

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois
October 6, 1999



- I. Good morning.
 - A. It's a pleasure to welcome you to the Chicago Fed for the fall session of the SCIEA.

- II. One of the strengths of the System is the high caliber of the economic research carried out by our institutions.
 - A. The quality of our research is enhanced by the existence of the System Committee framework
 - B. It encourages us to discuss critical issues to the Fed's decision making process, — and more generally, to explore problems confronting our economic system.

- III. The Midwest is heavily involved in the international markets.
 - A. True of our manufacturing, agricultural, and financial industries
 - B. So, what has happened abroad, economically and politically, is of special interest to us at the Chicago Reserve Bank

- IV. As some of you may know, I have a personal interest in international issues and trade policy in particular.

- A. I was a deputy trade rep in the Bush Administration.
- B. One cannot work in such a position without acquiring a keen appreciation for the interrelated nature of economics and politics and the conflicts that often arise when you try to mix the two.
- C. In any case, strong appreciation for the kind of work that you are doing.

V. Your agenda is ambitious, and issues you will be talking about are important and timely.

- A. Exchange rate situation very dynamic and critical to future of our economy.
- B. At the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, we've held 3 conferences on international financial crisis this year,
 - including one jointly sponsored with BIS just last week.

VI. I hope that your two days in Chicago are not all work.

- We have a beautiful city with a great deal to offer visitors.
- I hope that you will have some time to enjoy it.
- A. Again, Welcome.
 - I hope your meetings go well.
 - Now, I'll let you get to work.