

April 10, 1961

His Excellency  
Hamani Diori  
President of the Republic of Niger  
Niamey  
Republic of Niger

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to tell you about the appointment of Mr. Leonard B. Rist as the International Bank's Special Representative for Africa.

The Bank has been active in Africa over the years and has made 35 loans amounting to more than \$800 million for projects there. We expect to be even more active in the future, especially now that the inauguration of our affiliate, the International Development Association, makes additional resources available which can be provided to member countries on more flexible terms than the Bank itself can offer.

Because of our increasing activity and the emergence of many new independent countries in Africa, we decided to create a new position of Special Representative for Africa and Mr. Rist has now been appointed to it. His general responsibilities are to maintain liaison with the governments of African countries, both those which are members of the Bank and those which are not, and to keep the Bank informed about development in these countries. He will concern himself primarily with the less developed countries of Africa and will be available to explain to their governments the purposes and operating methods of the Bank and its affiliated organizations, the International Finance Corporation and the International Development Association, both in investment and in technical assistance.

Mr. Rist was born in France and was educated at Paris University and the Paris School for Oriental Languages. He served as an attache at the French Embassy in Moscow before joining the staff of Morgan et Cie in Paris where he became a Vice President in 1945. During World War II he served in the French Army and after the end of hostilities was head of the French Finance Division of the Allied Commission for Austria. He came to the World Bank in April 1946 as Alternate Executive Director for France, and became Economic Director of the Bank in August 1946. He took up his new duties on April 1, 1961.

Existing responsibilities within the staff of the Bank remain unchanged. In particular, the Department of Operations for Europe, Africa and Australasia will continue to be responsible for the Bank's normal operational activities in the Republic of Niger.



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Mr. Rist will be stationed at the Bank's headquarters in Washington but will necessarily spend much of his time travelling in Africa becoming personally acquainted with conditions and leading personalities. I am confident that his role will be of great importance in keeping the governments of African countries informed of how we can serve them and of guiding us in our relations with them.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Eugene R. Black  
Eugene R. Black

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