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Folder Title: President Wolfensohn - Board of Executive Directors - Meeting with Executive Directors and Farewell Dinner for Jean-Daniel Gerber - Swiss Executive Director - October 28, 1997

Folder ID: 30488959

Series: Board of Executive Director meetings and event briefing materials

Dates: 08/28/1997 – 10/28/1997

Subfonds: Records of President James D. Wolfensohn

Fonds: Records of the Office of the President

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THE WORLD BANK

Washington, D.C.

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Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 1997
Farewell Remarks for
Jean-Daniel Gerber
(Swiss ED)

Farewell Dinner for Mr. & Mrs. Gerber

Tuesday, October 28, 1997
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Hay Adams Hotel

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R2002-036 Other #: 46 Box #: 186496B

President Wolfensohn - Briefings Books for Presidents Meetings - Meeting Material
Board Meeting and Farewell Dinner for Jean-Daniel Gerber - Swiss Executive

Archive Management for the President's Office

Document Log

Reference # : Archive-01876

12/8/98

Edit

Print

A. CLASSIFICATION

☒ Meeting Material
☐ Trips
☐ Speeches

☐ Annual Meetings
☐ Corporate Management
☐ Communications with Staff

☐ Phone Logs
☐ Calendar
☐ Press Clippings/Photos

☐ JDW Transcripts
☐ Social Events
☐ Other

B. SUBJECT: 1. BOARD MEETING (B) // TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. // Venue: MC 13-301 (Board Room) (Ext. 84177) // KEY POLICY ITEM(S): MD Backup: // EXC: MM

Brief includes:

- Note to JDW from Caroline Anstey, Oct. 10
- Talking Points for Board Farewell to J-D. Gerber, prepared by Secretary's
- Bio, removed by JDW
- Mr. Bourhane's Talking Points, for Oct. 20 Steering Committee Meeting
- Letter from JDW to the Swiss Governor of WB, Aug. 28

2. FAREWELL DINNER FOR MR. AND MRS. GERBER (B) (Confirmed) // JDW TO HOST AND MAKE INFORMAL REMARKS (JDW/ERW) // TIME: 7:30 - 9:30 P.M. // VENUE: JOHN HAY ROOM (LOBBY LEVEL, TO THE LEFT OF ELEVATORS), HAY ADAMS HOTEL // CONTACT: KAREN @ 80241 // PROGRAM: 7:30 P.M. - COCKTAILS // 8:00 P.M. - DINNER // 10/16 INVITE SENT OUT BY MR. ZHANG'S OFFICE // (B) SPEAKING POINTS BY CAROLINE // EXC: MM // LFG (9/15)

Brief includes:

- List of Invitees
- Invitation
- Menu

DATE: 10/28/98

C. VPU

Corporate

☐ CTR
☐ EXT
☐ LEG
☐ MPS
☐ OED
☒ SEC/Board
☐ TRE

Regional

☐ AFR
☐ EAP
☐ ECA
☐ LAC
☐ MNA
☐ SAS

Central

☐ CFS
☐ DEC
☐ ESD
☐ FPD
☐ FPR
☐ HRO

Affiliates

☐ GEF
☐ ICSID
☐ IFC
☐ Inspection Panel
☐ Kennedy Center
☐ MIGA

D. EXTERNAL PARTNER

☐ IMF

☐ UN

☐ MDB/Other IO

☐ NGO

☐ Private Sector

☐ Part I

☐ Part II

☐ Other

E. COMMENTS:

File Location ☒ EXC ☐ IISC ☒ Archives	Cleared By Marisela Montoliu Munoz	Date: 01/07/98
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[View Update History](#)

Remarks for Jean Daniel Gerber's Farewell

JDW:

I enclose Gerber's bio and the remarks that have been prepared for you for the Board. You may well want to focus, somewhat humorously, on Gerber's great skill in bringing his fellow Board members into line, and on the significance of this for the Compact. More seriously, you may want to say something about Board/management relations as a whole and Gerber's role in moving to a much more inclusive approach.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Caroline', with a stylized, cursive script.

Caroline
10/27/97

Proposed by Secretary's

***Farewell to Jean-Daniel Gerber
October 30, 1997***

Today we are saying farewell to two members of the Board -- Jean-Daniel Gerber and Winston Cox -- which is always a day of mixed emotions for us. I will first recognize Mr. Gerber, Dean of the Board, and then Mr. Cox. After that, I will present them with the traditional mementos, and then we shall listen to their responses.

Five years ago, Mr. Gerber joined the Board as Executive Director for the constituency comprising Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Switzerland, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This was a particularly historic event for the Bank Group, as it also marked the entrance of Switzerland into the membership of this institution and the addition of a new chair to the membership of the Board. A year ago, he became Dean of the Board.

Prior to coming to the Bank, Mr. Gerber had served in numerous capacities at the Swiss Federal Office for Foreign Affairs: as a Member of the Swiss Delegation to the GATT during the Tokyo Round and the Swiss Delegation to the International Economic Organizations; as Chief of the Section dealing with "Developing Countries -- Trade, Commodities and Industrialization"; as Head of the Secretariat and Personal Assistant to the State Secretaries; and, most recently, as Deputy Director and Minister, Chief of Development Policy Service. In the midst of these impressive jobs, he also spent three years in Washington, at the Swiss Embassy, as Minister in Charge of the Economic, Financial and Commercial Section.

Jean-Daniel, at your first Board meeting on November 3, 1992, you said that you were proud to represent your constituent countries in the Board and to participate in the realization of their expectations. After your five years of service to them, I am sure that Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan would be the first to say that *they* are proud to have had you as their representative on the Board of the Bank Group. As the Executive Director for a number of countries in transition -- and this is true in every sense of the word - politically, economically, culturally and socially --

you have been in turn understanding, sympathetic, encouraging, and plain spoken. You have listened and explained their concerns to us -- and, by the same token, you have conveyed our message to them and have provided guidance to them in this extraordinarily difficult passage.

During your tenure on the Board you have espoused many issues and ideas that are also near and dear to my heart: development effectiveness and the need to increase the Bank's presence in the field; the importance of the quality of our portfolio and the need to redirect our budgets from project preparation to supervision; the role of economic and sector work in developing the foundation for viable lending programs; and the need to arrive at a shared perspective of what the Bank is going to do in preparing country assistance strategies. You once remarked that "This Chair has always defended in particular two principles: One is to translate the objective of the World Bank into reality, and the second one is quality" adding that "I have the impression that if I speak about quality to you it is like trying to convince the Pope of the benefits of Catholicism." Well, you didn't have to convince me very often, but you were often remarkably successful in convincing your colleagues. This may be partly due to your rational, characteristically Swiss approach to debate, on which I have occasionally commented in the past. But mostly it was due to your years of service on the Board and your historical perspective on many issues, and certainly to the respect with which your colleagues regard you. These have often been crucial factors in making the proceedings in this room effective.

At the outset, I observed that you employed a combination of understanding, sympathy, encouragement and candor in your interaction with your constituency. I would suggest that you have used exactly this same style of management as Dean of the Board with your colleagues. I know that I have relied on your skills to marshal support, and persuade reluctant Board members -- this was certainly most evident during the discussions of the Bank's renewal and the Strategic Compact. And I want to thank you and pay tribute to the role you played in this watershed in the history of the Bank.

This does not mean that you were not forthright when the occasion called for it. In commenting on the work of the Board you once described it as a partnership, "which means that we are discussing among friends, and, among friends, one says the truth". Whether discussing the Strategic Compact, or the World Trade Organization's observer status in Board meetings, or hiring practices at the Bank, you have not hesitated to take a forceful stand if necessary. Because you have done this judiciously, it has carried weight with both the Board and management and has had an impact on our thinking. I would also add that you were prepared to go to considerable lengths to reach a full understanding of an issue, including to the bottom of a coal mine in Siberia. Even more impressive was the TV interview you gave upon emerging from the mine in somewhat less than your usual impeccable state.

A few weeks ago, in the Board's review of the Asset-Liability Report, you commented that you were thinking of becoming an informal member of the Audit Committee so you could be a party to their confidential discussions. I replied that if this would stop you from going back to Switzerland, then perhaps you should do just that. We all very much wish that we could convince you to stay. But we realize that change is also a good thing, and, in reality, we would not want to dissuade you from taking up the important post of Director of the Swiss Government's Federal Office for Refugees. We know that you will find this to be a challenging, but also a rewarding and satisfying, experience.

Now, on behalf of the Board, the management and staff of the World Bank Group, I want to express our warmest thanks and deepest appreciation for your valuable service and contributions to the institution. We look forward to meeting again in other fora as we continue our mutual work towards the goal of providing better, more productive lives for the poor and disadvantaged of the world.

Jean-Daniel Gerber's Last Steering Committee Meeting
October 20, 1997

TALKING POINTS
for Mr. Ali Bourhane

Introduction. Sadly, this is the last Steering Committee Meeting to be chaired by my colleague, Jean-Daniel Gerber, who, as most of you know will be leaving us after five years on the Board to take up the post of Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Refugees, starting November 1. Jean-Daniel's arrival at the Bank in 1992 was particularly historic, because it marked the entrance of Switzerland into the membership of this institution.

- Over the last year, in his role as Dean of the Board, we have all benefited from Jean-Daniel's rational, plain spoken, and firm helmsmanship of our diverse body of shareholders. I believe none of us would dispute that Jean-Daniel's job has been a tough one, given the array of complex and sensitive issues facing the Bank. But he has carried out his role with sensitivity, understanding and sympathy for the concerns of the broad spectrum of individual interests represented here.
- As Chairman of the Steering Committee, Jean-Daniel has gamely managed the EDs' Work Program, an unwieldy beast, as we all know, and has done it well, despite many competing interests and the unprecedented changes across the Bank in the last few years that have added greatly to the quantity and complexity of the Board's work.

Conclusion. I know by colleagues join me in thanking you, Jean-Daniel, for your leadership and in wishing you the very best in your return home to an extremely important and humanitarian position.

Letter from JDW
to Swiss Governor



Record Removal Notice

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Document Date August 28 1997	Document Type Letter			
Correspondents / Participants To: His Excellency Jean-Pascal Delamuraz From: James D. Wolfensohn				
Subject / Title New position for Swiss ED in Swiss government				
Exception(s)				
Additional Comments Declassification review of this record may be initiated upon request.		The item(s) identified above has/have been removed in accordance with The World Bank Policy on Access to Information or other disclosure policies of the World Bank Group. <table border="1"><tr><td>Withdrawn by Diego Hernández</td><td>Date May 7, 2025</td></tr></table>	Withdrawn by Diego Hernández	Date May 7, 2025
Withdrawn by Diego Hernández	Date May 7, 2025			

Farewell for Mr. Gerber
Tuesday, October 28, 1997
7:30 p.m.
Hay-Adams Hotel

Mr. and Mrs. Wolfensohn

Mr. and Mrs. Gerber

Mr. and Mrs. Zhang

Mr. and Mrs. Shakow

Mr. and Mrs. Choi

Mr. Al-Saad

Mr. Alyahya

Mrs. Amatong

Mr. and Mrs. Brachemi

Mr. and Mrs. Bugrov

Mr. and Mrs. Cariaga

Mr. Good

Mr. and Mrs. Hubloue

Mr. Hutagalung

Mr. and Mrs. Lee

Mr. Niemi

Mr. Nishihara

Mr. O'Donnell

Mr. and Mrs. Passacantando

Mr. and Mrs. Piercy

Mr. and Mrs. Schaffer

Mr. and Mrs. Singh

Mr. and Mrs. Stek

Mr. James D. Wolfensohn

President

The World Bank

requests the pleasure of the company of

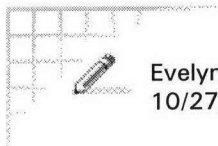
Mr. & Mrs. Choi

at a farewell dinner for Mr. Fisher
on Tuesday, October 28, 1997

at 7:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P.

at
Hay Adams Hotel
John Hay Room



Evelyn S. Castro
10/27/97 05:47 PM

Extn: 81428 SECVP
Subject: Menu for tomorrow's dinner

The farewell dinner for Mr. Berger will be in the John Hay Room (at the lobby level, to the left of elevators) in the Hay Adams Hotel. Cocktails will be served (in the same room -- it has a separate area for this purpose) at 7.30 and dinner will be served at 8.00 p.m. Based on indications provided by your office, the menu selected for tomorrow's dinner is as follows:

7.30 pm Sherry, white wine, sparkling water (or cocktails ordered to the waiter)
Mixed nuts

8.00 pm Duck Consomme with a Quail Egg & spring vegetables, enoki mushrooms
(small cup)

goat Grilled Portobello Mushroom in Puff Pastry over wild greens, oven-dried tomatoes,
cheese and mustard vinaigrette (small serving);

(above with Chardonnay Beringer)

Roasted Rack of Veal with Mushroom Gnocchi
Seasonal vegetables

(above with Chateuneuf-du-Pape - Rhone)

Mixed sorbets (Passion Fruit, Grape and Raspberry)

Coffee (expresso/regular); tea (specialty/regular).

(A podium will be available in the room).

Please let us know whether there is any additional information you need.

To: Jane A. Holden
cc: Deana Punsalan Canlas
Marisela Montoliu Munoz
Lai-Foong Goh
Karen Leah Dillard
Suk Hong Choi