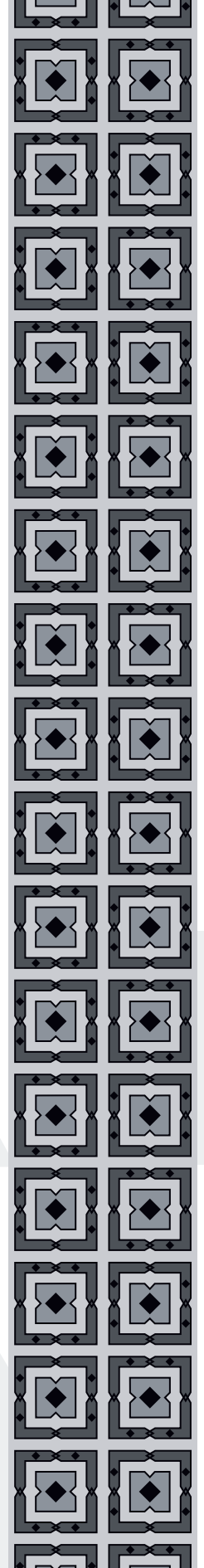






Centre William Rappard

RITUALS AND INNOVATIONS



Past, Present and Future

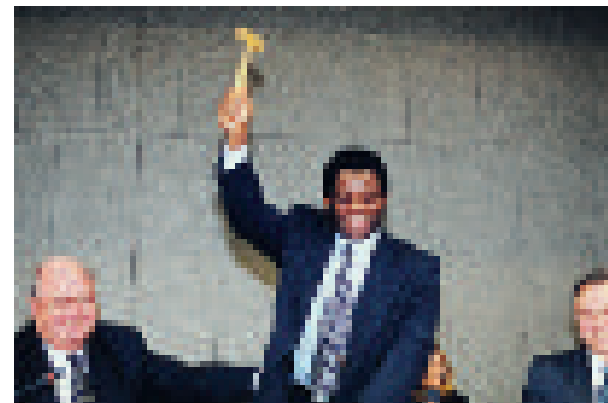
Most weekdays from early morning the Centre William Rappard becomes a flurry of activity, with various events taking place within its walls. From international delegates hurrying to a meeting to WTO Secretariat staff striving to meet the latest deadline, everyone is contributing to the work of the organization with their own particular brand of skills and expertise.

The history and traditions of the organization play an important part in shaping how these activities are played out today. At the same time, the building is transforming itself for the challenges of the future.

To find out more, come and take a look inside as the Centre William Rappard is open to the public for guided tours on selected days throughout the year.

Portrait of William Rappard, ◀◀
by Roger Pfund, from the *Faces à faces*
exhibition on the UniDufour building
of the University of Geneva (June-
September 2009), based on an original
photo from *Varia politica: publiés
ou réimprimés à l'occasion du
soixante-dixième anniversaire de
William E. Rappard* (Zurich: Éditions
Polygraphiques SA, 1953). The portrait is
now on display at the Visitors' Entrance
of the Centre William Rappard.





Protocol and Etiquette

- ◀◀ Preparing for a breakfast meeting in the "Green Room" of the Director-General's office.
- ◀ Ali Said Mchumo, Ambassador of Tanzania and Chairperson of the WTO General Council (centre), closing the meeting on 8 February 2000.
- ▼ Arumugamangalam Venkatachalam Ganesan of India (right) at his swearing-in as member of the WTO Appellate Body in Room X, 3 July 2000.





Centre William Rappard

Rituals and Innovations



At the WTO – as was previously the case in the GATT Secretariat – representatives sit opposite each other in boardroom style, with delegates occupying both sides of parallel long tables. This reflects the fact that at WTO meetings, authority rests with the members, not with the appointed or elected chairperson.



Protocol and Etiquette

◀◀ Karen Chashmaritian, Armenia's Minister of Trade and Economic Development (left), receives a gift from WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy in his office, 22 September 2005.

◀ Informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee in the Council Room, 30 June 2006.

▶ Preparations for a TV interview with the WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy in the studio at the Centre William Rappard, 21 March 2007.







VIP Visits

Prince and Princess Hitachi of Japan ◀
 (centre) arriving at the Centre William
 Rappard (headquarters of the ILO
 at that time), 18 November 1965.

Seán Thomas O'Kelly, President
 of Ireland, 1945-1959 (right), with
 ILO Deputy Director-General
 Jef Rens (left), 1954.

Abbé Pierre, founder of the
 Emmaus movement (left), with
 ILO Deputy Director-General
 Abbas Ammar (right), 1959.

Abdallah Bey Khalil, Prime
 Minister of Sudan (left), signing
 the ILO guestbook, circa 1957.





Centre William Rappard

Rituals and Innovations

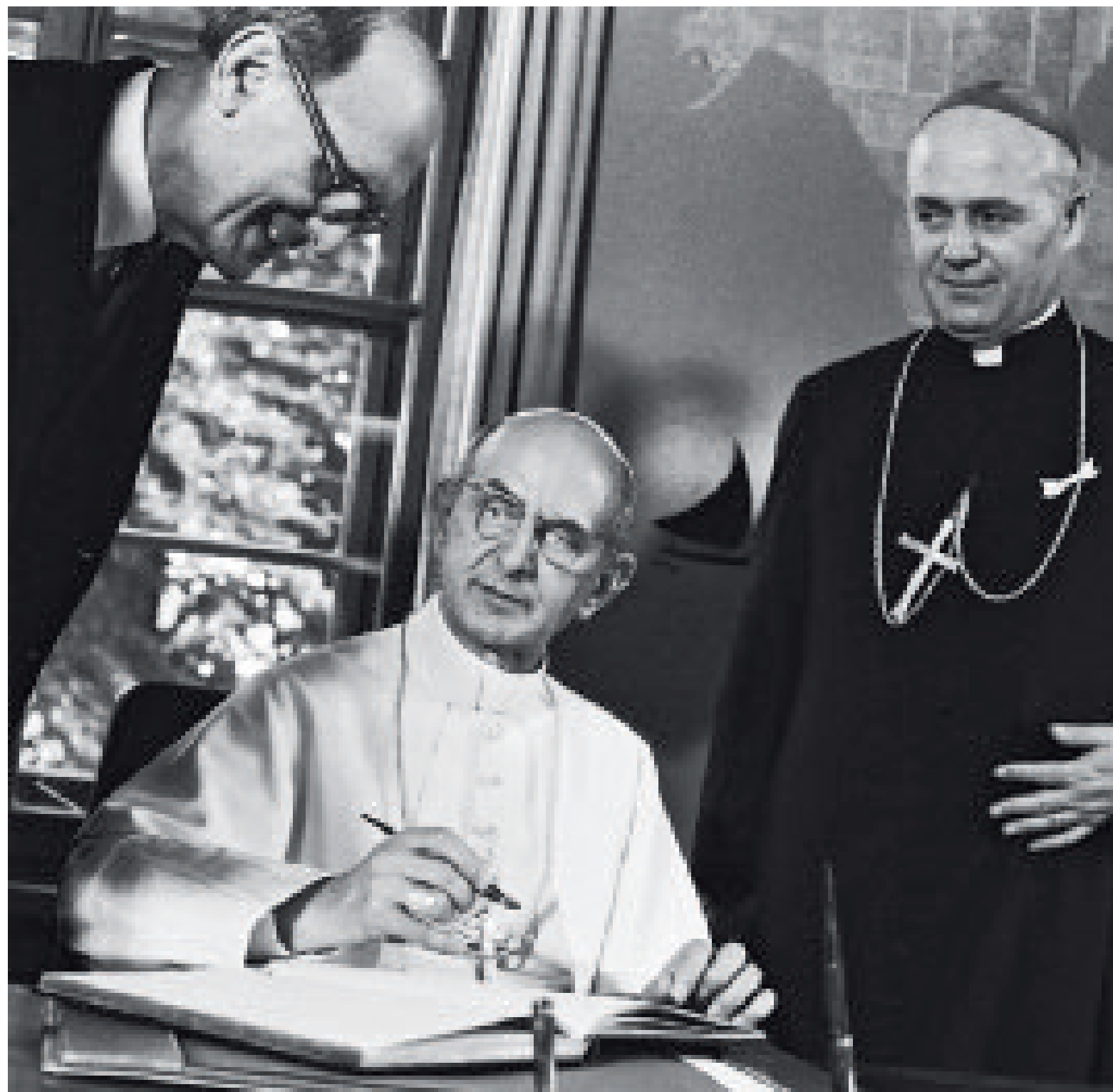


VIP Visits

- ◀ US President Bill Clinton (right) speaking at the conference "GATT/WTO 50th Anniversary: Looking Back, Looking Forward", 18 May 1998, Palais des Nations.
- ▶ Pope Paul VI (centre) and ILO Director-General David A. Morse (left) during the papal visit to the Centre William Rappard, 10 June 1969.
- ▼ President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela (left), and President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso (right), chatting informally at a conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the GATT/WTO, 18 May 1998.
- ▼ Diana, Princess of Wales (centre right), and other dignitaries leaving a conference of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at that time housed in the south wing of the Centre William Rappard, 1 October 1991.



Heads of state and other important visitors typically receive a red carpet welcome and are met at the foot of the main staircase, by the principal host, frequently the Director-General. An informal meeting usually takes place in the Director-General's conference room. After the meeting, the visitor is asked to sign the guest book.







Group Visits

- ◀ Visit of Korean delegates to WTO
Deputy Director-General Chulsu Kim
(front row, centre), 26 October 1996.
- ◀◀ Workers' representatives at a meeting
of the ILO Chemical Industries
Committee during a coffee break in
the *Salle des Pas-Perdus*, circa 1960.
- ▼ A group of nurses from German-
speaking countries visiting the
Centre William Rappard (ILO) in 1927.





Centre William Rappard

Rituals and Innovations

Occasionally, situations arise that provoke industrial action from international civil servants. Important meetings such as the WTO Ministerial Conference sometimes attract another form of protest, with demonstrators seeking to draw attention to their particular grievances.





Protests

- ▲ Members of Confédération Paysanne protesting about agricultural products with hormones being imported into Europe, 15 April 1996.
- ◀ Greenpeace draping the building with a banner in 1990 to protest against the patenting of plants, animals and DNA.
- ◀◀ WTO staff members rejecting changes to the pension rights, 1 November 1997.
- ◀◀◀ Silent protest at the Centre William Rappard in 1972 by ILO staff demanding better work conditions for general service staff members.



Public Events

▲ Members of the public enjoying the lake-side activities during WTO Open Day, 19 September 2010.

▼ Local specialties prepared by the mission of Korea for sale to the public at the Open Day, 19 September 2010. All proceeds raised during the Open Day were donated to a local charity.

► A WTO staff member explaining the finer points of “The Dignity of Labour” by Maurice Denis during one of the guided tours of the 2009 Open Day.



Public Events

Public Forum 2010 banner on
the main façade of the building. ►

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy
welcomes the public to the WTO's first
Open Day, 6 September 2009. ▼



First held in 2009, the WTO Open Day provides the people of Geneva and other Swiss and French neighbouring cities with the opportunity to visit the Centre William Rappard and its grounds, and to enjoy a guided tour of the building. Another important annual event is the WTO Public Forum, which brings together non-governmental organizations, academics, businesses and students to discuss issues regarding the multilateral trading system.







Future

- ◀ West and south façades of the Centre William Rappard, showing on the right the construction site for the new building to be opened at the end of 2012.
- ▼ Artist's impression of the future north courtyard, which will include a coffee-shop, the documents-distribution counter and a bookshop, among other facilities.

Innovative solutions are needed not only to conduct international negotiations among nations but also to provide the best possible environment for those negotiations and for the daily activity of the WTO. Once the construction work has been completed, the Centre William Rappard will house 1,100 workstations and eight large and medium-sized conference rooms.

