

## OBITUARY MR AKHTAR ANIS

All colleagues will have been greatly saddened by the death of Mr Akhtar Anis which occurred suddenly in Munich on Monday June 13, 1988. Characteristically, he was engaged in the bank's business and had flown to West Germany with two younger colleagues to induct them into their new assignments. The tribute which follows is compiled from the reminiscences of his friends, who were also his colleagues.

Mr Anis started his career with the Imperial Bank of India in 1948. Later, he distinguished himself in the National Bank of Pakistan, the United Bank Ltd in Pakistan, and BCC. He died at the age of 59. He will always be remembered by his colleagues and his international banking friends throughout the world as a deeply accomplished banker, a loyal friend and a good man.

Human relationships were at the heart of his psyche. Indeed, the business of banking could not be conducted without them and Mr Anis never lost sight of this fact. He never failed to charm those with whom he came into contact.

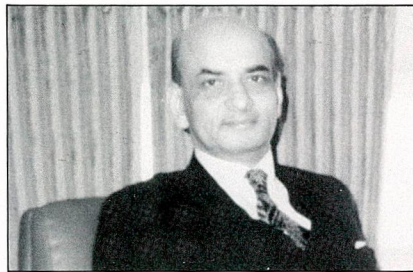
He had a formidable personality for he was a man of vigour and boundless energy, usually unstoppable and always apt to assume that his colleagues were as tough and inexhaustible as he was himself. He was unflagging in his commitment, he was a tireless worker, a man of action, an uninhibited critic and a firm believer in discipline. He asked no more of others than he demanded of himself.

He was in every sense the embodiment of BCC. He lived BCC. He breathed BCC.

Mr Anis, who was General Manager of International Division, joined BCC in 1973. He was one of the founding members of BCC and his firm and benevolent influence contributed to the style and ethos of BCC.

Born in Azamgarh, India, Mr Anis was educated at St Xavier's College, Calcutta, and the University of Calcutta.

After his training with the Imperial Bank of India, he worked for 12 years with the National Bank in Pakistan, which sent



him overseas to broaden his experience in the Chase Manhattan Bank, London, and the Bank of New York, New York.

He joined the United Bank Ltd, Karachi, in 1962; soon after, he was posted to London and promoted to General Manager, which position he held until 1973.

When he joined BCC, he brought with him valuable international banking experience and contacts. He was an internationally known figure in the banking community and played a pivotal role in securing the rapid acceptance of BCC as a mature financial institution.

During 15 years in BCC, he was the first General Manager for the United Kingdom, where he was active in opening branches throughout the country. Two years later, as the need for correspondent banking relationships was becoming vital for BCC's global operations, Mr Anis built up the International Division from scratch. In the years of expansion and consolidation after 1972, he nurtured BCC as if it had been his own child, taking it upon himself to overcome every objection and tie up every loose end. Today, BCC has 1,100 correspondent banks around the world in 120 countries. More importantly, in his time Mr Anis transformed International Division from a 'taker' of correspondent banking services to a vigorous 'provider' by marketing our banking services to other banks. This greatly added to our business and profit and will continue to do so.

Like the great Duke of Wellington, he believed that 'the work of the day must be done on the day' and he saw to it that his colleagues acted on this maxim. But he was not solely concerned with the efficient despatch of business for he also believed deeply in the development and advancement of his colleagues; under his

guidance, International Division became a recognised centre of excellence within the bank.

On his travels, Mr Anis displayed an almost boyish enthusiasm for the sheer adventure of living. His capacity for enjoyment was seemingly as limitless as his energy and nobody was ever dull in his company. He would make several tours a year, relentlessly pursuing business relationships with all our correspondents in such remote places as Albania, Afghanistan, Angola, South Yemen, Somalia and Ethiopia.

He had a remarkably profound instinct, a sixth sense, for events and business and often his views were uncannily accurate. This came not just from instinct, but from constant practice at reading and experiencing the inner quality of life itself. He always sought for the *meaning* of what was presented to him and, having discovered it, he acted upon it.

More importantly, Mr Anis was a loving and devoted father to his daughter, Samina, and son, Azfar. He was widowed tragically early in his marriage and, in ensuing years, brought up his family single-handed with great devotion, notwithstanding the demanding long hours he worked at the bank.

Among his deepest interests outside the bank was a passion for the poetry, classical songs and music of the Sub-continent.

He was a memorable and greatly gifted person. He had simple tastes and beliefs. He was as devout as he was humble. He treated everyone as a human brother, putting no rank or reserve between himself and others. One of his colleagues said of him: "My abiding memory is of a very *loving* man." Loving others, he was himself deeply loved. No man can have a better epitaph.

BCC has lost a magnificent and very dear colleague and his children – to whom he was entirely devoted – have lost a wonderful father; to them and all other members of his family, we send all our loving sympathies.