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President Wolfensohn - Briefings Books for Presidents Meetings - Phone Logs -
Telephone Interview - Robin Wright - Foreign Affairs Correspondent - Washington

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A. CLASSIFICATION

☐	Meeting Material
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☐	Communications with Staff

☒	Phone Logs
☐	Calendar
☐	Press Clippings/Photos

☐	JDW Transcripts
☐	Social Events
☐	Other

B. SUBJECT: Telephone Interview with Ms. Robin Wright, Foreign Affairs Correspondant, Washington Bureau, The Los Angeles Times - Friday, November 8 (2:15 - 2:30 p.m.) JDW Office
Topic of discussion: Corruption
Call initiated by Klas Bergeman, EXTME
Brief prepared by Klas Bergeman, EXTME
-- Memo from Bergeman to JDW
-- JDW speech at the '96 Annual Meetings
-- World Bank Press Release on Corruption at the '96 Annual Meetings

DATE: 11/08/96

C. VPU

Corporate

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E. COMMENTS:

File Location ☒ EXC ☐ ISC ☒ Archives	Cleared By Josie Bassinette	Date: 02/17/97
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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 7, 1996

TO: Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, EXC

FROM: Klas Bergman, EXTME 

EXTENSION: 33798

SUBJECT: **Your Telephone Interview with the Los Angeles Times**

Ms. Robin Wright, Foreign Affairs Correspondent in the Washington Bureau of the Los Angeles Times, will interview you for 15 minutes by telephone tomorrow, Friday, November 8 between 2:15 PM and 2:30 PM.

I will be in your office at 2:10 PM to initiate the call. Her telephone number is: (202) 333-5850.

Ms. Wright is a very experienced reporter on international issues and a specialist on the Middle East, and, in particular, on Iran.

She is now preparing a six part series on the challenges to democracy at the end of the 20th Century in the areas of politics, civilization, culture and economics.

What she would like to have from you are your thoughts, in a sweeping, broad-brushed way, on corruption. Why is corruption seemingly so pervasive? Does it have to do with the new freedoms in the world after the end of the Cold War? Why are you, as World Bank President, focusing on this issue at this time?

She is not interested in talking about specific countries or examples, but would like to discuss this issue with you in very general terms. ✓

cc: Messrs/Mmes. A. Tsatsakis, J. Holden, A. Horiguchi, L. Goh (EXC);
M. Malloch Brown, (EXTVP); J. Armitage (EXTDR)

Attachments:

Your Annual Meeting speech and the paragraphs on pages 5 and 6 on corruption.
An EXT media backgrounder on corruption

BOARDS OF GOVERNORS • 1996 ANNUAL MEETINGS • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Press Release No. 3

October 1 - 3, 1996

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL TIME OF DELIVERY

Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Address by **JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN**,
to the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group,
at the Joint Annual Discussion

1996 ANNUAL MEETING SPEECH

I. Introduction

Mr. Chairman, Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. I am delighted to welcome you to these Annual Meetings. I would like to thank the Chairman for his support for our efforts, and I would also like to express my deep appreciation to Michel Camdessus, who has helped me so much this year with his experience, advice and, above all, his friendship.

2. Like Michel, I extend an especially warm welcome to Bosnia-Herzegovina, our 180th member country. During my visit to Sarajevo last April, I saw the magnitude of the challenge facing the country — and I was profoundly moved by the courage and hope of its people. Working with them, and with all our partners, the Bank has already begun to help with the massive task of reconstruction. Elaine and I join with everyone here in offering our heartfelt best wishes to the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina — for peace and happiness in the years to come.

3. I have visited over 40 countries in these past 16 months. I have met with governments, business and non-governmental groups. But it is the *people* — the poor and disadvantaged — who have made the biggest impression on me. I have learned that they do not want charity; they want opportunity. They do not want to be lectured to; they want to be listened to. They want partnership. Like all of us, they want a better life for themselves and for their children. What I have seen in country after country is that when they are given a chance, the results are truly remarkable.

4. I have also been struck by the critical importance of history and culture. We must build upon local tradition, not disrupt it. We must encourage the young to respect their heritage. And we must accord dignity to the individual. Without respect for cultural continuity and for social institutions, I believe there can be no true development.

5. Let me express my gratitude to the groups represented here in this room — whether donor or recipient, private business, foundation, or NGO. I feel privileged to have become a member of this great community. And I believe that by strengthening our partnership even more, we can offer the people we serve better opportunities and more hope for the future.

6. Working together is in everyone's interest. There are not two worlds — rich and poor — there is *one*. We are linked in so many ways. Simple economics gives the industrialized countries reason enough to assist the developing countries. With their 4.5 billion people, these are the markets of tomorrow. But rich and poor countries are also linked by a host of challenges that have no respect for national borders: migration, disease, environmental degradation, famine, terrorism, and war.

7. More positively, we are linked by a common humanity, and are united in an historic undertaking to improve the human condition. We must get this message across to our leaders *and* to voters — so that we can maintain and strengthen our common effort.

II. The Past Year: A Progress Report

8. Mr. Chairman, when we met last year, I set out six immediate priorities:

- *Bringing IDA-11 to a successful conclusion;*
- *Addressing the debt problems of the poorest countries;*
- *Building and expanding partnerships;*
- *Accelerating private sector development;*
- *Doing more to help in post-conflict situations; and*
- *Creating a "results culture" within the Bank Group.*

Thanks to your support, tremendous help from our Executive Directors, and a great deal of effort from our management and staff, I have significant progress to report:

9. *First*, I pledged that we would do all in our power to ensure *sufficient funding for IDA-11*:

10. The agreement reached last spring should enable IDA to lend close to \$22 billion over the next three years — a remarkable achievement under the circumstances. At the same time, the agreement is fragile. It depends crucially on donors' understanding of each other's individual positions on the replenishment and, of course, on commitments being honored as speedily as possible. Beyond this, we must all intensify our efforts to ensure IDA's long-term future — remembering always that it is the lifeline for three billion people living in the world's poorest countries.

11. *Second*, I committed last year that we would work closely with our other partners to address the *problem of unsustainable debt* in the poorest countries.

12. As Michel Camdessus has noted, after a year of hard work and much debate, the Bank and the IMF together have developed a proposal which is flexible, comprehensive, and responsive to debtors and creditors alike. At the Development Committee meeting yesterday, Ministers gave their strong endorsement to this proposal. Now, presuming fair burden-sharing with other donors, we are ready to move ahead with debt relief operations in select countries. I extend my thanks to everyone who has helped in this effort which I believe will prove to be a major breakthrough in the fight against poverty.

13. *Third*, I said we would *build stronger partnerships*.

14. This past year, I met with the leaders of the other multilateral banks to explore better coordination of our programs. We have expanded our links with the United Nations and its agencies, the World Trade Organization, and the European Union. We have forged new

relationships with the major foundations and with NGOs — both international and local. We are building partnerships on gender issues, the environment, the social impact of economic reforms, the private sector — and other priority areas. We are also deepening partnerships with our shareholders — including trying to benefit more from the successful development experience of our “graduates”, such as Singapore. Above all, we are strengthening partnerships with our clients — for example, through the innovative program for Capacity Building in Africa, prepared and recommended by the African Governors at these Meetings.

15. *Fourth*, we have stepped up our efforts to promote *private sector development*, and to rationalize the Bank Group’s activities with the private sector.

- 16.
- *The Bank* is working with governments to help them improve the policies and legal, tax, and judicial systems that are crucial for encouraging investment. We have strengthened our outreach to corporations, helping them to assess and implement projects in our client countries. We have also heard one of the messages coming through loud and clear at these Meetings: to strengthen our guarantee program. I am pleased to report that there are 43 confirmed and probable projects in our IBRD guarantee pipeline — most awaiting government action or investor decisions for the next step. And we are actively looking at how we can expand this program even further.
 - *IFC*, celebrating its 40th anniversary, has had a record year — leveraging more than \$19 billion in support of projects worldwide. Since its founding in 1956, it has provided financing to nearly 2,000 companies in 125 countries. As you know, IFC often works in countries where few other financial institutions are willing to go and, in the next year, it will extend its reach to 16 nations where it has never worked before — and where the investment climate is the toughest.
 - *MIGA* also continues to exceed our original expectations. Its guarantees have catalyzed foreign direct investments now totaling an estimated \$15 billion, and its on-line marketing and information service — the IPAnet — offers data and analysis on the business climate in more than 90 countries. Given the rapid growth in demand for its services, our Board will soon be discussing my recommendation for a capital increase for MIGA.

17. We have established a Private Sector Development Group, to pull together the catalytic strengths of our three institutions, and to make them more easily accessible to our private sector partners. In addition, the Bank and IFC have initiated joint country strategies — to help ensure that our activities reinforce each other and stay clearly focused on development impact.

18. *Fifth*, we have organized ourselves for *post-conflict work*, and have made great strides in improving our programs.

19. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, 14 projects are being implemented, with Bank Group financing of over \$325 million. In Gaza and the West Bank, our joint efforts are yielding results — and have contributed to the creation of 22,000 new jobs. In Haiti, we are working with a coalition of donors to help sustain peace and build economic opportunity for the poor. We are also working

in Angola and Lebanon to assist with employment and reconstruction. More broadly, we will soon be presenting to our Board a policy paper aimed at strengthening our support for post-conflict recovery.

20. *Sixth*, I pledged last year to build a *"results" culture at the Bank* — and this effort is showing tangible progress. I am extraordinarily grateful to my colleagues in the management team for their advice and support, without which none of our achievements would have been possible.

21. We have stressed that we will not measure our performance by dollars lent or projects approved, but by our development impact — results on the ground. I cannot overstate the importance of this change. By putting quality ahead of quantity, we have fundamentally changed the incentives that guide our staff. Backed by tougher quality assurance for our work and enhanced accountability, this will result in major improvements in project design. We also have raised country portfolio issues to a higher level of attention with our clients — I myself have discussed these issues with the authorities in Russia, Brazil, and other countries. And we have launched a major review of country portfolios with the highest concentrations of risky projects.

22. We are increasing our country focus through much stronger client involvement in our assistance strategies, and by locating some of our Country Directors *in* our borrowing countries. We are paying greater attention to our clients' needs, with customized advisory services and important new products such as the single-currency loan — which allows our clients to borrow at an effective 50 basis points above the AAA rate. And we are speeding up our procedures.

23. We are also improving our professional expertise through the creation of sectoral "networks" among our staff — with the first of these established in the area of human development. We are strengthening our management capacity, with a substantial executive education program — as well as an exchange program with a broad range of private and public institutions. And we are investing more in our staff, including a doubling of skills-training this year. In all these areas, we are choosing our best women and men, who reflect our rich geographic diversity, to build a Bank that can work most effectively with women and men all over the world.

24. While we still have a long way to go, I believe we have made real progress toward changing the course of the institution. We now have a committed and talented team — staff and management — working to improve the Bank Group and to prepare it for the next century. There is excitement and empowerment; there is challenge and innovation. We will succeed with some initiatives, and we will fail with others. But our institution is on the move.

III. The Strategic Agenda

25. *Together*, we have accomplished a great deal over the past 12 months. But it is just the beginning — the *downpayment* on the bigger task that lies ahead. *Together*, we need to look towards the challenges facing us in the new *millennium*.

Last year I suggested four major themes, which have evolved, but which remain valid for coming year — and beyond:

- *First, a new compact between donors, investors, and recipients to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet the needs of the world's poorest people — and also to ensure that those resources are used efficiently and transparently.*
- *Second, a broader, more integrated approach to development, to ensure sustainability.*
- *Third, strengthening and expanding partnerships, both global and local.*
- *And fourth, continuing to pursue change in the Bank's culture — to focus on excellence and results.*

The New Compact

First, the new compact. I have already mentioned IDA and the debt initiative and their critical role in catalyzing resources for development. We also need to attract more private flows to the poor countries. And then we need to work on the second part of the compact: to ensure that *all* resources are used efficiently.

In 1995, private flows to developing countries exceeded \$170 billion, three times official flows — and four times what they were just five years ago. However, 75 percent of these flows went to just twelve countries. About 50 countries — most of them very poor — received virtually *no* private inflows.

Our new world of open markets raises the stakes for developing countries. Investment is linked to good policies and good governance — liberal trade regimes and high savings rates, combined with sound legal and judicial systems. Simply put, capital goes to those countries that get the fundamentals right. And we are working with our clients on those fundamentals.

Strong financial systems are key. But there are pervasive problems with prudential regulations and their enforcement. About one in five developing countries faces a banking crisis. Excessive public expenditures and uncollected taxes are a further huge drag on these economies. That is why the Bank Group — working with the IMF — is strengthening our capacity to help our clients strengthen their financial sectors, and reform their expenditure programs.

If the new compact is to succeed, we must tackle the issue of economic and financial efficiency. But we also need to address transparency, accountability, and institutional capacity. And let's not mince words: we need to deal with the cancer of corruption.

In country after country, it is the *people* who are demanding action on this issue. They know that corruption diverts resources from the poor to the rich, increases the cost of running businesses, distorts public expenditures, and deters foreign investors. They also know that it erodes the constituency for aid programs and humanitarian relief. And we all know that it is a major barrier to sound and equitable development.

33. Corruption is a problem that all countries have to confront. Solutions, however, can only be home-grown. National leaders need to take a stand. Civil society plays a key role as well. Working with our partners, the Bank Group will help any of our member countries to implement *national* programs that discourage corrupt practices. And we will support *international* efforts to fight corruption and to establish voluntary standards of behavior for corporations and investors in the industrialized world.

34. The Bank Group *cannot* intervene in the political affairs of our member countries. But we *can* give advice, encouragement and support to governments that wish to fight corruption — and it is these governments that will, over time, attract the larger volume of investment. Let me emphasize that the Bank Group will *not* tolerate corruption in the programs that we support; and we are taking steps to ensure that our own activities continue to meet the highest standards of probity.

B. The New Paradigm

35. The second element of our strategy is the need for a broader, more integrated approach to development — a new paradigm, if you will.

36. Poverty reduction remains at the heart of everything we do. But the magnitude and complexity of the task is daunting. This was brought home to me time and time again in my travels as I met and talked with people — whether it be the coal miners of Ukraine, the Moslem women's groups of North Africa, the unemployed of Tucuman in Argentina, or the fishermen of the Aral Sea.

37. Reducing poverty clearly involves the interplay of a number of issues: macroeconomic policy, private sector development, environmental sustainability, and investments in human capital — especially girls' education and early childhood development. All the elements are important.

38. But let's face it, at the end of the day, *people* make policies and projects work. Social, cultural, and institutional factors are key to success and sustainability. In the Balochistan province of Pakistan, for example, where female enrollment rates have traditionally been among the lowest in the world, local communities and parents worked together through a Bank-supported project to design culturally-sensitive schools and curricula. The result is that Balochistani parents are now sending their little girls to school.

39. This is even more true at the policy level. We are all familiar with the record of the East Asian countries. But it was those countries' strong institutions and social cohesion that enabled them to consistently choose sound macroeconomic policies, promote rural development, and make large investments in basic education and health. And the result was rapid growth and poverty reduction.

40. Without the social underpinnings, it is difficult for economic development to succeed — and virtually impossible for it to be sustained. We see this in countries that are mired in poverty

— where economic growth is fragile, population is rising rapidly, children are not going to school, and even more tragically, where they are dying from diseases we know how to prevent or cure. On a more extreme scale, we see it where the social fabric is torn and conflict has broken out. I referred to the horror in Bosnia. But just last year, there were some 50 major in-country conflicts worldwide. Over the past decade, more than half of the world's poorest countries have experienced conflict.

41. The lesson is clear: for economic advance, you need social advance — and without social development, economic development cannot take root. For the Bank, this means that we need to make sure that the programs and projects we support have adequate social foundations:

- By designing more participatory country strategies and programs — reflecting discussions not only with governments, but also with community groups, NGOs, and private businesses;
- By putting more emphasis on social, cultural, and institutional issues — and their interplay with economic issues — in our project and analytical work; and
- By learning more about how the changing dynamics between public institutions, markets, and civil society affect social and economic development.

42. I see this as a critical challenge — in fact, *the* critical challenge before us. But if we can succeed in broadening our approach in this way, I believe it will have a tremendous pay-off in helping our clients to achieve truly *sustainable* development.

C. The New Knowledge Partnership

43. The third item on the strategic agenda is partnership. We have made good headway over the past year. But today, I want to focus on a specific form of partnership that will take on special importance as we enter the new millennium — *a partnership for creating and sharing knowledge, and making it a major driver of development.*

44. Development knowledge is part of the “global commons”: it belongs to everyone, and everyone should benefit from it. But a global partnership is required to cultivate and disseminate it. The Bank Group's relationships with governments and institutions all over the world, and our unique reservoir of development experience across sectors and countries, position us to play a leading role in this new *global knowledge partnership.*

45. We have been in the business of researching and disseminating the lessons of development for a long time. But the revolution in information technology increases the potential value of these efforts by vastly extending their reach. To capture this potential, we need to invest in the necessary systems, in Washington and worldwide, that will enhance our ability to gather development information and experience, and share it with our clients. We need to become, in effect, the *Knowledge Bank:*

- By *networking* — pooling our wealth of cross-country experience, capturing the best global thinking and expertise on a given issue, and making it easily accessible to our clients and partners;
- By expanding the role of our *Economic Development Institute*, which already reaches thousands through its learning programs — and is well on its way to reaching millions by harnessing teleconferencing, television and the Internet;
- And by pioneering *new partnerships* that connect our clients with global centers of knowledge and investment: one example is our World Wide Website, which is accessed 1.5 million times per month; another is the Information and Development Fund, through which the Bank and our partners help the poorest countries to realize the potential of information technology.

Let me stress one other point: the global knowledge partnership is *not* about machines. It is about *people*. The challenge is to harness the technology to link people together and to maximize its impact for development. That means both accumulating the right kind of knowledge, and helping our clients build the capacity to use it.

The New Bank

Let me turn briefly to the fourth and final item on our strategic agenda: the Bank itself — building a culture based on *results, accountability, and excellence*.

To get the biggest bang from our scarce resources, we must be absolutely tough-minded. In the past, we set overly ambitious targets and committed ourselves to objectives that were simply not realistic. That must change. We have to promise only what we can deliver and then, deliver what we promise. This new culture of realism and results is fundamental to the changes at the Bank which I referred to earlier:

- *getting closer to our clients;*
- *developing new products, customized to our clients' needs; and*
- *ensuring that our products are of top quality.*

To be successful, we will need new skills and new ways of working together. We need to continue the effort to invest more in our staff, to keep them at the cutting edge in their field. And we need also to become much better at working with others — tapping knowledge sources from all over the world to bring the very best expertise to our clients.

We have started down the road to revitalizing our institution. It will not be done overnight; and it will require some special investment upfront. As part of the effort, we are taking a fresh look at our finances, and at our fee and cost structure. We must be able to make flexible — and better — decisions on how we use our resources.

We have before us a real opportunity to invest in the future. With your support, I am confident we can build a new Bank: a more responsive, focused institution, dedicated to learning

d excellence, serving the needs of our entire membership — and reinvented to face the challenges of the 21st Century.

IV. Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken of a strategic agenda that will carry us forward to the *next millennium*. But we can only meet it through partnership. And that leads me back to where I began today — with my visit to Sarajevo. I met there with religious leaders: Catholic, Moslem, Orthodox and Jewish. And I was struck by the fact that each of them spoke, not of hatred, but of the need to work together and to look to the future.

One of them, a Moslem leader, told me how he had lost his wife and two daughters to a single shell, on a single day of fighting, as they went to the market to buy some water. And yet, I sat with him on a carpet in his mosque, he spoke of the meaning of the Koran — and of forgiveness. "We have to work together," he told me, "It's our only hope."

Working together is a challenge for us all and a responsibility for our world: for social justice, for economic opportunity, for human well-being — and for history. We are all here because we share the dream of a better world.

To achieve it, *we have to work together*.

Thank you.



The World Bank

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THE CORRUPTION ISSUE

Corruption is not a new concern for the World Bank. For decades the Bank has sought to ensure that the funds it lends to countries are used for their intended purposes, and that contracts for goods and services are awarded in a transparent and cost-effective way.

The Bank is undertaking a renewed approach to helping countries prevent corruption and its negative impact on development effectiveness and economic efficiency. We know that corruption and fraud hurt economic efficiency and slow the provision of services and resources to the people—often the poorest—for whom they are intended. Corruption's impact on development is an increasingly important issue in donor countries; with official assistance for development under mounting pressure, greater attention is being paid to how these funds are being used. Moreover, corruption is also an obstacle to foreign investment and is a growing concern for the Bank's partners in the private sector.

The Bank's Approach to Controlling Corruption

The Bank recognizes that corruption needs to be addressed to achieve good governance, and is working to help governments establish safeguards. The Bank's efforts are focused on four broad areas:

- Economic policy reform
- Institutional reform
- Fiduciary control
- Multilateral partnerships

Economic Policy Reform

This relates to the Bank's work in helping governments undertake economic, policy, and regulatory reform.

- **Economic reform:** Through the reform of trade regimes and investment laws and the financial sector, countries can mitigate the effects of "rent-seeking" by replacing administrative mechanisms (for example, export licenses, foreign exchange, and bank credit allocations) with market mechanisms.

- **Tax reform:** By helping countries simplify and strengthen tax systems and strengthen collection capacity, the Bank contributes to the reduction of corruption in customs and tax administration.
- **Regulatory reform:** The Bank helps eliminate price controls, simplify government regulations, and strengthen the regulation of private and state-owned enterprises operating in non-competitive markets.
- **Privatization:** The Bank is helping many developing and transition economies manage the transfer of state-owned assets to private ownership. Because this transition presents corruption risks of its own, the Bank works especially closely with its client governments to help make the process open and transparent.
- **Sector Policies:** How policies are designed in areas like the environment and social services may determine the opportunities for corruption in their implementation, and the Bank can provide a country with best practice experience from others which have improved sector performance.

Institutional Reform

This second area of the Bank's anti-corruption strategy is concerned with building institutional strength inside and outside the public sector.

- **Government financial management reform:** In recent years there has been a rapid increase in the number of countries where the Bank is assisting in the modernization of government budgeting, financial management, accounting, and auditing systems.
- **Civil service reform:** In the past decade the Bank has supported civil service reform in more than 40 countries; emphasis has been on reforming pay and employment conditions, training, and personnel management.
- **Public procurement:** The Bank works with governments toward greater transparency and competition by providing assistance in drafting new procurement laws and regulations, and training officials to implement them.
- **Governance:** On a broader front, the Bank helps countries control corruption through legal, judicial, and regulatory reform. In addition, programs such as EDI's training workshops for journalists help strengthen the ability of the press to scrutinize all fields of public administration.

Fiduciary Control

The third area of the Bank's strategy is the effort made to maintain the highest level of transparency in Bank loans and credits, and ethical standards among Bank staff.

- **Guarding against corruption in Bank projects:** The Bank has long-established procedures for procurement, disbursement, reporting, and auditing, based on principles of

economy, efficiency, and transparency. Financial reporting under Bank loans has recently been strengthened to tighten the time frame for borrower completion of audits.

- **Maintaining the highest ethical standards among bank staff**—Long-standing staff rules on outside interests and disciplinary measures have been and are continually updated and reinforced.

Procurement Guidelines

In recent weeks the Board approved the following important reinforcements to the Bank's loan documents and procurement guidelines.

The new guidelines provide that the Bank:

- may cancel a corresponding amount of a loan if it determines, with respect to any contract to be financed out of the proceeds of the loan, that corrupt or fraudulent practices were engaged in by representatives of the borrower or of a beneficiary of the loan during procurement or during the execution of the contract without the borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Bank to remedy the situation;
- will have the right to inspect accounts and records of suppliers and contractors relating to the performance of the contract, and to perform a complete audit by Bank-appointed auditors; and
- may bar firms from Bank-financed contracts, either indefinitely or for a specified period of time if the Bank determines the firm engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, a Bank-financed contract.

- **Changes in internal Bank procedures:** Greater attention is being given to portfolio management and supervision, and performance measurement. This includes public access to Bank project documents, the creation of the Independent Inspection Panel, and a more participatory approach in the design, preparation, implementation, and appraisal in Bank projects.

Multilateral Partnerships

The fourth area of the Bank's approach to reducing corruption involves coordinating its action with governments, other multilateral institutions, and its partners in the private sector and civil society.

The negative effects of corruption reach across borders and therefore require the concerted attention of the international community. Important international organizations such as the OECD, the Council of Europe, and the OAS are also taking steps toward fighting corruption, including the use of international instruments such as international conventions and formal recommendations to their members. Anti-corruption initiatives are also being undertaken by global business organizations and NGOs. The Bank intends to coordinate its efforts with other bilateral and multilateral initiatives to ensure that the broadest support is given to countries fighting corruption.

Produced by External Affairs, September 24, 1996.

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