DATE: November 3, 1989
TO: All PHR Divisions
FROM: Alan Berg
EXTENSION: 33433
SUBJECT: New and Noteworthy in Nutrition (No. 7)

1. **Nutrition for Non-Nutritionists**: The strong interest of staff in this 3-day course in mid-December reflects the growing concern in the Bank about nutrition. More than twice as many requests for admission were received as the announced number of openings. Sorry that many who wanted to take the course could not be accommodated, but a repeat of this training is being planned.

2. Another measure of the growing concern for nutrition around the Bank is the growing length of these New and Noteworthy memos. This one is organized as follows:

   - Operations
   - Nutrition and Educability
   - What Has Been Learned
   - New Technologies
   - The International Nutrition Congress
   - Current Heat-Generating Issues
   - New Bank Publications and Articles
   - Staff Changes
   - Seminar Highlights
   - Other Agencies

   Operations

3. The **FY89 PHN Annual Sector Review**, which will be sent today to the Operational Vice-Presidents, notes that "nutrition operations are increasing markedly and there are a number of adjustment, social development, and poverty alleviation projects that will support nutrition and food security efforts." The latest (October 12) count of nutrition actions for FY89-92 shows 20 self-standing nutrition projects or projects in which nutrition plays a major role, 16 adjustment or adjustment-related projects in which nutrition figures prominently, and (for FY89-90) 16 PHN and 14 education projects with distinct nutrition components. A new set of tables on nutrition lending is available from this office for those interested.

4. **UNDP Interest**: Both Moeen Qureshi, Senior Vice President for Operations, and Mahbub ul Haq, Acting Director of Policy, Planning and Evaluation of UNDP, have in recent months expressed strong support for nutrition. In New York, on October 27, the two began discussions for possible World Bank/UNDP collaboration to help developing countries prepare nutrition projects. Discussions will continue at a meeting on November 10.
5. **The UNICEF Connection**: Increasingly, the Bank is working with UNICEF on nutrition operations. An identification mission for a nutrition project in Bangladesh is being undertaken this month collaboratively with UNICEF. A sizable component of the Tanzania Health and Nutrition Project currently being appraised (see para 8) will expand a program that UNICEF and WHO successfully mounted with Italian government resources six years ago. Similarly, the upcoming Colombia Community Child Care and Nutrition Project (see para 6) is based on a model developed and tested by UNICEF and other non-government organizations. Also, Bank missions are seeking -- and receiving -- more help from UNICEF staff in preparing projects. For example, the Mozambique Health and Nutrition Project, approved by the Board in March, benefitted from considerable UNICEF assistance. In India, UNICEF has helped organize large-scale testing of the new growth monitoring "bubble chart," which the Bank helped develop. The advantages of building on UNICEF pilot efforts and the presence and knowledge of UNICEF field staff are obvious for an institution such as ours in which nutrition staff capacity is so limited. In turn, an October 19-21 UNICEF meeting to design a nutrition strategy acknowledged the opportunities presented by the Bank’s increased involvement in nutrition.

6. **Colombia**: The landmark Colombia Community Child Nutrition and Development Project recognizes -- for the first time in a Bank project -- the importance of child care. Now in yellow cover, this proposed $50 million loan reflects a recognition that as infant mortality declines, urbanization increases, and more women enter the labor force, needs arise for preschool care, including nutrition and early childhood development programs. Colombian day care, based on the traditional model, was geared to middle-class families and was relatively costly. The new approach, already successfully tested on a sizable scale, uses neighborhood homes operated by "community mothers." These mothers, chosen by the community, receive a modest stipend, a home improvement loan (to ensure sanitary conditions) and orientation programs in nutrition and day care. Costs per child are a third as much as the center-based programs, which will be cut back (in favor of the new approach) in the effort to raise cost-effectiveness.

7. The program provides 80 percent of the daily nutritional requirement for more than a million children from the lowest income quintile. The diet will consist of "Bienestarina," a domestically manufactured supplement commonly baked in bread form, and fresh foods purchased locally. The main benefits of the program extend to several groups: the participating children benefit from better nutrition and adequate (often improved) day care; the "community mothers" benefit from increased income as well as home improvements and skills upgrading; and the mothers of participating children, often the only source of family income, are able to pursue paid employment -- as well as learn nutrition and child development skills. The project will include a Living Standards Measurement Survey. (Task manager: Eleanor Schreiber, LA3HR.)

8. **Tanzania**: The Tanzania Health and Nutrition Project, which has just been appraised, includes two notable features for Bank nutrition operations. First, it will extend the most successful nutrition project in Sub-Saharan Africa -- the Joint Nutrition Support Project in the Iringa Region -- to four other regions. The project demonstrated that significant resources and a commitment to better nutrition can be mobilized at the community level -- the upshot being a reduction in severe malnutrition by two-thirds and in moderate malnutrition by one-third. (An evaluation is available from this office.) In the upcoming project, 70
percent of the disbursements for "village PHN initiatives" will fund nutrition-related activities.

9. The other noteworthy nutrition feature in the Tanzania project is the largest micro-nutrient component in a Bank project to date. This will support national programs to overcome both vitamin A and iron deficiencies. (Iodine deficiencies, the other major micronutrient problem in Tanzania, will be addressed in a parallel, coordinated program supported by the Dutch and Swedish aid agencies.) The detailed proposal, prepared by the Tanzanian Food and Nutrition Center, is included in an annex to the staff appraisal report and serves as a good model for Bank proposals addressing micronutrient components elsewhere. (Task manager: John Innes, AF6PH).

10. LAC: A FY93 Nutrition Project for Mexico has been added to the lending program; this in addition to the FY91 Health and Nutrition Project which has substantial nutrition content, and the FY91 Agriculture Sector Loan and the FY91 Rural Development Project, which include explicit attention to nutrition issues.

11. LAC has scheduled three important meetings designed to add to its already sizable pipeline of nutrition operations in Latin America. (LAC's attention to nutrition is one of its major new thrusts since reorganization.) On December 1, a workshop of donors will be hosted by LAC in Washington to review the operational implications of its new report, Feeding Latin American Children. Then, in late January, a three-day nutrition meeting will be held in Guatemala for planning office officials and managers of nutrition programs from Central American countries and others in the region dependent on external assistance in nutrition, such as Haiti, Peru, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic. A meeting of countries that largely fund their own programs will be held in Brasilia (and co-sponsored by the Brazilian government), probably in March. While the meeting in Guatemala will concentrate on management systems and ways to get support from the donor community, the Brazil meeting will devote more attention to efficiency and targeting issues.

12. Four possible nutrition interventions have been identified by preparation missions in Guatemala (Health and Nutrition Project, FY92): integrating food aid into primary health care; growth monitoring; nutrition education; and food safety and quality control. (Task manager: Carmen Hamann, LATHR.)

13. The upcoming Haiti Health Project (now in yellow cover) presents a dilemma seen in some of the other poorest countries. Malnutrition is a principal factor in the poor health condition of the population, causing 71 percent of the deaths among 1-to 4-year-olds. So task manager Xavier Coll (LA3HR) sought to include a nutrition component. But the country's infrastructure is so fragile and it's capacity so weak that what was originally an ambitious project needed to be scaled down to the simplest level. Modest growth monitoring and nutrition education activities have survived, but major nutrition efforts were dropped. In the process, however, he took steps to make sure we do not find ourselves in the same situation four years from now. Nutrition project preparation money was built into the Health Project. Ideas for interventions put forth by an initial study will be tested out so that by the next project the Government will be in a position to make judgments on what is workable. This approach may have applicability for other countries where opportunities for nutrition currently are not evident. (In addition to the Health Project, Division Chief Bob Drysdale, LA3HR, reports that
the proposed Haitian Emergency Social Fund Project now under preparation will entertain proposals for child feeding.)

14. **Africa**: The first free-standing food security operation in the Bank has been appraised and will be undertaken in Cameroon in early FY91. It will include support to a National Committee for Food and Nutrition, an operational early warning system, food processing, and community fish ponds. (Task manager: Peter Thomson, AFTFS.)

15. The first comprehensive food security study has been completed. The grey cover report on Mozambique (No. 7963MOZ) serves as a good model for building nutrition into food security studies elsewhere. (Task managers: Jane Armitage and Neeta Sirur.) The report for Kenya will be next. (Task manager: Graeme Donovan.) Others reasonably far along are Malawi (Roy Southworth), Sudan (Jack van Holst Pellekaan) and Benin (Maurice Asseo). For the latter, a "Food Security and Poverty Alleviation Strategy Paper," with several nutrition recommendations, will be discussed with Government by a mission in late November.

16. Janet de Merode (AF4PH) reports a marked change in the perception of the nutrition situation in Nigeria, which previously denied the country had a nutrition problem. A food security mission has been dispatched to operationalize this interest as quickly as possible. Bank nutrition consultants Sol Chafkin and David Boianovsky, along with Malonga Miatudila (AFTPN) and local nutrition consultants, are contributing to this effort. Also, the innovative Nigerian Health System Fund Project, to be negotiated in January, has added nutrition actions in the line of credit which Nigerian states can draw on for specific programs (Manager of both tasks: V. Srinivasan, AF4PH.)

17. The Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) program is adding $3 million to the Health and Nutrition Project in Mozambique for pilot-programs to test "power flour" (see para 30) and run market trials of sorghum as a means of targeting grain to low-income populations.

18. With Bank operations opening up in Angola, the first mission -- a social sector reconnaissance mission -- found that severe and moderate malnutrition are widespread and that harmful weaning practices are a major contributing factor. A household survey to assess more precisely nutrition needs and a study of infant feeding practices will be carried out during project preparation. (Task managers: Rob Hecht and Jacomina de Regt AF6PH.)

19. A Zambia rehabilitation project, in which nutrition looms large, has been packaged by the Bank (AFPH6) and will be presented to the consultative group of donors in January. This project cannot be financed by the Bank because of overdue interest payments.

20. **Asia**: A mission led by Jim Greene (ASTPH) currently is in India to assist in the preparation of Nutrition II (FY90) and Nutrition III (FY91). Together these will account for close to half a billion dollars. The results of his nutrition discussions last month in Sri Lanka, have not yet been received... As noted above, an identification mission will be in Bangladesh, beginning November 16.

21. **EMENA**: A mission currently in Egypt examining the social cost of adjustment and related operational opportunities, may result in EMENA's biggest step in nutrition since reorganization. Consultant Eileen Kennedy, who lectured last year
at the Bank, is responsible for the nutrition dimension of the work. Also in EMENA, discussions are just beginning about possible assistance to Afghanistan, where nutrition needs are assumed to be considerable.

Nutrition and Educability

22. The importance of nutrition to school performance was discussed at some length in the New and Noteworthy memo of May 2. Now, in their upcoming report, "Improving Primary Education in Developing Countries: A Review of Policy Options," Marlaine Lockheed and Adriaan Verspoor (PHREE) point to what they call "teachability" through better nutrition, as a major determinant of learning achievement. "Because malnutrition and hunger limit children's learning," they write, "it is useful to provide breakfasts or snacks, iron, iodine, and vitamin A supplements, and treatment for parasites. However, no long-term advantage has been demonstrated for providing school lunches rather than breakfasts or snacks. Screening children for visual and auditory problems is important for increasing their teachability." The report is currently being synthesized into a draft Bank policy paper....The August 15 report on Sustainable Growth with Equity: A Long-Term Perspective for Sub-Saharan Africa also states that some of the high African dropout and repetition rates "may be due to impaired mental abilities resulting from poor nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. In such cases, appropriate interventions, such as targeted school-feeding programs complemented by supplements of micronutrients, could improve learning abilities and reduce dropout rates."

What has been learned: Insights in Bank Reports and Memos

23. The income and nutrition link: The July 1989 Jamaican Survey of Living Conditions (part of the Social Sector Adjustment Project) shows that "the prevalence of malnutrition declines only slightly as consumption levels rise (from the Back-to-Office report by Margaret Grosh, LATHR, and Paul Glewwe, PHRWH)....Recent SDA work in Ghana by consultant Harold Alderman found a weak correlation between income and nutrition....And work Alderman and Marito Garcia of IFPRI did for EMICO on the "Patterns and Determinants of Malnutrition in Pakistan shows that although Pakistan had a remarkable average annual growth rate in GDP of 6.7 percent in the last decade, child malnutrition rates increased by over 20 percent during much of this period. Much of this presumably reflects problems of equity but, even when disaggregating by income groups, the increased incomes of the poor show weak effects on child stunting. The results "strongly confirm the need for improving the mother's knowledge with respect to correct feeding and weaning practices"....New tables with anthropometric data for pre-school children (compiled by and available from Rae Galloway of PHRHN) make clear that nutrition status is not a linear function of income. (Also see para 34.)

24. A model survey: alarming findings: "Primary malnutrition problems continue to afflict the Filipino population in alarming magnitude," according to the now-completed Third National Nutrition Survey, conducted under the Bank-assisted Agricultural Support Services Project. The number of acutely malnourished children increased from 9.5 percent in 1982 to 12.7 percent in 1987, and the number of moderately malnourished rose slightly. These figures reflect a reversion to levels of the late 1970's. Similarly, anemia has risen from 27 to 38 percent over this five-year period. (Conversely, vitamin-A deficiency showed a remarkable decline, presumably, as a result of large-scale vitamin-A programs -- including efforts in Bank-supported projects). This nutrition data corroborates the food
consumption data that show a decline in intake of both calories and protein. The average cost of a daily diet has increased markedly and additional occupational groups are now considered nutritionally at risk. This excellent policy-oriented survey is a possible model for similar efforts being developed in projects elsewhere.

25. Neglected women: Karen Lashman (LA4CO), as part of her analysis for the upcoming report on Social Development Progress in Chile: Achievements and Challenges, found that although Chile is well known for its successful efforts in overcoming child malnutrition (now less than 10 percent, a remarkably low amount since mild malnutrition is included in the figure), it has not done nearly as well for women. Malnutrition among women is more on the order of 30 percent.

26. Why participation lags: In Indonesia's national nutrition program, which is supported by the Bank's Nutrition and Community Health Project-II, the proportion of participating children under one year of age is not as high as could be desired. One reason, a recent study shows, is that mothers fear that, since sick children go to the integrated health care posts where nutrition services are provided, there is a danger that their well child might become contaminated.

27. China Watch: Long-Term Issues and Options for the Health Sector in China, now in yellow cover, shows a very different nutrition picture than most countries with which the World Bank deals. Heart disease, stroke, and cancer account for 67 percent of all deaths. Much of this mortality is attributed to diet. Among the recommendations: societal-wide reductions in salt consumption, improved food preservation and processing efforts, decreasing consumption of pickled foods, and attention to safeguarding the nutritional intake of those most vulnerable to illness -- mothers, children, the poor, and the aged (Task manager: Richard Bumgarner, AS3FW.)

28. Insights for food security: A splendid analysis of the food security and nutrition situation in Sub-Saharan Africa was discussed with the Executive Directors in September as part (Chapter 3; recommended reading) of the presentation of the new report, Sustainable Growth with Equity: A Long-Term Perspective for Sub-Saharan Africa (No. 8014). The report points to Botswana as an example of a country that has used imaginative ways to ensure food security during periods of economic stress. Not only was there no rise in malnutrition during structural adjustment and substantial hikes in food prices, there was actually a reduction. The reason: the government, through a combination of consumer food subsidies, food-for-work programs, and direct child feeding programs, targeted to the needy in a cost-effective way. In the process, it provided an imaginative model to improve food security....This report shows there is an urgent need in many African countries for attention to nutrition, particularly with sharply targeted interventions. (Author of this section: K. Subbarao, AFTSE.)

29. The breastfeeding contraceptive: Breastfeeding probably prevents more births than all other contraceptives combined. This is the conclusion of A Case for Promoting Breastfeeding in Projects to Limit Fertility, a new Bank Technical Paper (No. 102). The paper synthesizes the research in the field, looks at the Bank's relatively limited experience with breastfeeding in population projects, and recommends that all projects with population limitation objectives should include breastfeeding components. Guidelines are provided.
New Technologies

30. Doubling-up new technologies to increase children's consumption: Earlier New and Noteworthy memos discussed "power flour," more formally known as Amylase Rich Food (with the unfortunate acronym, ARF). The flour is made from germinated grain that, when sprinkled over hot, thick gruel, dramatically reduces its viscosity. This makes it possible for a very young child to consume more (and better benefit from the nutrients) of a food that would otherwise have to be watered down for the child to eat it. Another technique to increase consumption by the young child is to ferment the grain. The food is tastier -- so more is eaten -- and it may be safer because of the microbiological process of fermentation. Now, Tanzania is trying to apply both technologies to the same food: in other words, fermenting it to reduce bacteria and improve its taste and germinating and grinding it into "power flour" to reduce viscosity and therefore make a cereal more easily consumed by the very young child. Power flour is being included so far in Bank-supported projects in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Lesotho.

31. Fortifying water: The August 2 New and Noteworthy memo discussed a revolutionary technique to address iodine deficiency (by placing a plastic-caged, hockey puck-sized cylinder of iodine in a well; there is controlled release of the iodine as water flows through). This technique is being introduced in upcoming Bank operations in Mali. (Task manager: Jean-Louis Lamboray, AFTPN.) In a September 13 seminar on this topic, Robert Sebbag of the French Foundation Rhône-Poulenc Santé, reported that his group is developing a similar technique for introducing vitamin A into the water stream, and then hopes to do the same for iron. The notion is that in any given well there could be as many as three connected cylinders, with three different nutrients of varying degrees of nutrient concentration. The cylinder in the Mali project diffuses iodine over a period of a year. The cost to fortify water with iodine at this early stage of use is on the order of 10-20 cents per capita, per year. Expectations are that costs could come down markedly.

The International Nutrition Congress: Significant Implications

32. Every four years several thousand members of the international nutrition community gather for one of those three-ring circuses (in this case, more like a seven-ring circus) to compare notes and research. This year's Congress, held in late August in Seoul, covered a wide range of symposia on policy and programmatic issues -- a break from previous congresses that concentrated almost solely on nutrition science; the Bank had a small hand in this addition.

33. A group of about 20 mostly senior nutrition leaders from developing countries took advantage of the opportunity to meet for four days before the Congress to discuss "Crucial Elements of Successful Community Nutrition Programs." Several of the case studies presented were of projects that had their origins in World Bank-assisted operations -- Indonesia, Northeast Thailand, and Tamil Nadu. This International Nutrition Planners Forum, financed by AID, periodically provides an opportunity for attendees to advise outside agencies of their concerns. The main message this time: donor agencies must give more attention to community needs and involvements and stop restricting dialogue to national-level officials.
Main points carried away from Seoul:

- Now, for the first time, we have a robust set of successful experiences in international nutrition operations. For many years we have been saying that nutrition's greatest need was for several success stories -- models that countries could turn to. They now exist.

- The level of managerial sophistication has increased markedly. A number of countries now have skilled and enthusiastic young professional nutrition program managers. This augurs well for the future.

Although these changes should not be magnified out of proportion, they are important and cumulative. We no longer seem to be walking up the down escalator.

Current Heat-Generating Issues

34. Is income the answer to better nutrition? Conventional wisdom (and much of the attitude that propels the Bank) is that malnutrition can be solved by increased income. Recent work within the Bank, however, suggests that it is not so simple. K. Subbarao (AFTSE) showed in his background work for India's GEM that, except at extremely high and low levels, income and consumption data do not correlate with nutrition data. Martin Ravallion's (AGRAP) study of Indonesia, to appear in a forthcoming issue of Economic Development and Cultural Change, comes to much the same conclusion. So does Bank-supported work in Ghana, Jamaica, and Pakistan (see para 23). Generally, while income and food intake are closely related, the relationship of income to nutrition status is weak. This is by no means to suggest that income is not important to nutrition; it probably plays a dominant role. (Although even this is argued by Jere Behrman in his World Bank Economic Review article, "Nutrients: Impacts and Determinants.") But, of itself, income may not be enough to achieve good nutrition, at least in the short run. Other factors also are important: behavior, the health environment, the spacing of childbirths, and caloric expenditure (not just caloric intake). Perhaps, suggested Subbarao, Jochim von Braun, and Michael Lipton at the October 25-28 Poverty Research Conference (sponsored by the PHRWH at Airlie House), we have to reformulate the question: "What is the nutrition condition? What are its determinants? And what is the role of income among the other determinants?"....At the same meeting, a paper by Per Pinstrup-Anderson of Cornell made the point that although food-linked income transfers can play an important role in enhancing household access to food and thus contribute to improved nutrition, "such a contribution is likely to be greater if the transfers are integrated with efforts to alleviate other constraints."

35. Defining Food Security: From the outset of the food security initiative, there have been differences of opinion about its exact aims. To some, food security means that the poor have access to sufficient food at the household level. To others, it means nutrition adequacy, and an awareness that other matters also affect nutrition status. In short, household-level food security is a necessary but, of itself, an insufficient condition for adequate household nutrition. In a recent meeting on the Madagascar food security study, Paul Isenman, Director of AF3, made explicit that his objective was what he called "nutritional well-being." Caio Koch-Weser, Director of AF4, reiterated this at a meeting on the Nigerian food security activity, stating that "nutrition...
improvement," not just more food, is the objective. The proposed Cameroon project (para 14), as of now, has the latter goal.

36. Monetizing Food Aid: An important part of the Bank's Food Security work program is a study (jointly with the World Food Program) on food aid. A major issue here is monetization. Should donated food be sold on the market and the proceeds used for food security purposes, or should the food go directly to the needy? The former obviously is more efficient (bypassing problems of transportation, packaging, and so on). The unstated issue is whether the resources generated from the sale of the food will end up in the bellies of hungry children or in Swiss bank accounts. (The corruption problem, a rarely stated subject in development agencies, was addressed explicitly in the recent Sustainable Growth with Equity: A Long-Term Perspective for Sub-Saharan Africa.)

37. The latter option -- using food as food -- is preferable where food markets are not efficient and increased demand for food would have an inflationary effect on food prices. It is also possible that by carefully choosing the foods provided, one can better target the vulnerable individuals in the family. Also, there is some evidence that women's control over resources is associated with greater food allocation to children -- if cash transfers wrest resource control from women (compared to food transfers), a negative effect of monetizing that food aid would be expected.

New Bank Publications and Articles by Bank Staff

38. Fighting Malnutrition, by Philip Musgrove (World Bank Discussion Paper No. 60) provides, for the first time, a comprehensive analysis and overall assessment of the main programs aimed at increasing food consumption of the Brazilian poor. The discussions on program mechanisms and on how to select the right foods, identify beneficiaries, and build in safeguards against leakage have relevance for other countries. A Spanish version has been published by PAHO.

39. Poverty and Under-Nutrition in Indonesia During the 1980s, by Martin Ravallion and Monika Huppi (PPR Working Paper/WPS 286), compares household data sets of 1984 and 1987 and finds that the extent of caloric insufficiencies fell significantly -- from 37 percent to 27 percent.

40. "On Measuring Undernutrition," by Nanak Kakwani (Oxford Economic Papers, Oxford University Press 1989), establishes a useful new procedure -- with immediate applicability for the Bank on countries where the database permits -- to estimate national levels of caloric shortfall. Normally institutions (including the World Bank) tend to estimate undernutrition for a country by presenting generally misleading per capita caloric consumption figures. Using his new technique with Indian data, Professor Kakwani demonstrates that the average caloric supply in rural Indian areas would have to be 20.6 percent above average requirements and, in urban Indian areas, 11 percent above average requirements, if the degree of undernutrition is not to be underestimated.

41. "Food Policy and Nutrition Status in China, 1949-1982" (in Science and Medicine in Twentieth-Century China: Research and Education), by Dean Jamison and Alan Piazza (ASIAQ), summarizes food availability and food distribution studies and extensive anthropometric reviews undertaken earlier as part of the Bank's
nutrition sector work in China. The sector study had looked at food and nutrition trends in China for the first time and has been quoted from extensively.

42. The 1989 World Bank Annual Report provides a summary of The Challenge of Hunger in Africa, the Bank's food security paper.

43. Also Worth Reading: The nutrition section of the Malawi Human Resources Development study, now in green cover....The chapter on nutrition in Gender and Poverty in India, now in green cover, is the best WID nutrition work to date and could well serve as a model for similar WID work elsewhere. (Task manager: Lynn Bennett, PHRWID.)

Staff Changes

44. Qaiser Khan has joined AF3PH to look after nutrition and its link with food security. He currently is designing the Madagascar food security project. His Ph.D. is in the economics of nutrition, an area in which he has worked extensively, much of the time with Professor Jere Behrman at the University of Pennsylvania....Bill McGreevey, one of the strongest nutrition advocates in the Bank, has been made acting unit chief for LA2PH. Nutrition operations in that division are now being stimulated in Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador....Jeff Hammer has switched from AGRAP to the PHN division in PHR. Although he will at the outset be working primarily on pharmaceuticals, he has a strong background in nutrition, having worked on the econometrics of micro-nutrients in Pakistan, the economic determinants of malnutrition in Haiti, and modeling for food systems in several countries....Christine Allison, who in recent years has been responsible for poverty studies in Pakistan and Zambia, will now be looking after nutrition in AF2PH. She will have preliminary nutrition discussions in Kenya this month....Tarsicio Castaneda, author of a recent review of Chile's nutrition program, is being posted by LA2 in Costa Rica to look after Bank work on food and nutrition for the five Central American countries. He now is finishing work on a new health and nutrition sector report for Guatemala....Antonio Campino, nutrition economist from Brazil and, as a Bank consultant, lead author of LAC's excellent upcoming report Feeding Latin America's Children, recently joined PAHO and will be available to assist in Bank nutrition activities in Latin America. He will be helping to plan the LAC-sponsored nutrition meetings in Guatemala and Brazil, discussed in para 11. He also will be working on a nutrition strategy for IDB (see para 55.)

45. Jobs: A position will soon be open to look after the extensive nutrition portfolio, among other PHN projects, in the New Delhi Resident Mission (the job currently filled by Richard Heaver)....Ishrat Husain is in the process of interviewing French-speaking nutritionists to join her technical division in the Africa region.

Seminar Highlights

46. At a PHRHN seminar on October 25, Mary Ann Anderson of AID made a strong argument for supplementing the diets of pregnant women to reduce the morbidity and mortality consequences of low birthweight babies. (The most cost-effective way to deal with childhood malnutrition may be to provide good nutrition to the mother before the baby is born; we are encouraging a study on this.) Dr. Anderson stressed the need for a specially formulated women's food (not the identical food served to children, as is common in feeding programs), pointing out that the
micronutrient needs of the adult woman are very different from those of a young child.

47. David Sahn of Cornell reported in an October 23 PHRWH seminar that he found no evidence to support the contention that the Sub-Saharan African poor sustained serious nutritional losses during the process of adjustment because of the supposed inevitable rise in consumer prices. As consumer food subsidies often did not serve the most nutritionally vulnerable, he said, removing what are typically urban-oriented food subsidies among Sub-Saharan African countries will not result in widespread declines in consumption of the poor.

48. There is no excuse for the high prevalence of iodine deficiency in the world and its consequences on mental performance, given the effective and low-cost technologies available to prevent it. This was the main message of Basil Hetzel, the Executive Director of the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, at a PHRHN-sponsored luncheon seminar, October 10. A just-published book by Dr. Hetzel The Story of Iodine Deficiency: An International Challenge in Nutrition (Oxford University Press), provides the best description available for the non-scientist of the major causes and prevalence of iodine deficiency and available interventions to deal with it.

49. The bottom line of Martin Ravallion's October 19 seminar on "Poverty and Undernutrition in Indonesia in the 1980s" (by SPR and WDR, as part of the seminar series on poverty issues) is touched on in para 39.

50. Robert Sebbag, at a PHRHN seminar on September 13, described the chemistry, new technology, and results of iodizing water (A highlight of the talk is noted in para 31.)

51. In one of the most interesting Bank seminars of the year, Calister Mtalo, Director of The Iringa Project (see para 8) discussed how cultural constraints and bureaucratic realities were overcome to achieve that project's notable success. She was in town to present the Iringa nutrition story at the annual food colloquium at The Smithsonian Institution.

52. A talk covering both India's dairy program and uses of food aid was given at the Bank on October 19 by Dr. V. Kurien, recipient of this year's World Food Prize at the Smithsonian colloquium. (He received the award largely for his work with Operation Flood, India's massive national dairy enterprise -- a $1 billion dollar-a-year operation, involving six million dairy cooperative members -- which has been assisted over the years by the Bank.) In a stinging indictment of food aid, Dr. Kurien, former president of the Nutrition and Protein Foods Association of India, said that "There has been too much use of food aid for the alleviation of hunger, and too little for use of food aid as in investment." Mr. Qureshi chaired the session.

Other Agencies

53. The German aid agency, GTZ, now requires that nutrition be part of the analysis for any project with a potential bearing on the nutrition situation. The thrust of GTZ activities earlier had been largely to improve the economic situation. Now, nutrition goals are explicitly included.
54. The need for institution-building in nutrition is well recognized, but not always are we prepared to deal with the long effort required. The Dutch-assisted nutrition program to Zimbabwe provides an example of the long-term implications. It recently approved a project for the development and construction of a new Food and Nutrition Institute at the University of Zimbabwe, pledging a 15-year funding commitment.

55. The Inter-American Development Bank is again showing increased interest in nutrition. This began several years ago, but came to a standstill with reorganization and a change of principal officials there. The first IDB project in nutrition is likely to be in Haiti.

56. WHO is emphasizing the importance of monitoring the weight gain of pregnant women. A growth card for women, similar to a child's growth card, has been developed and its use is already a standard feature in several countries, Indonesia being the latest.

57. Nutrition now looms larger in IDRC, where the Canadians recently established a special program unit. A description of their upgraded program is available from my office.

Also...

58. An International Nutrition Conference, along the same extravaganza lines as the 1978 Alma Ata meeting on health and next year's meeting in Bangkok on primary education, was proposed at the October 19 meeting of the ACC. FAO and WHO are suggesting the conference for late 1992 or early 1993, and it appears it will proceed.

59. Food Update: Is anyone watching? Food stocks will be drawn down for the third consecutive year, dropping 35 percent over this period. Although 6 percent higher than last year, global cereal production again will fall short of consumption needs -- meaning the safety net provided by substantial stocks in earlier years is now exhausted. This, combined with a decline in food aid for the second straight year, is cause for concern....Serious problems are unfolding in northern Ethiopia (severe drought), southern Sudan, and possibly Mozambique. Sahelian countries are ok this year. Good monsoon in Asia. Excellent crops in both India and China... In Latin America the picture is mixed.

60. Again, thank you to those who have submitted items for this quarterly memo -- and sorry that space limitations do not permit me to include them all. Unless otherwise indicated, materials mentioned here can be obtained by calling Brenda McEvilly or Trish Coogan at ext. 31452.

AB:bm:pc

N&N