

There are different pay scales and retirement plans and different benefits for these categories. Under the new proposals of the Hays Bill, the foreign service reserve officers will become foreign service staff officers. If the bill succeeds, it will have the result of bringing in to regular State Department ranks a total of 693 U.S.I.A. officers who are now in the reserve officer category.

(In answer to a question on the relationship of the State Department to AID and to the USIA, the speaker said that both the Agency for International Development and the U.S. Information Agency were administered separately from the State Department. The respective directors are responsible for the operations of their agencies, but they carry out this responsibility within the framework of the policy directives received from the State Department. A close working relationship exists at desk level between officers of the State Department and officers of these two agencies.)

DISCUSSION

(The following information was provided in response to questions.)

Trade Promotion - The Department of Commerce at one time wanted to have its own foreign service abroad. The decision was made, however, that commercial jobs would be filled by foreign service officers. Through the Foreign Service Institute, the State Department provides training in commercial work and it also assigns officers to the Department of Commerce for specified periods. A new programme of training and career development for commercial officers has been developed in close liaison with the Department of Commerce. A good many F.S.O.'s are willing to go into the commercial work since they consider it to be of value in itself and also to be a useful phase of their career.

Foreign Service Reserve Officers - By definition, a Reserve Officer is a specialist of a kind not available in the Foreign Service. Usually it is a person whose capabilities are in short supply. For example, a person with a Ph. D. in Economics might be brought in to do a special job and might, in fact, be sent abroad on a two-year project. By law, the appointment of such a specialist must be limited to five years and the contract can be renewed for a further five years, but no more. In the U.S.I.A., by contrast, contracts of the Foreign Service Reserve Officers lapse each year and must be reinstated if the officer is to continue. There is some lateral transfer from the reserve to the foreign service officer ranks, but serious problems can arise if a young specialist with rare capabilities is brought in and paid more than older men who have long experience in the foreign service.