern voiced in the President’s speech to the Governors and urging the world’s leaders to quicken their efforts in behalf of the world’s poorest and to speed the ratification of the Fourth IDA Replenishment.

But the optimism that led us to speak of the "spirit of Nairobi" couldn’t last. For the professional retailer of ideas oun wordsmith, there is no rest.

Hardly had we returned when a new set of problems emerged; the scene began to change radically. The world took its time to recognize what was happening.

In December, Mr. McNamara gave the Dutch newspaper Elsevier’s (issue of December 16, 1973) what I believe was the first public statement of the severe effects of rapidly increasing inflation on the developing world.

The Bank began to add to these grim conclusions what was already known about the condition of the world food supply—the fact that developing countries’ demand for imported food had tripled between the ’40s and the ’60s, that major food producers as the United States and the Soviet Union, had limited export capacity, or had become importers, and that by a sequence of unhappy events, the world had come near to the most severe food crisis in modern times.

The food and energy link was made clear by studies of the fertilizer shortage, which showed how dependent developing countries had become on modern technology and oil-based energy sources for its ability to acquire increasing quantities of chemical nutrients for the soil.

In its December energy paper, the Bank made the first of several attempts to interpret what these problems would mean in costs to the LDC’s. This effort was quickly overtaken by a further rise in oil prices.

At the time, many of the older industrialized countries were reluctant to focus on our conclusions. Our problems of communication were compounded by the hope in some developing countries that the World Bank would have additional funds to help overcome the problem.

But these issues were irrepressible. The suggestion to financial writers in New Delhi that the Bank might have to consider adjusting its program to help poor nations deal with these problems was reported in the Neue Zurcher Zeitung—an early hint of new-found global newsworthiness.

More dramatic, however, was January’s unexpected defeat in the House of Representatives of a bill authorizing the United States to participate in the Fourth IDA Replenishment. This was the first vote in the House in 1974, and came after the House members returned from Christmas holiday besieged with the multiple urgencies of oil shortages, inflation, and Watergate.

By early spring it was apparent that increased foreign exchange costs, resulting from price increases plus food and fertilizer scarcity, would exceed the net flows of expected foreign assistance. It was becoming equally clear that responsible world leadership would have to deal with the situation.

Bank Notes: From all that one has read about the Conference in the press, it has been painted as a dismal failure. How do you react to that characterization?

Kandiah Kanagaratnam: Let me start by saying that the Conference didn’t achieve its objectives, which were to seek a broad, international consensus on the urgency of the population growth problem, and to establish some modest global targets (1.7 per cent population growth for the world by 1985) for international and national action.

I do consider the Conference to be significant, however, in that it brought to the deliberations of the subject, the whole mix of opinions, sentiments, and judgments about population activities, and how they should be conducted.

Bank Notes: But wasn’t this whole mix already known? Was it necessary to gather in Bucharest to find out?

Kandiah Kanagaratnam: The political and cultural sensitivities evoked were much stronger than anyone had thought. A critical comment during the debates was that the proposed plan was too mechanistic and tended to be over-intellectualized. Many were opposed to this way of thinking: “Here’s a problem; here’s population growth; so the way to get rid of the problem is to reduce population growth.”

Speakers emphasized the fact that countries were different, and so were their needs. I think that in much of the debate, the view came through quite clearly that population change was but one factor in economic and social development, and was not— as some made out—the determinant of social and economic development.

Bank Notes: Who espoused that view?

Kandiah Kanagaratnam: You see, the proposed solutions implied this. The other view, however, captured a much broader range of support—from the socialist countries, the Holy See, the Catholic and African nations, and also from John D. Rockefeller.

Bank Notes: And then there were some who even refused to believe that

Population Conference links population policies with development

Kandiah Kanagaratnam

For twelve days, from August 19 through the 30th, some 1,400 delegates representing 134 governments, specialized agencies and regional bodies, liberation movements, and 150 non-governmental bodies debated the issues of population policy in Bucharest, Romania.

The Conference, formally called the World Population Conference, was the first inter-governmental conference ever held on population. Nonetheless—or perhaps because of this—the nations of the world were unable to achieve international agreement on whether or not there was a population problem, and on what measures should be taken to deal with it.

Population, in the majority view, was not a crisis issue.

Three members of the World Bank were on hand for the deliberations at Bucharest—William Clark, Kandiah Kanagaratnam, and Timothy King.

Bank Notes recently visited Dr. Kana­garatnam, the Director of the Popula­tion and Nutrition Projects Depart­ment in his office, and asked him for his reactions to the Bucharest Confer­ence.

Bank Notes: From all that one has read about the Conference in the press,
On being a secretary…

Despite the ups and downs, it can be enriching, one ex-secretary believes

By Mercedes F. Bautista

I have just relinquished my rights and privileges as a secretary in favor of a new job. Before I pack and leave my desk, I have a few pointers to bequeath to my dear sisters (and brothers) in the profession I greatly en­joyed. 

Begin with, always remember that all jobs can be rewarding and interesting, no matter how mind-numbing or boring. Be thankful that you are able to work and earn an honest living. A very important thing to have in mind, too, is that institutional loyalty should be developed within yourself from the very start.

Try the first thing I did when I entered the Bank was to know its history, its division structure and the rest of the day will be spent developing teamwork, not only in your department. Your day.

Personal loyalty to the people you are working for is of the utmost importance; the most difficult task is to keep your supervisors happy. They are also human beings like you. As a rule of thumb, keep a smile on your face even if the work is not going well.

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evaluate all existing Bank Group sys­ tems already in use on the B5700," Mr. Muller pointed out. "This has led to a number of improvements to exist­ ing systems and redesign and replace­ ment of others," he added.

"Selection of such a sophisticated system depended upon the benefits to both the Bank Group and the Fund of continuing the joint computing arrange­ ment that has existed since 1963," Mr. Muller continued. "There was interna­ tional bidding for the contract that finally was awarded to the Burroughs Corporation," he said.

A joint Bank/Fund committee under the direction of F. Lynn Alexander, Chief, Software Services Division, pre­ pared the specifications for the system. These specifications were sent to 48 computer manufacturers throughout the world for consideration. Members of the same team analyzed the re­ sponses to the request for bids, both from the point of view of separate IBRD and IMF systems and from the point of view of continuing a joint system.

(That team, known as the Benchmark Team, was made up of Bank Group staffers Eugenia Comer, Howard Conrad, Edwin Kunscher, Bruce Lewis, Mary Owens, and William Wabl. Fund staff members included Leonard Harris, Frank Maranto, Anne McGuirk, and Adrian Nelson.)

"Because of the resulting economy of scale if the joint arrangements were continued, both the Bank Group and Fund decided to follow that course," Mr. Muller pointed out. "Both organi­ zations will benefit from the B6700's level of computing capability, a level higher than either the Bank Group or the IMF could have supported indi­ videntally," he emphasized.

Throughout the past year, a major commitment of Bank and Fund data processing staffs has been to convert systems and programs used on the old B5700 machine to the new B6700.

"The B6700 computer system has the capacity for a considerable amount of expansion, but at some time in the distant future it may be necessary again to convert to a larger system," Mr. Muller said. "The steps taken during this conversion period should make any future conversion much easier than this one was," he concluded.

The Bank Notes

October 1974

Open to All

Paddlers, in exile from "Y", get new home in F building

By H. Groen

Since early September, the Bank has had its own in-house, table tennis room—Room F-133, located on the first floor of the F building by the elevators. The room has been made available for this purpose by the Ad­ ministrative Services Department. It is equipped with two first-class tables and is open for staff table tennis during lunch time and after hours.

The World Bank Table Tennis Club (WBTTC), established in 1972, has been delegated the authority to manage the room, and has made rules for table occupancy that suit the needs of both beginners and advanced players.

One table is designated for competi­ tion, which means that the winner(s) stay on until defeated. The other table is released after the current players have completed one set.

The Club provides the balls and paddles. To share in the cost of these supplies, and to cover expenses related to tournaments etc., the Club has set up a membership system for regular players at the nominal cost of $1.50 a year. (Membership forms are available in the table tennis room.)

The opening of the table tennis room marks the end of a period during which the Table Tennis Club tried to im­ prove the facilities for its members. Until now, the Club used the game room in the YMCA for lunch time table tennis. This room was far from ideal, and in October 1973, the Table Tennis Committee first wrote to James E. Twining, Jr., Director, Adminis­ trative Services Department, to see whe­ ther with the upcoming acquisition of the Fund buildings, there would be space available for a table tennis room. Although no firm promises were made, the reply was that the proposal would receive "every possible consider­ ation."

In the meantime, the situation in the "Y" became almost unbearable since the temperature in the game room was in the nineties summer and winter alike because of the room's location next to the "Y"'s heating system.

With the help of the Administrative Services Department, the Club arranged for an old Bank air conditioner to be placed in the "Y"'s game room in March 1973. The "Y" paid for the installation cost, and had free use of the appliance for as long as the WBTTC would use the game room. The air conditioner helped cool the game room, but the uninspiring looks of the "Y" facilities kept many mem­ bers from playing regularly.

The Table Tennis Committee, cur­ rently consisting of Hank Groen, Chair­ man, Lucilla McKay, Secretary/Treas­ urer, and Peter Gyamfi, Tournament Secretary, was overwhelmed with joy when John R. Crowley (Administrative Services) informed it this spring that the in-house room would become a reality. The Bank was also to provide two tables.

The fate of the Bank air conditioner in the YMCA has not yet been de­ cided. One might guess that the appar­ atus will be offered to the "Y" at a nominal amount, as it is of no use to the Bank.

The Table Tennis Committee plans to hold a cocktail party for its mem­ bers in the near future to celebrate the official opening of the new table tennis room.

Eugenia Comer awaits her turn with an input deck.

F. Lynn Alexander watches Lucilla McKay send his job from the N building remote terminal to the B6700 computer in the new JCC in the IMF building. Eugenia Comer awaits her turn with an input deck.

The bank has a new address. Two of them, in fact. The one being painted on the F building (above) is 1850 H Street. The E building will soon be adorned with its own sign marking its location as 701 19th Street. (The E building will also sport plaques for each member of the Bank Group.) Visitors to the Bank can in the future, therefore, be directed to an address and not to (in the case of the E building) "the building with vertical windows that is attached to the building with the flags."

The official mailing address to all Bank buildings remains the same, however—1818 H Street, N.W.

The facilities are new and the room is cool . . .
Chairmanships for the coming season are:

Welcoming-Rosemary Berrie (Tel: 966-0489); Language Conversation Groups-Lena Gill (Tel: 965-2327); Seminar and Discussion Groups—Teel Zetterstrom (Tel: 780-2334); Opportunities Information Service—Veronica Milford (Tel: 823-2840) and Kehinde Mbanefo (Tel: 977-1046); Cultural Arts—Cristina King (Tel: 462-2566) and Kitty Broches (Tel: 362-3335); Communications—Aida Habib (Tel: 354-1144); Youth—Rita Clarke (Tel: 656-0394); and Children—Delphine Vuylsteke (Tel: 654-5774).

Every Tuesday: Opportunities Information Service—Room F-213, next to the WIVES Office, 9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon. Telephone during these hours: 477-5930. Telephone the WIVES office at other times.

Tuesday, October 1—International Needlecrafter—Margaret Prudence, hostess, 8806 Kenilworth Drive, Springfield, Virginia, 10 A.M. Tel: 978-9250.

Tuesday, October 1—Open House in Maryland—Ditti Morse, hostess, 9300 Fernwood Road, Bethesda, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Tel: 365-8345.

Tuesday, October 8—International Cookery—Arlene Dyer, hostess, 1239 Meyer Court, McLean, Virginia, 10,30 A.M. Tel: 893-8804.

Friday, October 18—Tour of Dumbarton Oaks, Collections and Gardens, 10 A.M. to 12 Noon. Invitations will be mailed to all those who have already indicated an interest in Cultural Tours. For those who have not, call the WIVES office for further information.

Wednesday, October 29—Open House in Virginia, Mary Bhairor, hostess, 304 East Street, S.E., Vienna, 10 A.M. Tel: 936-1920.

Tuesday, October 8—International Cookery—Arlene Dyer, hostess, 1239 Meyer Court, McLean, Virginia, 10,30 A.M. Tel: 893-8804.

WIVES—Members of the WIVES' 1974-75 Executive Committee met on September 12, and elected a Chairman for a term of one year. Ruby Wingate, the new Chairman, has already served for one year as Chairman of the Opportunities Information Service. Looking into old issues of Bank Notes, you get a glimpse of her great achievements. As we (WIVES) wish her well, we also expect a great deal of her.

In the photo (above) are seated members of the new Executive Committee. From left to right, they are: Kehinde Mbanefo, Mrs. Robert S. McNamara (honorary Chairman), Barbara Shaw-Giorgihiu (Administrative Officer), Kitty Broches, Ruby Wingate (Chairman), Teel Zetterstrom, Aida Habib, Lena Gill, and Delphine Vuylsteke. Missing are Rosemary Berrie, Rita Clarke, Cristina King, and Veronica Milford.

We take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing Chairman, Ruth Isbister, who was not only a prime mover in the establishment of the organization, but as Chairman of the Executive Committee, has guided its development up to the present time. We are happy that she will remain as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for the coming year.
Potpourri—People and Places

A World Bank dividend—a daughter with the same surname; others are doing fine, thank you.

One recently distributed circular on “Inter-Office Mail” was very clear: “A considerable number of inter-office envelopes are incorrectly addressed to clerical staff.” And 400 jeeps ... We also talked about Bangladesh; but, in the words of Omar, “came out the selfsame door wherein we entered.”

“An evening session with Mr. McNamara showed that his sense of urgency in reducing population growth at least matches our own...” We urged that the Bank give a greater share of its aid to programs that would directly reduce birth rates. And Mr. Keeny concludes his newsletter with an anecdote which, he says, he brought back from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bank wife finds Bangladesh floods bring disaster in wake

The sky was brilliantly blue, the sun shone and still the waters rose. Daily we watched it inch up the garden retaining wall. And with every inch the lake rose, the amount of land the water covered increased enormously. Our lake, an insignificant puddle in the winter, is connected to the Lakhya, and a great network of rivers covering at least half of the country, draining the great basin surrounding the Himalayas.

Even the smallest rise meant inestimable millions of gallons of water flowing through to the Bay of Bengal. And we reached the road. We finally had to resort to using the Bank’s Landrover to reach the house. The water was higher than the servant's toilets; the kitchen sink flowed into the water around the house, and there was no place to dump the daily garbage. It was time to evacuate. We sent our servants back to Chittagong where they had to rebuild their houses, and where they could more easily afford to eat. We moved into an empty Bank house on higher ground.

The worst is still to come. The floods continued, sometimes even overwhelming the road. By the time it had crept on to the road we left our house, six emaciated women, barely covered in rags, were left past the garden gate, and stood crying, moaning, begging for food at our door. And when I heard, then forced myself to look at these scarcely human beings, I was overwhelmed with horror and fear.

Adrienne Allison
Dacca, 19 August 1974

Mrs. Allison is the wife of Stephen V. Allison, a member of the Resident Mission in Bangladesh.

Henri Konan Bedie
Meet chairman presides over Ivorian boom

Mr. Konan Bedie, Chairman of this year's Joint Annual Meeting of the Bank and Fund, was born in 1934 at Doudoukro, 150 miles north of Abidjan, in a village located in the heart of the region known in the Ivory Coast as the "cocoa belt." Like many Ivorian officials, Mr. Konan Bedie is directly descended from peasant stock and remains profoundly attached to the soil.

Having done exceptionally well in primary school, he was able, thanks to his family's support, to pursue secondary studies in the Ivory Coast, and higher education in France at the University of Poitiers. He began his career in the public service by occupying the post of Assistant Manager of the Caisse de Compensation des Prestations Familiales (Family Allowances and Equalization Fund). Mr. Konan Bedie was sent to Paris in 1960 for a training course in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the National School of Administration. This marked the first major stage of his career. It was to be the diplomatic service.

In May 1960, Mr. Konan Bedie arrived in Washington as Counsellor in the French Embassy and to the (African-French) Community. In October 1960, two months after the proclamation of his country's independence, he was appointed Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of the Ivory Coast in Washington, and on January 17, 1961 he presented to President Eisenhower his country's credentials as the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to be appointed by the young Republic of the Ivory Coast.

Mr. Konan Bedie remained in North America five years.

He represented his country in the United States for the entire term of the Kennedy Administration and for part of that of the Johnson Administration. This period witnessed an astonishing increase in Ivorian sales to the U.S. (20 per cent of the Ivory Coast's exports in 1964).

As a member of the Ivorian Delegation to the U.N. General Assembly between 1960 and 1965, Mr. Konan Bedie represented the Ivory Coast on the General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic Committee).

In 1963 he was appointed as the first Ambassador of the Ivory Coast to Canada, with residence in Washington. When Ivorian President Houphouët-Boigny reorganized his Government in early 1966, he introduced young, university-trained officials who had proved their worth in posts of responsibility; Mr. Konan Bedie was appointed Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs.

On taking over the reins of office in that important department, Mr. Konan Bedie assumed difficult and delicate responsibilities. He inherited the major part of the burden of the sick, elderly Sir Konan Bedie, the former French Overseas Governor, who had been the co-ordinator of the economic policy of the Ivory Coast in the years before and after independence—years in which the country evidenced its great expansion.

Mr. Konan Bedie responded so well to the challenge that in September 1968, he was granted full powers as Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs. In 1969, Mr. Konan Bedie was awarded a Doctorate in Economic Sciences with the grade of Distinction by the University of Poitiers.

The story, Mr. Keeny writes, "shows how important doctors in Indonesia should be complete and without ambiguity. An older man who felt himself losing some of his vital fire consulted his doctor. The physician examined him thoroughly and told his patient: "There is nothing wrong with you except that you've let yourself get flabby. I want you to jog ten miles every morning for ten days and then report to me."

"Ten days later the man telephoned the doctor: 'I've done it! Ten miles a day for ten days.'"

"Hasn't it improved your life a lot?"

"How should I know? I'm a hundred miles from home.'"

Mr. Keeny also notes that while in the U.S., he went to Gettysburg for his college class reunion. It was his 60th.