

Wolfowitz Speaks Out on Board Relations and Budget Process

February 1, 2007— Bank President Paul Wolfowitz directly addressed the question of his relationship with the Board, describing a recent news report depicting him at battle with the Board as “misleading.” His comments were made in an 11-mn [video interview](#) Wednesday evening with Sumir Lal, head of internal communications.

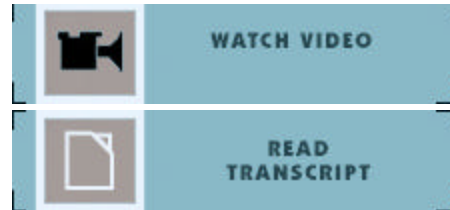


Sumir Lal, EXTIC, interviewing President Wolfowitz Wednesday evening

Said Wolfowitz, who also had a private luncheon with Board members on Wednesday, “I can tell you clearly that that story does not reflect their view of me or my view of them, or most importantly it doesn’t reflect our collective view of this great institution.”

He also remarked on the poor timing of the article, which appeared on the Fox News website Tuesday, coming as it did on the same day as what he described as “a very successful Board meeting on the difficult issue of governance and anti-corruption.” Board members were pleased with the extent of the consultations carried out by Bank staff—which involved 40 different countries and more than 3,000 participants.

Asked about the recent discussions on budget reallocations, Wolfowitz emphasized that the process is still in very early stages and that nothing has been decided. He also stressed that staff would be involved in the decision-making: “We are going to have a good process to engage staff and get staff views before any final decisions are made.”



Wolfowitz also reported on his recent trip to the Lebanon Donors Conference in Paris, to the World Economic Forum in Davos, and to Turkey.

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