Dear Chris,

Here are just a few lines to keep you informed of our activities. Unfortunately, mine are reduced to nothing, being ill bed with a "grippe.

You will have learned that after consultation with Mexico, Braschi, Torre, Grayson, and I left together on the 7th. During our stay we heard about the disturbances they were making in Mexico, but continued on to Bogota in the afternoon, on the 6th when the Foreign Secretary and the Rev. Mr. Dyer were here. It is still burning, and the political situation is complicated. Meanwhile, we had dodged.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten text continues]
The World Bank Group Archives

The World Bank Group (WBG) Archives preserves over 215,000 feet of records created or received by the World Bank Group since its establishment in 1944, making it one of the largest collections of development-related records in the world. The Archives protects the institutional memory of the World Bank Group and provides public access to records of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA).

The WBG Archives also offers access to a variety of online historical resources and information products that may support your research.

If you have a question about the World Bank Group’s work or would like to know more about a specific development topic, we invite you to explore our multiple research avenues, then contact an archivist to request the necessary records.
Start your research

CLARIFY YOUR RESEARCH GOALS

Documents & Reports
The Documents & Reports database provides access to publicly available World Bank Group reports dating from 1946 through the present. This curated collection can be a good place to answer your research questions or to gain information used to guide your access to information request. Access the site at http://documents.worldbank.org.

Web Archives
The Web Archives captures external World Bank Group websites, from 1998 to the present, with historical or research value. To search the Web Archives, visit http://www.worldbank.org/webarchives.

Past Presidents’ Speeches

VIDEO
World Bank Group History: Exploring the Archives
In collaboration with the Development Economics Vice Presidency (DECVP), the WBG Archives produced a short video that surveys World Bank Group history while introducing the various types of records that can be found in the Archives’ holdings. View the video at www.worldbank.org/archives-video.
Deepen your Knowledge of the World Bank Group

The WBG Archives’ holdings consist of a variety of media such as textual records, photographs, maps, film and video, and audio records. Textual records include operational correspondence documenting the World Bank Group’s lending operations and relationships with member countries, as well as records relating to economic and sector studies, operations policy development, public relations, and governance.
Explore Historical Records

Descriptions of the World Bank Group’s archival holdings enable researchers to learn about historical records and their organizational context. An ever-increasing number of digitized declassified records are also accessible to researchers at http://archivesholdings.worldbank.org.

Search the Archives by “Fonds”

The holdings of the WBG Archives are arranged into groupings called fonds, which reflect the office, function, or individual responsible for creating and collecting them. A list of fonds with links to their descriptions is available at http://archivesholdings.worldbank.org/list-of-fonds.

Research Projects through the Projects & Operations Portal

The Projects and Operations Portal contains information on World Bank Group projects implemented around the globe. To access project records, go to http://www.worldbank.org/projects and search for projects by country and sector. The “Archival Records” section of the “Documents” tab on each project page lists folder titles of publicly available archival records and links to digitized folders when available. A “Photo Gallery” tab provides access to project-related photos.
Submit a Request

Access to IBRD and IDA records held by the WBG Archives is governed by the World Bank Policy on Access to Information.

Requests for information may be submitted via the Access to Information request form at http://www.worldbank.org/wbaccess. Inquiries will be acknowledged in order of receipt within 24 hours, with a more comprehensive response provided within 20 business days. Additional time may be needed when declassification review or consultations with internal World Bank Group units, external parties, the Access to Information Committee, or the Board of Executive Directors are required.

Visit the Archives

Records that are only available in hard copy may be reviewed in the Archives Reading Room in Washington D.C. Research hours are Monday to Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment.
Oral History Program

Transcripts and summaries of interviews conducted since 1961 provide a historical perspective that complements the World Bank Group’s archival holdings. View transcripts and listen to audio clips that capture firsthand accounts of key events in the World Bank Group’s history at http://oralhistory.worldbank.org.

Historical Photographic Collection

The Archives preserves thousands of photographs documenting historical Bank projects, events, and personalities. The online Historical Photographic Collection makes an ever-growing number of these images available for download. Visit https://archivesphotos.worldbank.org.

World Bank Group Historical Timeline

The site includes a “Key Events” timeline and several “sub-timelines” on other Bank-related topics. Each timeline event is illuminated by a variety of resources, including archival records, photographs, audio/video clips, reports, and more. Explore the timeline at http://timeline.worldbank.org.
OPEN ARCHIVES
ACCESSING THE HOLDINGS OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP ARCHIVES

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