Volume 12
Number 3
February 1989
Whole Number 69

the journal

OF THE UNITED NATIONS PHILATELISTS, INC.

BANQUE MONDIALE
WORLD BANK
WELTBANK

The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

ISSN 0164-6842
Affiliate #71 of American Philatelic Society
A unit of American Topical Association
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Published bi-monthly by United Nations Philatelists, Inc., Box 1674, Chicago, IL 60690. UNP is an organization of collectors of philatelic material of or concerning the United Nations and its associated activities. Annual dues are $12: $11 applies to a subscription to the Journal. Second Class Postage paid at Chicago, IL 60607. Office of publication, 55 West Monroe, #2400, Chicago 60603.

Unless otherwise stated, catalog numbers are Scott. Lindner means Lindner United Nations Stamp Catalog, 6th edition, 1976; Scott means the latest edition of Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog; Gaines means United Nations Philately, by Arleigh Gaines.

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JOURNAL DEADLINES

Deadlines for submission of material for the Journal to the editor is the 15th day of the second month before the date on the issue: e.g., for June the deadline is April 15. Advertisers need only reserve space by this deadline. Final advertising copy (camera ready) may be submitted directly to P.O. Box 1674, Chicago, up to thirty days later.

PRICES FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Prices valid only for camera-ready copy. Prices good through February 1989: 1 page, $30; half page $18; quarter page $11.

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COVERS

Front: 1989 World Bank Stamps Issued by the United Nations on January 27, 1989.

Back(Outside): Portions of Official Souvenir Folder Issued by the West German Post Office on the Occasion of the First Day of Issue of the Commemorative Honoring the 1988 World Bank Meetings in West Berlin.

Back(Inside): Diary of 1988 UPU Events.

BUY, SELL and TRADE

FOR SALE: UPU 75th Anniversary-Argentina Imp. Colour Trials: Magenta, Blue, Sepia each $100; Green(Issue colour)$140. Belgian Congo/Ruanda-12 S/Sheets(prev. L.H.) $450. Paraguay Imp. Gummed Proofs Ex Waterlow Archives Vignette only & completed design (10)$300. Hungary 3 Fo Perf sheet of 4 on FDC to U.S.A. (B/S)$350. Payment by U.S. Dollar or Sterling notes to: D. Lintern, 23 Thicket Cres., Sutton, Surrey, England.

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SCHWEIZERISCHE UNO MARKENSAMMLER-GRUPPE

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

A Visit to the 1988 Swiss U.N. Stamp Collectors Group Annual Meeting

By Richard Powers

The German-language U.N. Collectors Group UNOP has at least two local chapters, much like those of UNP: one in the Netherlands and one in Switzerland. The Swiss U.N. Group (Schweizerische UNO Markensammler-Gruppe) started out as an independent group in 1972 but became affiliated with UNOP about two years later. The members pay their dues directly to UNOP in Cologne. But they try to organize activities on a local scale for UNOP-members resident in Switzerland. Thus I qualify for membership in this chapter by simply paying my UNOP dues and living in Basel.

The Swiss Group tries to organize get-togethers at least once a year. They also try to maintain visibility in Swiss philately by sending publicity to important Swiss stamp shows and occasionally manning information tables and creating philatelic souvenirs for occasions when United Nations participation is appropriate. At the international philatelic exposition in Basel Internaba 1974, which corresponded to the 100th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, they produced an attractive souvenir card bearing the 30-centime UN-Geneva UPU stamp from 1974 with a special UNPA cancel from Geneva, and a UNPA show cachet and a special UPU-Day cancel from Basel.

The 1988 meeting was held in Winterthur, a city of about 30000 inhabitants about 15 miles north of Zürich, on November 12th. The meeting was organized by Joos Dünki, the acting head of this group. It was held in the banquet hall of the Restaurant Brühlgarten. Eleven "members" showed up, including Dr. Hubert Witzig, who had been the group's driving force since its inception and who has only recently stepped aside. Since there are only about forty UNOP members living in Switzerland, this was quite an impressive turn-out.

Naturally the proceedings, which began at 2 PM and continued for nearly four hours, were carried out in Swiss dialect. After having spent more than four years of my life in total in Switzerland, I feel quite comfortable speaking German. But unless one is born in Switzerland, understanding Swiss dialect is a bit like it is for an American to understand a London cab-driver speaking Cockney via a transatlantic telephone conversation of which the satellite is transmitting only three of every four syllables. (When Swiss films in dialect appear on German television, they carry subtitles!) I mention this only as a warning that some of the following facts may be a bit garbled.

The agenda included three main items: a discussion of member expectations from the Swiss group; a report of planned activities by the group; and a forty-lot auction.

Several members expressed the wish that the group should foster opportunities for U.N. collectors in Switzerland to get together to exchange ideas, information and stamps. In Switzerland this means getting together in a restaurant or in a tavern, which has the friendly atmosphere of an English pub. People can relax, order a beer or coke and talk about stamps. It was decided that in 1989 there should be at least two such meetings, preferrably centrally located. The next meeting will also take place in Winterthur, probably in April. One of the important factors in deciding to return to the same restaurant next year was that the atmosphere was conducive to good exchanges between members and the hall was free.

In the past the group has tried to encourage Swiss participation in UNOP-meetings in Germany by trying to organize travel arrangements and hotels. It is likely that similar plans will be made for the UNOP-meeting in Frankfurt in April 1989.

It was announced that the group would mount a couple of exhibition

frames of publicity material for the official Stamp Day Show organized by the Swiss Philatelic Society and the Swiss PTT. This took place in Langnau the first week in December. Traditionally in Switzerland the Sunday in the first full week-end in December is known as Stamp Day. The activities revolve around a "rang-three" stamp exhibition, usually in a small city. Participation is nation-wide and most collector-groups try to interest collectors in joining by mounting publicity frames and manning information tables.

One issue of potential interest to U.N.P. members was the discussion of whether the Swiss members of UNOP should also affiliate with a national philatelic society equivalent to our own American Philatelic Society (A.P.S.). This would mean paying dues in addition to those already paid to UNOP. The advantages would include access to stamp insurance, the subscription to a less specialized journal and the possibility of obtaining credentials for international exhibitions. The International Philatelic Federation (F.I.P.) requires all exhibitors in its international exhibitions to have credentials from an approved national philatelic society. In the United States this means the A.P.S. In some countries, such as Germany and Austria, such credentials are required for participation in major national exhibitions, which would qualify one to participate in international exhibitions. According to the latest announcement issued by the UNPA in Vienna, if you would like to participate in the Exhibition honoring the 10th Anniversary of the UNPA in Vienna in June 1989, it will be necessary to have such credentials. No decision was made at the meeting but this topic will certainly be considered again this spring.

After a couple hours discussion, the meeting was adjourned to allow for such activities as bartering and the auction. One set of the recent Forest miniature sheets went for Sfr. 100 ($68). A "fun" item, which consisted of a registered letter sent from the UNPA in Geneva, postmarked at 8 AM on August 8th in 1988 (8.8.88-8) to the Swiss village Heiligenkreuz, which has a Zip code 8888, and bearing an arrival cancel at 6 PM (8.8.88-18), went for Sfr. 15 ($10). Approximately half of the forty lots were sold. No bidder commission was charged but each successful bidder was charged one franc ($.68) for each lot won. This money went into the petty cash of the group.

Towards 6 PM the meeting broke up. I think that eleven very satisfied U.N. collectors went home quite content with the afternoon's activities. Part of the attractiveness of this meeting was the fact that it was not part of an exhibition. People came from all over Switzerland just to spend the afternoon together. People got to know one another. New philatelic contacts were made. Perhaps this can only work on the scale of a chapter, where people live only a hour or so drive from each other. But perhaps it would be nice if we could try something similar at one of our national meetings.

EDITORIAL OFFICE MOVES

Auf Wiedersehen Basel

The April issue of the Journal will be the last one edited in Basel. The editor will be leaving Basel towards the end of April. After March 15, 1989, articles for the Journal and correspondence should be sent to the President B. Clement, Jr., at the following address:

B. Clement, Jr.,
292 Springdale Terrace
Morrisville, Pa 19067.

Clem will assume the responsibilities of editor during the time of his transition from Basel back to California.

Please check the inside cover of the April issue of the Journal for information concerning contributions for the June issue.

UNPA NEWS

New Issue - January 27, 1989: The World Bank

By Richard Powers

Once again the United Nations Postal Administration honored its affiliated organization, the World Bank, with a series of postage stamps. On January 27th the UNPA issued six stamps - two for each of its offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The six designs, which depict different activities supported by World Bank capital, appear on the front cover. The first and last time the World Bank was so honored was in 1960, when two commemoratives UNNY (Scott #86-87) for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) were issued.

The World Bank, which consists of the IBRD and the International Development Association (IDA), has one main concern: the fostering of economic and social progress in developing countries by providing help for increasing productivity, in the hope that this should make possible a better way of life for mankind.

The IBRD and the IDA support governments through the bringing about of political reforms for the creation of economic growth. They also participate directly in numerous different projects. These projects can help countries to increase their agricultural production, to speed up development in both cities and in the countryside, to construct highways, to erect power plants, schools and hospitals, to modernize small and large sectors of industry, to set up telecommunications networks and to build drinking water and sewer systems.

The IBRD is the older and the larger of the two organizations. It was proposed in 1944 at a meeting of the representatives of forty-four countries in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. The following year saw the establishment of two complementary institutions: the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the IBRD. The governments of over 150 countries have underwritten the capital of the IBRD. The IMF, which is responsible for the stability of international currencies, can be considered part of the IBRD.

The IDA, which is affiliated to the

Figure 1: Service cover from the Headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Figure 2: Service cover from the Headquarters of the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

IBRD, was founded on September 24, 1960. Its services are available to all member states of the Bank. It provides means, supplied by the wealthier countries, for financing development projects and programs in countries, where poverty is so extreme that they cannot afford to receive credit following the established guidelines of the IBRD. Most of the clients of the IDA are developing countries in southern Africa and in south Asia.

The World Bank has close ties with another United Nations specialized agency: the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which was founded in 1954.

In the past forty-two years the IBRD and the IDA have made available more than $160 Billion for 4000 projects in more than 100 countries. Currently the World Bank supports investments in more than 1700 projects involving more than $235 Billion. It is worth noting that indeed the problems of many participants in the program are solvable and that the money of the creditor countries has brought about impressive results in many cases. The most remarkable is the case of Japan, which during the period 1953 to 1966, received credits from the World Bankk of more than $800 Million. Today Japan is the main supplier of financing for the World Bank.

Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have headquarters in Washington, D.C., located only a

Figure 3: Service cover from the West African Office of the World Bank in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

block apart from each other. Service covers from the headquarters of the World Bank and the IMF are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. But there are offices of one and/or the other around the world in such places as UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva, as well as in London and Tokyo and in other cities of Asia, Africa and Latin America. A service cover from the West African Regional Mission of the World Bank in Abidjan, Ivory Coast can be seen in Fig. 3.

Since 1948 the World Bank and IMF have held yearly Board of Governors Meetings to discuss current programs and policies. At the third meeting in 1948

Figure 4: 1988 West German stamp and Conference Cancellation Honoring the 43rd Meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF.

in Washington, the main topic of discussion was the European Recovery Program (also known as the Marshall Plan). Since 1949 the annual meetings in odd years have been held in Washington, D.C. In even years, they are held outside the headquarters city. The 43rd meeting was held last year in West Berlin from September 27th through the 29th. The Federal Republic of Germany issued a commemorative stamp for the occasion. A copy appears in Fig. 4 cancelled with a special Conference cancel. On the outside rear cover of this issue appear portions of the official West German Post Office Souvenir Folder issued on the occasion of the first day of issue of this stamp. The folder includes a text in English, German, French and Spanish describing the mission of the World Bank. The meeting took place in the International Congress Center in West Berlin and was the site of numerous public demonstrations at which violence was no stranger. The overshadowing theme of this conference was the ever-growing debt crisis of developing countries.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By B. Clement, Jr.

The cover story of the December issue of The American Philatelist is an article by Arleigh Gaines on the Fortieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The beautiful cover shows an enlarged color reproduction of an imperforate proof of UNNY Scott No. 29. Following Gaines' article is one by UNP-member Dr. Jacob Kleiman of Canada on "Forty Years of UNFAO". Kleiman writes authoritatively on the FAO and the many topical stamps issued honoring the FAO. Gaines writes in his UN Philately Supplement that the current editor of The American Philatelist is receptive to articles about the UN. It is hoped that others will write such articles and continue to build interest in our speciality.

The USPS has announced plans to honor the 20th Universal Postal Congress, which will be held in Washington, D.C. later this year from November 13th through December 15th, with a number of stamps, souvenir sheets and postal stationery items. The USPS is also sponsoring a major stamp show in conjunction with the Congress. If we can work out the arrangements, United Nations Philatelists hopes to have its annual meeting at this show.

As I write this, the United Nations General Assembly is holding a rare session in Geneva, as a result of the United States refusing to issue a visa to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat. The Assembly condemned the United States by a huge vote for this action. However, the USA has now agreed to start a dialogue with the PLO. Let us all hope that this action will be the start of a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

THE UNPA MAKES HISTORY:

THE SIXTH PRINTING OF #222

By Duane Lamers

It has been a while. Just when some of us were ready to give up on the possibilities of new printings of U.N. stamps and stationery, the people at Turtle Bay did what they haven't done since the "First Issue" was retired. The UNPA in New York released a sixth printing of the current eight-cent definitive (Scott #222)on June 29, 1988 in a quantity of 300,000 stamps. Only Scott #6, #11, #C2 and #C3, all from the "First Issue", were printed more than five times. Among the later definitives only #92, #126, #127, #150 and #249 have seen five printings. This writer would not be surprised to see #249, the current two-cent definitive, printed again, however.

#222.6 is readily distinguished from its predecessors. The latest reprint is on highly glossy paper that is also whiter than previously seen. The paper has a waxy sheen to it. The gloss is prominent even on the dark blue background of the stamp, an area that had something of a matte finish on the fourth and fifth printings.

The background is more reddish, a lighter shade than has appeared previously. The silhouette of the New York skyline on the facade of the Secretariat Building is a brighter shade of blue-green and appears brighter against the background. The green of the landscaping is more olive, a duller shade than previously seen.

Compared to earlier printings, the gum of #222.6 is blue-white. Even the gum of #222.5, bluish-green by comparison to earlier printings, is creamy white when compared to the latest printing.

The high gloss of the paper and the lighter background of the stamp will make this printing easily identifiable.

In ultra-violet (UV) light, which is not necessary for identification, one will note that the paper is hi-brite with virtually no mottling and is brighter than previously seen.

There are currently four stamps, including one from UN-Vienna, whose latest printings are not found in Monograph #5. Perhaps a future issue of the Journal can contain specially designed inserts for incorporation into the monograph. Meanwhile, your Gaines will give you all you need to know.

THE LAST DAYS FOR POSTAL STATIONERY

By Duane Lamers

Another postal rate increase, in 1988, directly affected postal stationery issued by the UNPA in New York. The rate increases of April 3, 1988 sent the 22-cent envelope (Scott #U7a) and the already-revalued 36-cent aerogramme (UC15) into retirement or into altered states. An additional three cents in postage must be applied to them now to make them valid for current use. Other stationery still available has long since required additional postage to get it moving through the mails.

Over the years, as our pocketbooks will attest, there have been numerous rate increases that directly affect the use of UNPA stationery as it was issued. The changes number sixteen, but who's counting? Now some of us are a finicky lot, and we want postally used pieces for our collections, if only to prove to ourselves that some of this stuff actually goes through cancelling machines on the way to performing its intended duty. We also want it used correctly. Sorry, but aerogrammes sent to Brooklyn do not qua-

lify, nor does domestic use of postal cards issued at international rates.

We also know that it is easy to send insufficiently-franked material through the mail, and we find ourselves with cancelled specimens that, in fact, are in the "day late and a dollar short" category. No, this will not satisfy, either. We want our cards, envelopes and aerogrammes used as they were intended to be used.

To this end we offer a listing of the last dates of the postal rates for which various stationery items were printed or revalued prior to sale by the UNPA itself.

For the sake of brevity only the Scott numbers are provided. U identifies envelopes, UC denotes airmail envelopes and aerogrammes, UX classifies postal cards for domestic use and UXC signifies airmail postal cards for domestic or international use.

Domestic airmail as a separate subclassification was eliminated May 1, 1977. Domestic rates applied to Canada through December 2, 1975. Domestic letter rates still apply to Mexico. International rates for airmail postal cards and aerogrammes have always applied to all points abroad except for Canada and Mexico.

LAST DAY	STATIONERY AFFECTED
July 31, 1958	U1, UX1, UXC1
June 30, 1961	UC1*, UC2, UC4
January 6, 1963	U2, UC3, UX2, UXC2, UXC3
April 30, 1967	UC5, UXC5
January 6, 1968	U3, UC6, UX3, UXC4
May 15, 1971	U4, UC8, UX4, UXC7
June 30, 1971	UC7, UXC6
March 1, 1974	U5, UC9, UC10, UX5, UXC8, UXC9
September 13, 1975	UX6
December 2, 1975	UC11, UXC10 to Mexico and Canada
December 30, 1975	U6, UC11, UXC10 for domestic use
January 2, 1976	UC12, UXC11
May 28, 1978	UC11**, UX7
December 31, 1980	UC13
February 16, 1985	UC14, UX8, UXC12
April 2, 1988	U7, UC15

*While the ten-cent rate for aerogrammes lasted through June 1961, UNPA's first aerogramme lacked the designation "AEROGRAMME" as required by the UPU. The second aerogramme UC2 corrected this oversight. One could argue that UC1 should not have been used once the UPU's regulation took effect (and it may have been in effect at the time that UC1 was issued). One can also argue that UC1 should not have been used once UC2 became available. One can also argue that, if UC1 should not have been used but was "tolerated", then its use should have been accepted until the rate hike of 1961 rendered all ten-cent aerogrammes (the UNPA issued three of them) obsolete.

**UC11 carried sufficient postage for domestic use through May 28, 1978, when the thirteen-cent rate expired. However, there no longer was an airmail designation for domestic purposes after April 30, 1977. Strictly speaking, the 1977 date applies to the use of this envelope.

An interesting note about UXC2 and UXC3: The UNPA surcharged over one million pieces of UXC1 when the rate rose. Barely fourteen weeks later this card (UXC2) was joined by a new five-cent card (UXC3). Both cards remained on sale even beyond the expiration date for this rate. One could argue that, since UXC3 was a new design, it really supplanted UXC2, giving the surcharged card a life of only fourteen weeks. This writer notes that both cards "paid the freight" as issued by the UNPA and were usable as such until the next rate hike.

The most exacting among us will try to collect stationery reprints cancelled during the time that they were on sale. Until a more concise handbook of stationery becomes available, collectors are referred to Gaines. Reprint release dates are reported there.

Credit must be given to Ms Rita Moroney, Research Administrator/Historian in the Office of the Postmaster General of the U.S. Postal Service for providing this writer with all dates cited in this article as well as some of the other information it contains.

MINIATURE SHEETS

OF THE UNITED NATIONS

By Joseph Monteiro

Recently numerous articles[1] have appeared in the philatelic press concerning the miniature sheet **Survival of the Forests**, expressing dissatisfaction at the short supply, and blaming collector unhappiness on the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA). Though these observations may on the face of it appear seemingly right, there are perhaps better alternative explanations. No philatelic agency wants a bad reputation. Even if some of the observations in the press may be partially true, short supplies are warranted at times to keep up interest in the hobby and to generate collector interest. Why has interest in miniature sheets (except the flag series) in general generated so much interest? Why have they increased dramatically in retail price and some risen more than others? Is it the UNPA's fault or speculation or shifting demand as a result of changing tastes or some combination of these factors that these miniature sheets were in short supply?

Since 1976, the UNPA has issued five commemorative miniature sheets: **25th Anniversary of the UNPA** (Scott #278-79), the **International Year of the Child** (#310-11), the **35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (#415-16), **United Nations Day** (#515-16) and **Survival of the Forests** (#522-23). Some of the relevant statistical facts are shown below:

Cat. No.	Issue Date	Days on Sale	Quantity Printed	Quantity Sold	Number of Sheets
278	8.10.76	15	2.0M	1996309	100000
279	8.10.76	1	1.8M	1767465	90000
310	4.05.79	1	2.3M	2290329	115000
311	4.05.79	1	2.2M	2192136	110000
415	9.12.83	5	1.7M	1591102	106250
416	9.12.83	5	1.7M	1566789	106250
515	23.10.87	365	1.2M	n.a.	99000
516	23.10.87	365	1.2M	n.a.	99000
522	18.03.88	1	0.7M	n.a.	110000
523	18.03.88	1	0.7M	n.a.	110000

Source: UNPA Stamp Catalogue, Postal Issues of the United Nations 1951-1986, (1987) p. 401.

Reason for the Interest in Mini-sheets

The aggregate demand for miniature sheets like every other commodity is the sum of the individual demands of each collector, which in turn depends on the price, the income of the collector, the prices of substitutes, etc. In cases where speculation is an important consideration, future price expectation should also be included among the above variables and is the most important of these variables. Other random variables that are relevant include the meaning attached to the stamp such as color, denomination and various other factors read into the stamp. The experience gained from stamps (#27-42) printed in 1954-1955 indicate that all that were printed (approximately 1 million) were sold. The 250,000 souvenir sheets (#38), which cost 15 cents face, rose in value to approximately $300 - $400. Its history and charmed life are documented in "25 Years of Philatelic Highlights"[2] and numerous other articles. It would seem obvious based on the above, that when miniature sheets were printed in quantities of approximately 100,000 sheets that interest would be generated in them. The possibility of spectacular instantaneous price increases would certainly attract speculator demand. This is borne out in what initially happened.

1 "Miniature Sheet Sellout: Save the Forest", Guest Editorial by Wolff Hanke (Translated by Richard Powers), The Journal of the United Nations Philatelists, Vol. 12, No. 1, (October 1988), p. 2.

2 "25 Years of Philatelic Highlights", UNPA, United Nations, New York (1976), pp. 23-26.

The **25th Anniversary of the UNPA** miniature sheets (#278-79), which were available for $8.80 per set from the UNPA rose up initially to approximately $300 at the retail level. The **International Year of the Child** (#310-11) miniature sheets, which were available for $9.20 per set rose up initially to around $125 at the retail level.

Increases in Prices of the Mini-Sheets

The reason why the price of miniature sheets has risen dramatically at the retail level is obvious: demand far outstripped supply. With speculators involved, one would expect the price to rise initially and decline from some peak (speculators buying when prices are low and selling when prices are high, thereby leading to price declines). This is in fact what subsequently occurred. The **25th Anniversary of the UNPA** sheetlets fell to approximately $50; the **International Year of the Child** sheetlets, to approximately $15.

It is more difficult to answer why some sheets have risen more in price than others, just judging from the quantity of sheets printed. Perhaps a closer examination of those figures is required. In estimating retail prices, the relevant variable is not the quantity printed, but the quantity of sheets sold in mint condition. In the case of the **25th Anniversary of the UNPA** sheetlets, the quantity sold was 88,373 miniature sheet sets. If one subtracts from this the number of stamps used in souvenir folders, first day covers, souvenir cards, stamps used in mailing, etc. (see the UNPA Catalogue for precise figures), one would arrive at an estimate of slightly more than 70,000 miniature sheets sold in mint condition. If one further subtracts sheets that were broken up (not sold as complete sheets), the number of complete miniature sheets in existence is much less (approximately 35,000 assuming 50% were broken up). In the case of the **International Year of the Child** sheets 109,606 were sold. Subtracting from this the number of stamps used in souvenir folders, first day covers, mailing, etc., one would arrive at an estimate of approximately 94,000 miniature sheets sold in mint condition. If one further subtracts sheets that were broken up, the number in existence is much less (conceivably only 47,000 if 50% were broken up). If demand, including speculator demand, were the same for both types of miniature sheets, the difference in prices between the two sets of sheetlets can be explained due to the different estimated supplies of the above (35,000 vs 47,000).

It is difficult to explain why the **U.N. Day** miniature sheets were not sold out immediately as only 99,000 sheet sets were printed, one of the smallest quantities of miniature sheets ever printed. Some philatelists have attributed this phenomenon to the stock market crash that occurred in October 1987 and the declining demand for U.N. stamps. The reason for the immediate sell-out for the **Survival of the Forests** issue could be attributed to the total number of stamps and sheets printed. Let us take a hypothetical example. Suppose that stamps A and B are printed in sheet quantities of 100,000 each. However, stamp A has a sheet format of 20 stamps per sheet while stamp B occurs in sheets of five stamps each. Assuming that the demand for first day covers, souvenir folders, etc. is a constant of 100,000 stamps, it would require 5000 sheets of stamp A and 20,000 sheets of stamp B. Therefore, the total number of sheetlets of stamp A available for sale is 95,000, whereas for stamp B only 80,000 remain for sale. This explains why using the quantity of miniature sheets printed can be misleading in estimating the number of miniature sheets available for sale. As figures are released on the quantities of souvenir folders and first day covers sold, a better idea will be obtained as to their true market value and whether the **Survival of the Forests** mini-sheets will be

the most valuable one issued by the U.N. Perhaps the most valuable sheet sets will be those with first day cancellations since the UNPA in New York refuses to cancel such sheets generally and most collectors and investors do not maintain large stocks of sheetlets with first day cancellations.

Alternative explanations for collector disappointment

The fault can be attributed to a combination of factors, not to a single cause. The UNPA normally prints 100,000 mini-sheets. Since the demand for the product was declining and the number of stamps printed was well below the one-million level, the **Survival** printing of 660,000 stamps, though lower than normal, was not extremely low. It is worthwhile observing that the number of miniature sheets printed was 110,000, which is similar to the normal number of mini-sheets printed, if not a bit more. Given this fact and the experience with the previous sheetlet **U.N. Day** (the UNPA could not sell 99,000 sheets containing 1,188,000 stamps), the UNPA was perhaps rightly cautious in lowering the print quantities. The UNPA must have received a real shock when its major marketing tool mini-sheets - which had so far worked superbly - failed to stimulate the market any longer. The UNPA has the responsibility of not only estimating the future demand for stamps accurately (the first flag miniature sheets were a disaster with approximately half having to be destroyed) but also stimulating demand by creating shortages at times. Given these considerations, the Administration was not completely at fault. Perhaps it may have erred to a small extent in estimating the demand for the stamps accurately. But collectors were warned well in advance by the UNPA and by the press about this issue. It would therefore seem unreasonable to blame the UNPA completely. In any event collectors can most probably obtain each of the stamps through the purchase of the annual souvenir folders. Conseqently, the comments in the press blaming the UNPA seem unwarranted. Besides many enthusiastic collectors wait patiently for the UNPA to lower its print quantities and to print mini-sheets, which it has done only five times in thirteen years. The initial demand for miniature sheets has been largely because of speculation, given the experience of the 250,000 souvenir sheets printed in 1955. As collectors learn from experience, even their tastes or preferences for individual stamps may change in favor of mini-sheets (or of larger quantities of stamps from sheetlets), since every collector likes to see the value of his stamp collection appreciate in value. This changing demand also has an effect on the aggregate demand and ultimately the price.

The UNPA should continue doing what it has been doing so well in the past in the area of miniature sheets. By printing various quantities of stamps and approximately the same or a smaller number of mini-sheets with differing formats (from 6 to 20 stamps), one can better learn the true nature of collector demands and get a reasonable estimate of what prices are likely to be in the retail market.

To digress from the above, one may ask why countries that have smaller print quantities such as 20,000 stamps or 1,500 mini-sheets do not sell out immediately with instantaneous dramatic price rises. The reason can be partly attributed to the demand for stamps and the lack of information, which has its ultimate effect on price. One should, however, distinguish the above demand for stamps from the demand for extremely rare stamps (for instance, inverts where only a hundred or so have been found). Here demand depends on high prices such as in the case of unusual diamonds. The higher the price goes, the more attractive the object becomes.

The future demand for miniature sheets looks promising if the UNPA follows a reasonable and sensible policy as it has in the past, printing the appropriate quantities of mini-sheets and using this method of printing commemorative stamps occasionally so as to stimulate interest in U.N. philately.

I am indebted to Madelaine Dussault for correcting the typographical errors.

UNIIMOG

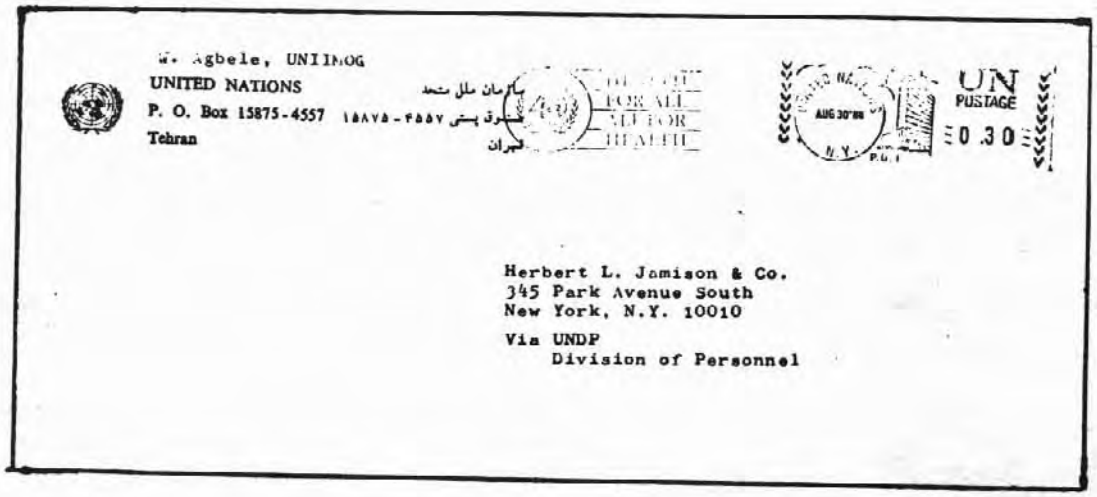
United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group

By Stephen F. Cohen

After seven years of war, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 598 on July 20, 1987, which in effect called for a cease-fire and for "the Secretary-General to dispatch a team of United Nations Observers to verify, confirm and supervise the cease-fire and withdrawal, called for in the resolution". This resolution lay dormant until July 28, 1988. At that time the Secretary-General sent a technical team to Iran and Iraq to work out urgently with the authorities of these countries the modalities of UNIIMOG. The team was led by the chief of staff of UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) Lt. Gen. Martin Vadset. It was assisted by small two- or three-member teams, which have been stationed in the capitals of these two countries, Bagdad and Teheran, since 1984. These teams are now part of UNIIMOG.

On August 7, 1988, the Secretary-General called upon Iraq and Iran to observe a cease-fire and to discontinue all military action on land, at sea and in the air, as of 0300 GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) on August 20, 1988. (This day is also known as D-Day.) The Security Council passed Resolution 619 on August 9th. This resolution immediately established UNIIMOG under the authority of the Security Council. The Security Council also approved the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of Resolution 598 (1987). It was decided that UNIIMOG should be set up for an initial period of six months. (Normally UNTSO missions have no set time frame.) Major General Slavko Jovic of Yugoslavia was appointed Chief Military Observer on August 11th. On this same day the advance parties arrived in the two capitals.

On August 16th an Associated Press (AP) wire report stated that "forty-five blue helmetted U.N. troops arrived in the Iraqi capital overnight and early today to begin policing the cease-fire due to begin Saturday (August 20th). The troops from Canada, Poland and Senegal were the first of a total of 175 U.N. observers from each country to arrive in Iraq by Wednesday (August 17th). Additionally, 485 troops from Canada's 88th Signal Squadron arrived on August 17th to set up the communications network." They will be there a very short time and then will turn over the network to U.N. civilians. The Canadians will have their own field post office.



An early UNIIMOG cover from Teheran.

SUPERFLUOUS POSTAGE?

By Jack Mayer

During the Christmas holidays in 1987, mail (notably SEASON'S GREETINGS cards) sent by the United Nations Postal Administration was franked with 39-cent stamps (Figue 1) rather than the usual 22 cents required. There was no postal reason to apply the additional postage as the weight was well within the limits set by the U.S. Postal Service.

Why then, was the additional applied? First, one must realize that according to the agreement between the United Nations and the United States postal administrations, mail posted from the U.N. is only charged at the rate required for proper transmission, regardless of the value of the stamps applied, as long as the minimum amount is present. Hence, the UNPA paid the USPS only 22 cents per each item posted. Secondly, it may be assumed that many of the 22-cent values of the United Nations Day stamp were used on other types of mail posted from the U.N. either by visitors or by employees. Hence, there would be a substantial surplus of the higher value, which would render themselves useless, as only complete sets are offered in packets and folders. So in apparent prudence, these higher denomination issues are used to lower the excess stock. A good move, though at first appearance, it would seem wasteful. Congratulations for what appears to be good management of stamp stocks.

A similar usage of postal cards has been observed earlier this year. The actual rate for postal cards mailed to destinations within the United States was 14 cents. (Now it is 15 cents.) However in January 1988 the UNPA used 28-cent postal cards to apologize to customer account holders in the U.S. that shipments of the IFAD issue would be delayed. (Figure 2.) As long as the rate remains below 28 cents, the UNPA can use its old stock of cards, which are no longer useful for sending abroad without additional postage and still pay the USPS only the current postal rate. No doubt inventory levels had some bearing on the use of this particular card.

Fig. 2: 28-cent postal card used for domestic mail instead of the normal 14-cent rate.

Fig. 1: Normal first class letter containing 1987 greeting card bearing 39-cent postage instead of the regular 22-cent tariff.

DIARY OF 1988 UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION EVENTS

UPU Press Release

April 2 - 6 (Ryad, Saudi Arabia)
Third Congress of the postal organization of the Gulf States - UPU participates as an observer.
April (Yaoundé, Cameroun)
Conference of the plenipotentiaries of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) - UPU participates as an observer.
April 18 - May 6 (Bern, Switzerland)
1988 Session of the UPU's Executive Council.
May 2, May 5 (Bern, Switzerland)
Meetings of the Steering Committee of the CCPS (Consultative Council for Postal Studies).
May 10 - 18 (Geneva, Switzerland)
Final meeting of the CCITT Study Committee I.
May 30 - June 7 (Geneva, Switzerland)
Final meeting of the CCITT Study Committee II.
June 28 - 30 (Akureyri, Iceland)
Annual conference of the Nordic Postal Union (NPU) - UPU participates as an observer.
June 28 - July 8 (Potomac, Maryland)
Seminar on the organization of the EMS (Express Mail Service) for the benefit of African countries, organized by the United States Postal Service at the "William F. Bolger Management Academy".
July 28 - August 5 (Mexico)
Symposium on "Security of mail" organized by the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS).
August 17 - 26 (Beijing, People's Republic of China)
Inter-regional symposium on management and operational strategies for the post, for African, Arab, Asian and Pacific countries.
September 1 - 2 (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Round table discussion on terminal dues organized by the PUAS.
September 5 - 9 (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Annual session of the PUAS Consultative and Executive Council - UPU participates as an observer.
September (Maldives)
Session of the Executive Council of the Asian and Pacific Postal Union - UPU participates as an observer.
September 12 - 16
Meeting of the Postmasters General and Conference of the Ministers responsible for the postal service in the Caribbean.
September 1 - October 14
Training in postal organization in the rural areas for the Asian and Pacific countries.
October 3 - 14 (Bangkok, Thailand)
Seminar on detection of items containing drugs for the Asian and Pacific countries.
October 9
World Post Day, celebrated by all UPU countries.

Special Stamp 1988 Annual Meeting IMF/World Bank in Berlin
Condensed Text

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group are holding their Annual Meeting in Berlin (West) from 27 to 29 September 1988.
Most developing countries, but also some Nearly all western industrialized countries, East European state trading countries are members of these organizations, which comprise 151 countries.

The member countries' cooperation in the IMF aims at securing the basic conditions for a balanced, non-inflationary growth of world trade and the world economy. At the focus of attention here is overcoming and, if necessary, temporarily financing external imbalances, securing orderly exchange rate relations and coordinating the economic policy among member countries.

The common goal of the financing institutions belonging to the World Bank Group – the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) – is to promote economic growth and social development in the less developed member countries by granting them long-term loans and allowing them to acquire investment shares in companies.

Timbre-poste spécial
Assemblée annuelle du Fonds monétaire international (F. M. I.) et de la Banque mondiale 1988 à Berlin (Ouest)
Texte abrégé

Du 27 au 29 septembre 1988 aura lieu à Berlin (Ouest) l'assemblée annuelle du Fonds monétaire international (F. M. I.) et du groupe de la Banque mondiale. Presque tous les pays industrialisés occidentaux, la grande majorité des pays en développement, mais aussi certains pays à commerce d'Etat de l'Europe orientale sont membres de ces organisations qui regroupent 151 pays.
La coopération des pays membres du F. M. I. s'effectue dans le but de garantir les conditions qui forment la base d'une croissance harmonieuse et non inflationniste du commerce mondial et de l'économie mondiale. Les efforts se concentrent sur la suppression et, si nécessaire, le financement temporaire des déséquilibres dans l'économie des échanges extérieurs, sur la garantie de la stabilité des relations des changes et sur la concertation de la politique économique entre les pays membres.

L'objectif commun des institutions de financement qui font partie du groupe de la Banque mondiale – la Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (Banque mondiale), l'Association internationale de développement (A. I. D.) et la Société financière internationale (S. F. I.) – consiste à promouvoir la croissance économique et social dans les pays membres moins développés au moyen de prêts à long terme et par le biais de prises de participation dans les entreprises.

Sellos postales especiales con ocasión de la Asamblea anual del FMI/Banco Mundial 1988 en Berlin
Texto resumido

El Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) y el Grupo del Banco Mundial celebran, del 27 al 29 de septiembre 1988, su Asamblea anual en Berlin (Occ.). Casi todos los países industrializados occidentales, la mayoría de los países en desarrollo y también algunos países socialistas europeos son miembros de estas organizaciones a la que pertenecen 151 países.

La cooperación de los países miembros del FMI tiene la finalidad de asegurar las condiciones básicas necesarias para que el comercio y la economía mundial se desarrollen de forma equilibrada y sin inflación. Sus esfuerzos se centran especialmente en superar y también financiar – donde las circunstancias lo exijan – desequilibrios transitorios de economía exterior, relaciones de tipos de cambio ordenadas y armonizar la política económica entre los países miembros.

El objetivo común de las instituciones financieras – Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento (Banco Mundial), Asociación Internacional de Fomento (AIF) y Corporación Financiera Internacional (CFI) – que forman parte del grupo de bancos mundiales es el de impulsar el crecimiento económico y el desarrollo social en los países miembros menos desarrollados.

Sonderpostwertzeichen
Jahresversammlung IWF/Weltbank 1988 in Berlin
Kurztext

Vom 27. bis 29. September 1988 halten der Internationale Währungsfonds (IWF) und die Weltbankgruppe ihre Jahresversammlung in Berlin (West) ab.
Nahezu alle westlichen Industrieländer, die große Mehrheit der Entwicklungsländer, aber auch einige osteuropäische Staatshandelsländer sind Mitglieder dieser 151 Länder umfassenden Organisationen.

Die Zusammenarbeit der Mitgliedsländer im IWF zielt darauf ab, die Rahmenbedingungen für ein ausgewogenes, nichtinflationäres Wachstum des Welthandels und der Weltwirtschaft zu sichern. Im Mittelpunkt stehen dabei die Überwindung und, wo erforderlich, auch die vorübergehende Finanzierung außenwirtschaftlicher Ungleichgewichte, die Sicherung geordneter Wechselkursbeziehungen und die Abstimmung der Wirtschaftspolitik zwischen den Mitgliedsländern.

Gemeinsames Ziel der zur Weltbankgruppe gehörenden Finanzierungsinstitutionen – der Internationalen Bank für Wiederaufbau und Entwicklung (Weltbank), der Internationalen Entwicklungsorganisation (IDA) und der Internationalen Finanz-Corporation (IFC) – ist es, Wirtschaftswachstum und soziale Entwicklung in den weniger entwickelten Mitgliedsländern durch langfristige Darlehen und durch Beteiligungen an Unternehmen zu fördern.

1000 Berlin 19, den 11. August 1988
LANDESPOSTDIREKTION BERLIN