

## WASHINGTON TALK: BRIEFING;

### Helping the World Bank

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### **Body**

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Congress sometimes works in mysterious ways. Thanks to new immigration legislation, for example, the World Bank may now find it easier to carry out staff cuts and reorganization plans.

The key is a provision of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 that permits foreign nationals who are international civil servants to maintain their United States residence should they lose their jobs, provided they have lived in this country 15 years.

Previously, these foreign nationals and their dependents had to pack their bags within 30 days of a notice of dismissal. And so the bank and other international organizations based in the United States were reluctant to press reorganizations plans that would impose such hardship, Barber B. Conable Jr., after taking over as president of the World Bank last July, pushed for the change. But lobbying seeds in fact had been sewn five years earlier, according to Lester Nurick, a lawyer at the firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering.

Mr. Nurick, an alumnus of the bank, was retained as a lobbyist by a coalition of civil servants from that institution and such others as the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the United Nations.

"With their pensions and education these are very desirable people to have around," Mr. Nurick said.

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AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT **BANK** (55%); ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (55%); UNITED NATIONS (55%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (55%); INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT **BANK** (55%)

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