

POSTING SERVICES CENTRE UPDATE

COMMUNITY LIAISON SECTION

Community Coordinator Program. The results of the assessment of the program have revealed a very positive response from all sides, although in some cases it was still a bit early to get an overall view of its impact. The modifications suggested were generally minor. Its success can be attested to by the number of missions expressing interest in continuing or initiating the program in the new fiscal year.

Workshops for Spouses. A total of nine workshops were held this spring. Participants numbered 120. The program is proving ever more successful, and spouses returning to Ottawa should be sure to notify the Posting Services Centre of their new address if they wish information on the fall program which will be in preparation over the summer months (see the change of address form on page 20).

Direct Communication with Spouses. The mailing list for direct communication with spouses has had a spring cleaning. Employees, remind your spouses; and spouses, remind your friends; if you are not receiving *Liaison* directly, your names may no longer be on our list or our listings may be incorrect. Use the form on page 20 to let us know where you are.

Ottawa-Hull Education Report. This latest report on educational systems and facilities in the National Capital Region has now been printed and one or two copies sent to each mission for reference purposes. Families returning to Ottawa-Hull may obtain copies from the Education Officer, Lise Beaugard.

OUR FRONT COVER — Samoan Market Scene by Jacqueline Ballhorn

An artist, a teacher of French, English, art and Asian cooking; Jacqueline is an accomplished individual.

On previous postings to Nairobi and Warsaw she quickly became involved in all these activities, and while on posting home she taught French at Algonquin College, and art and Chinese cooking at various community centres throughout the city.

In the 1984 FSCA Art Show, Jacqueline exhibited several of her watercolours including this market scene from Samoa. Then, despite being right in the middle of their move to Canberra, she kindly agreed to redo the painting in black and white so it could be used on the cover of *Liaison*. Such is the nature of the person.

In Canberra, no doubt, she is as actively involved as ever.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SECTION

With the posting season in full swing, the Foreign Language section is a hive of activity. Many employees assigned to countries where neither English nor French is spoken are arranging for training.

To date, 147 employees and family members are registered in full- and part-time courses in the National Capital Region, and 63 in courses abroad, in more than 30 different foreign languages. Eight more employees are following maintenance courses in Japanese, Russian and Mandarin.

POSTING OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SECTION

Workshops and Briefings. While Pre-Posting Workshops for the 1986 posting season were on hold in February and March, the Centre worked with Trade Stream Assignment Officers in preparing and presenting briefings for about 180 Commerce Officers and their spouses on various aspects of a rotational career to assist them in considering an offer to convert to the Foreign Service Officer group.

Two groups of Foreign Service Officer trainees have also had briefings on our role by means of guided tours of the Centre where they were able to view the facilities and meet the staff.

A revised schedule of Pre-Posting Workshops got under way in early April. By reducing the number of presentations of some workshops, we were able to introduce new workshops which have proved so

popular we now have waiting lists.

Among the new workshops attracting Standing Room Only participation have been Coping with the Needs of the Elderly, Property Management and the Foreign Service Homeowner, and Taxation and the Foreign Service Employee Abroad. Last year's workshop on Wills, Estate Planning and Financial Management is drawing even greater numbers of participants this year.

After a temporary hold on the issuance of Posting Confirmations, employees and their spouses seemed to be descending on us in droves to register for Pre-Posting Administrative Briefings on such matters as the Foreign Service Directives, Health, Personal Safety, Customs Duties, and Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities.

We are especially pleased to see the number of spouses attending these briefings. The implementation of the new Foreign Service Directive 12, albeit with a limited budget, has enabled the Centre to assist in paying some of the expenses for spouses from elsewhere in Canada and abroad to come to Ottawa for these briefings. Spouses of Military Guards, of Heads of Mission, and of other employees of this and other departments, as well as spouses of new employees from the private sector, have benefited.

Documentation. The demand for post reports continues unabated. The Centre has now obtained a word processor to be dedicated solely to the task of updating these reports.

The revised Medical Examination Procedures circular document has been sent to all missions and divisions with personal copies hand-delivered to Assignment Officers. An important amendment concerning blood chemistry and tropical disease tests, brought to our attention by the Public Service Health Medical Centre of Health and Welfare Canada, was relayed to missions by telegram ADTB-0554 of May 23.

We continue to receive compliments on the Re-Entry Kits we send to employees and their families returning to Ottawa. With the timely assistance of Assignment Officers, we will continue to do our best to get these out to the missions as early as possible before employees are due to depart.

On Camera! A team from Radio-Canada-TV was in to shoot a segment for *Au jour le jour* to be screened in mid-June or next September. We have not seen the finished film but hope it may give viewers some idea of the efforts we are making to prepare employees and their families for life and work abroad.

