The tems | I thought it best to take up an executive session . One is to discuss a little the Mexican situation and what sub-committee of this committee has been up to and the second is to, the second item that I wish to discuss with the Board is Mr. Reuss's request for the minutes of reserve bank board meetings. Now let me say a little about the Mexican situation and then call on Mr. Wallich to talk to you our own about developments there and around relation to those developments and perhaps in detail. As you may recall we have a swap facility $\frac{\sigma_{\rm col}}{2}$ Mexico and Mexico can draw on us up to \$360 million such a drawing was made earlier this year, and that amount was later repaid or repaid recently. The originial loan to Mexico of \$360 million was not made by us with due Cars. We acted I think a little due deliberation with mechnically. there was this arrangement they asked for the money and we asked a few questions, grumbled a little and just went along The fact of the matter is that we are very poorly informed about Mexico financial condition and I'm not proud of the way in which we have conducted ourselves. I'm not talking about the decisions, I'm talking about the amount of degree of knowledge, the amount of information we had at the time we made the decision. Now since then we have taken

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not only strong steps to familiairize ourselves early with the situation in on N Mexico and ex the current basis but to keep up to date records as through as we can make them for each of the countries with which we have a swap arrangement, and we are far better organized today to deal with a request for a loan or a swap drawing than we were previously. Now there was a time when swap drawings were virtually automatic. The, our attitude has changed, mine certainly has, when Britian came in earlier this year the initial request was for 3 billion dollars. Without going through the details, I agreed with the British on the sum of \$2 billion and indicated we would not go above that, and then I waxx went to the Treasury, and asked the Treasury to become our partner. The reason once being that Britian is no longer as creditworthy as it/was. afraid that is the kind of world we live in as far as armed borrowing from us much of it is concerned. We have not said anything about that publicly and I don't think we should. We would only pass to anxiety and uncertainty. But I no longer regard the swap facility as being quasi- automatic, I don't think it should be. Now I haven't found anyone who anticipated a depreciation of the Mexican pesc. of 50 per cent or The financial policies conducted by that country have been

scandalous, we were inadequately informed. Well we understand I think now the situation in Mexico with reasonable throughness. have now come in for request for a new borrowing. The that request was studied with the ulmost care by your sub-committee. meeting after another on the issue, raised one question after another one kind of conversation after another with the Mexicans, one conversation after another with the Treasury. in short of it is that Mexico may be very close to bankruptcy, I mean by that the enoromous foreign debts Mexico has contracted is by no means clear that Mexico will be able to service these debts and the moritorium $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ need to be declared. The debts But that's being rescheduled. Now that would be a most unfortunate development because our banks are heavily involved in lending to Mexico. elsewhere And of course it could set off moretoria mostly around the world: The taking things all and all, recognizing that Mexico is not a good borrower, recognizing that any amount that we might loan to Mexico may not be repaid for some time. The sub-committee still decided unamiously to make a loan of \$150 million and not go above that. is exactly that the Treasury has made available to the Mexicans, so we're being partners and that year just as we were on the British case.

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Now you might wonder why would we make a loan in a case of a country the prospects of which are so gloomy and the prospects which in any the fact that led me finally to concluevent are so highly uncertain. that it was desirable I believe that other members of the sub-committee were endevored by similiar thoughts, was that if Mexico were to a moritorium in the near future and receive no help at all from this central bank, than we would inevitably share a certain responsibi that claps and for the difficulties that would be caused to our commenced banks Now if you ask me am I at all sure that a loan of a \$150 millio by us would prevent such a default, the answer is, oh no by no means, its really a drop in the bucket considering Mexico's enoromous need to But there is a new government will come into power and that of course influenced our thinking to agree and if a reflow of capital took place Mexico could straighten out its affairs, if a reflow doesn't take place then I am afraid Mexico will down the drain. Now I am going to call on Mr. Wallich to add to my comments in any ways he see's fit. Mr. Chairman there's a great deal I can't add to Wallich what you say, is adequately actually described the situation of Mexico. Going into a little more detail, they have moved into a period of un-

certainty about the exchange rate after many years from which it was taken for granted with the exchange rate was stable. As a result, there developed in Mexico a great degree of ease of moving the and proof, there is no exchange control, people can maintain dollar deposits in Mexican banks, they can take their dollars out the country This system wants stability has been abandoned, it comes The dollar s deposited in Mexican banks can be sent very troublesome. abroad very easily or they can be withdrawn in currency, that's the Ale reason why we have these heavy currency shipments to Mexico Its a form of passable flight that is difficult to manage by means of interest sate interest rate policy, the straight policy affects the corporate borrower, but it is not on the whole 🖝 the corporate borrower who is taking his money out of Mexico, its the individual who has dollar deposits or even has pesos saveings and cashes those in and buys dollars. Now in the face of that, the bank of Mexico, in my opinion nevertheless, 🖮 tried far too long and far too hard to hold up the rate. The fund told them *hx*x at the begining of the negotiations that led to the last agreement The fund has had which besides 3 missions there this year. The fund them that they had concluded that a 🖘 per cent depreciation would be

> _______ SERALD ROFUL (CBRARK TOUR)

The initial depreciation was much less than that. They held the rate at this level that cost about a billion dollars as Finally they had to let go, and went to what is in effect close to 50 per cent depreciation. The peso used to be 8¢ and now it is around 4. Even then the Mexican central bank isxx has tried to manage the rate and convey a sensation of upward friend in order to reduce the capital They have invested less money in this effort than before, reserved they needed additional results, that is the one reason for the drawing. The other reason for the drawing on Treasury and the Federal -Reserve is that they need compensating balances, they particularly keep week 1.2 to 1.6 billion of compensating balances with their various banks because their exchange reserves. Now these are down into the low hundereds. he The Treasury examined the possibility of a swap that would give the Mexicans only compensation balances that they couldn't in EXE effect draw out but it was abandoned because it would create ax Eligix is legal problems and there in no particular strings attached to either the Treasury or our drawing. We had in the new drawing that was agreed a sharp cut back from the originial level of the swap, that level remains as being a general authoriziation, but then this particular case instead

of 360 was said a limit of 150 this they wre to take down in a franchi The second one to occur after they had secured a loan from of 75 each. the bank of America which is being negotiated 800 million and which according ecovalry

forming to reports from the Mexicans being signed today. would create the conditions in which the second drawing could be made the 1st because drawing was made right after the agreement. We have a new wrinkle in this swap which gives us a little added protection, although I would caution not to overrate it. They had to agree to a maintaince of value clause if the peso which fluctuated in the margin should go down during the period of the 90 day drawing then in the first place but second il they're expected to repay, for instance it is by mutual agreement, agreed not to repay, to extend the Swap

Burns

Wallich

You mean repay at the end of 3 months.

3 months. But if we agree that it is to be all over and if the peso has depreciated at that time they have to put in additional pesos so the dollar value list collateral is maintained. There is In the back of this phase the thought which I am sure is obvious to them although we have not made it overt that we could go into their market and sell these pesons for what they would bring. Now of course, could

by blocking this account and it is a thing that we would in extremes but the fact that they would have to take further action to keep us from doing so I think will slightly weight the scales in their mind in favor in doing what they can can to meet their obligation. The Treasury tried to get the similar arrange ment into their swap but they found again the egal problems defeated them so they go without this de le added protection. future, the Chairman has described the situation, and new governmen is coming in and the President legit as format It is hoped that he will inspire confidence. not 100 per cent known and there is some aperhension even with that they might lean in the direction of the agricultural reform of other things that would certainly not add to confidence. The fund thinks that the situation is managemeable if they decide to do the right things, that is cut down government expenditures and keep wages from rising unreason-On both funds so far they have not performed very well. government deficit looks as if it might be larger than expected and will have to be renegotiated with the fund to perserve the standby on wages the increases were larger than wre seemingly agreed with the IMF.

than that there is as yet no obvious impediment to continued ability

red Libid

They claim that this \$800 million loan negotiated after the devaluation was over subscribed its being signed apparently on schedule to the date that they have said, although they're getting the money a little later than they have led us to believe. They have not yet negotiated for next year on the ground that when one is negotiating one big loan, one must not be negotiating something else. They do have to borrow something of the order of \$250 million a month given that they will have something like it less a \$2 billion current account deficit, and ought to restore their reserves so by about a billion. yet allowed for any reflows. If they get reflows their situation will be very materially improved. Total outflows just during this year were rough tly guessed to have been at \$2-1/2 billion. So very large Mexican amounts abrod could come back if there's confidence with great profit in pesos to the owners and it depends entirely on the attitude of the new government.

Burns

Thankyou very much. If there is not additional word

that Id like to say before, it stays in mystlef and Mr. Wallich and other

members of the sub-committee to questioning, these conversations with

Mexico were practically included by November 7, a Sunday, Sunday evening---

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November 7. November 8, the morning of Nov. 8 we had a telephone conference at which time we took up our longer range monetary targets, The subject on which I had to testify on the 11th. Therefore it would have been possible for me to take up this subject of the Mexican loan on the morning of Nov. 8 with members of the Committee. Now I have thought long and hard about that, that wuld have been certainly my intention, my skoms strong preference, this is such a highly sensitive subject and I'm told that our telephone hookup is not actually secure. Therefore I was decided that I any reoccur could cause great convulsions that will cause waves all around the world, and I decided therefore not Not your sub-committee met continuious with the exceptions of Mr. Volcker who so out of the country part of the time, so Mr. Volcker was informed and the sub-committee was entirely unanimous, but I did want you to know this techically could have come before the Committee and my reason for bringing it up at the meeting on the

Brughner

Clar As varification a \$150 million of Reserve and \$150

at the Treasury?

Burns

8th.

That's right.

Kinbel

Any magic in those numbers that they arrived at

urns No. n

No, no tes hard bargaining, the we started out

Burns

being reluctant to do anything, but afterward you know our entry own discussions the attitude of the Treasury taking into account repercussion on the world at large on our own banks the position that we would be in if we ignored the difficulty of another, ignored entirely difficulty

of another central bank. The prisory previously have reached this agreement other than 150, the Treasury indicated that they would be to -receptive in view of the possible consequences of increasing their loan.

We wnet along with a 150 and indicated to the Mexicans that we don't have

any intention of going beyond that. Mr. MacLaury.

Maclaury As I remember our last spot pick out, in fact

it was the ESF - the Exchange Stabilization Fundfor a short time at least, we accept the change of the positions on it

took us out and we convayed then funded by drawing on the IMF. Is that

the sequence, that's in other words,

Wellich The Mexicans hate us, it might have gone the other way.

But we diden't go that way, and at the moment what is the status of the Mexican ability to draw on the IMF, can we look to

GEHALD R FUNL LIBHART

that as a take out this time around or we on limb?

Burns

We have made no such condition this time.

Wallich

The effect of doing that is the Mexicans are going

to get \$235 a year for 3 years from the Fund. The first year 1977

the Treasury is going to prefinance in finances of 3 pieces against

not the next 2 years, so there is nothing for us to get our teeth into.

Winn/Mayo

Mr. Chairman, one of the extent of the exposure of

the commercial marketing industry in this country and that's something you mentioned

Burns.

Well I don't have the figure in my, \$8 billion I

think

Wallich

I think its a little over, I think its 9, close to 9.

Same as above

So this is merely a drop in the bucket

Burns

Well you there.

No we have to see that borrowing needs as best we

can judge is about 215 months.

Partee

Do they remain in debt to the Treasury for that

earlier , what was it \$300

Wallich

That was repaid out of the IMF.

Partee

So that all the debt there is to be to the United

States is sufficient, which is 300 and we have indicated no more that

ustrace to teach obtained

can't use any of the remaining part of the swap. Is that right?

Burns Well they Henry and I had the initial consversations and Henry carried on a conversations later on. My understanding is that what's you communicate to the Mexicans. Would you answer kxxx that question precisely.

They were told that we wouldn't go over \$150 even though the swap remained at its reasonable level of 360 and its geared to be the same as to the Treasury that that's because the Treasury went to 150.

Coldwell Henry who are the banks besides Luray such as that I don't mean by name, not any, not at all.

Wallich

With them did
hads syndicates that could not do it and that's the advantage belonging

to it

Coldwell you don't know how many other books are involved?

Wallich No. I don't. I was told by there at it was

over subscribed which suggests that it was more than a very small number

but I can't tell you.

Coldwell Our dewisco mumber of regional banks waiting to Line the wings to participate.

Burns

There are plenty of sheep in this country.

Lilly (7)

Is this 9 billion or government debt, mean to the

Mexican government.

Burns

Oh no there total debt, total and loan indebteness

That (Known)

is well over 20 billion. There is indebetness abroad.

Lilly (1)
Maclaury

I'm thinking of the American banks

Wallich To American banks and the lenders in part government,

part naturalized enterprises, and part private enterprises. In Mexico

He proportion of a was

proportion of a was out of total Mexican form indebtness is

particularly high because its that kind of the country.

Burns Who may

Who may call on Mr. Gardner, Mr. Garnder may want

to have to comment and then I know Volcker.

Gardner Well my only comments gentlemen you have heard a

complete story review of the conditions surrounding the request, I'll

only attempt to again put it in a time and schedule structure. It's

early November we know there is a negotiation going on for \$800 million

credit, we know also that Mexico must begin rolling over and arranging

for rollovers for this enoromous amount of credit they already have

outstanding in our country and internationally. The rest of their

government goes out of office on Deceember 1. The IMF conditions which

FROM

were so carefully drawn do not go into effect until January 1. The tourist season in Mexico begins on November 15. The U. S. foreign policy position as expressed by the Treasury is one in which they very clearly indicated kkxx they would like us to consider whether or not we could do something with them, move up to the administration for foreign policy consideration. So we end up with a small carefully constructed interiam bit of and. Partie Orient ? Souther well, 40 days

Partee That's awfully important I think becaluse of the comparison with U. S. situations.

Burns

I must say I hope this interism, if it has turned out to be one of these loans that stretches out uncomfortably I would not to be too surprised, unfortunately under the circumstances.

My point was probably full expressed. This amount of swap under our regular and some special conditions is a very small part that has been expressed, already been expressed here of the external indebtness of Mexico. It seem to me as a member of the sub-committee quite wise to proceed in this small cautious way with the schedule that I have outlined for you and the ernest hope that a new government headed by a former.

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their

finance minister, the IMF conditions and if further drawings as Henry has described, and we as we all know now a further depreciation in the peso gives Mexico a fighting chance to manage this situation without an official moritorium. I think that persuaded me that it was important for us to be a part or a small part of this picutre.

Morris Coldwell Was there a consideration that our participation might have as an official body, I-ean encourage other people to I-ean

Burns No, no, oh no, but well we thought long and hard abou that and the last thing that we would have wanted to do or did do is to give Mexico a loan and have Mexico use that as a basis for borrowing from the commercial banks and therefore be indirectly responsible for drawing in the commercial banks. We did not fall into any such trap. Now, we could have gotten for example also and agreement out of the Mexicans, I think this would have been easy under which getting 800 million or 800 million plus from the commercial banks now they would use some of that money to repay us, but we we think we well we talked about that but we diden't have to spend much time debating that. would have put us in an impossible position you see. Here the other banks come in and we get our money back out of funds that they supplied

I don't think a central bank can ever put itself in that position. we could have secured our loam but we decided not to. One other point I don't possibly you covered that Henry, I know I diden't, We have emphasized, reemphasized the repeatedly to the Mexicans that they must use the funds supply very sparingly and in the process of foreign exchang transactions and they must try to peg the peso that if they must husband their resources we have all kinds of assurances from the Mexicans' they will do just that. These assurance were made initially voluntarily they have repeated those assurances as we raised the question but having said that I must go on to say that my confidence in these assurances being respected is very limited. and my confidence in the central bank operations are very limited.

Mr. Chairman

Burns Yes

Where does this, what is our position in relationship

to our own with the supervision of our domestic commercial banks if we feel such as you sunt have a field substitute this expressed. Do we policy wise is this relating anyway to our member banks in order to avoid a possible problem that they might have if there were that moritorium on the Court extended

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a more comprehensive or rather a more general way. The we could advise the banks to and we coudd advise them strongly to cut back on their foreign lending. If we did that we were on the risk, the very crisis in internation finance that we are seeking to prevent. I'm not talking about Mexico, I'm talking about all around because our banks have in my judgment been rather imprudent once again in lending abroad. judgment, I may be wrong about that, but that's the way I feel If we gave them strong advice to that affect we could bring on an international On the other hand, if they continued lending on the financial crisis. scale that we have doing then I think its only a matter of time before such a crisis will occur. Now what I have done really, don't let me go back.Mr. Woodervein issued a work of warning, and that was done after consultation with us. He issued his world of warning in Manilla, which you may have seen. Mr. Simon did the same, and that was done af ful consultation with us. In some meetings with private bankers

I tried to deal with the question lightly and indicated this is an well interior that bankers must consider carefully. I thought about taking stronger measures but here is the difficulty. There are two difficulties

The one that I just menentioned, namely that they might take that advice to strictly and them bring down a crisis. But there is a second difficulif we start telling banks publicly just to whom to lend, for what purpose to lend, we would be getting into the business of correctit allocation. and you may recall the difficulties we had with the Congress in connection We did a little of that and all hell broke loose on with the East. Capital Hill, the point being well now you were in the credit allocation business now, and what's wrong with the credit allocation bill that has So we have been quite cautious. I don't if others Hot is -- it's as a I don't know if lan good a reply I can make to question. I would not want to say and I have never said to anyone to answer your question specifically that banks should not lend to Mexico I haven't singled out I have talked generally about the abers and honsetly in the LDCS world that we live in the category of all these sees badly need\$ redefinition in my judgement, England or Great Britian and Italy in of LDC's today's world belong in a ket category where practical financial purpose. Yes Mr. Eastburn.

Eastburn

I have heard some talk I heard some of the underguided and walked. Is this optimistic?

11/10/10

Burns

rather
I think it is. But the way in which they have

been handling their wage problems also makes me wonder how long that condition will continue.

wallich

I think that is a accurate assessment. The fund, surprisingly to me, concluded the beginning 50 per cent depreciation at least 40 was what they needed. They diden't believe it. They finally got it. The price impluses are somwhat stronger than was anticipated so and the valuation is probably temporary.

Burns

Any other questions?

Do we have an impression as to what the policy is of the government of the central bank will be with respect to showing up private business firms that find the devaluation after an unfindable situation.

Burns

I, I don't know the general

Wallich

There' this was one of the 12 or 13 points in the

originial program to take care of firms that were in that condition.

They're)
If doing this they are not doing it on a very generous scale, because

one of the strong to objections that are raised is to further depreciation

for instance in strengths one says why don't you let the rate go, let it find its

THORE BUILDANN

Tape no.

own level is the threat of bankrupcy to firms that old dollars have been invested in pesos. How they got themselves into that position is the history of the last 12 years of stability in which it was cheap to borrow in dollars and you had to borrow in pesos and they dod not properly as individual firms manage their exchange rate exposure ERALO.

Burns

Mr. Volcker would you like to comment.

Volcker

don't think I have onything to Mexican Author
(The thing that adds specific to the message situation

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other than a interary comment that has of Mexico is basically a country

that could manage the situation and they are able to economically.

I do think what we're seeing should be a murageable situation. The thing to see here is the symptom

of general strains and touching of the world, but they are going to be

difficult to manage. They will be difficult in this case, they think

they are difficult in other cases, and I feel very strongly there is

nothing we can walk away with, and we will be called upon from time to

time for this kind of difficult operation in Mexico, in this case, maybe

there won't be any others, but I suspect there could be. It seems to me

to a very modest time to effort on our part. to rest with the risks are limited

in view of the risks the situation may not be managed correctly. I think

we need to exert a little effort here. A little help from us from time

The George

to time and this a better situation we are in.

I would second that commented Burns desisia situation we can't walk away from. Now the I think you all know that the British have applied to the IMF but the British are putting on a very powerful political campaign to accomplish 2 things. First, no conditions of the IMF in effect have the IMF blessed Britssh financial policy. to work out some arrangement whereby the sterling balances, which in the aggregate amount to about 10 billion dollars but of the sensitive part is the part that is held by central banks and that part amounts to Well the British would like to have those sterling balances \$4 billinon. somehow taken care of by other countries. Now this is a problem that has concerned me very deeply for some time., and the in response to a direct question from the bank of England and response to an imbersary sent by other central bankers and response to Mr. Leaver who is here is a embrassary of the Bristish government Mr. Galagan and Mr. Leaver has seem the President today. I have taken a very hard position on that $_{\gtrsim}$ saying that we will not even that I for one will not even talk about the sterling balances until the IMF arrangements has been concluded. But while I have taken this very tough position talking to the British and have in a similar position fortunately I think has been