

Gentlemen

- Sport jacket and tie or open-necked shirt with ascot or turtleneck sweater.

Ladies

- May dress as they wish, while avoiding extremes in style.

(E) CASUAL DRESS

May be indicated for informal gatherings with close friends, for example, get-togethers around the swimming pool, tennis parties, brunch or the like.

Gentlemen

- Slacks and open-necked shirt; jacket if one is worn, may be removed on arrival.

Ladies

- Comfortable, practical attire appropriate to the occasion.

(N.B.: 1 *In all circumstances, national costumes can replace ceremonial wear. Out of courtesy to guests, this should be indicated in the invitation.*

Example: DRESS - LOUNGE SUIT OR NATIONAL DRESS

- 2 *In tropical countries, dress is generally much simpler, even for official functions. Occasionally for private receptions which call for black tie, the invitation specifies "Red Sea Rig", which means bow tie and cummerbund without the jacket.)*

PLANNING THE RECEPTION

Great care must be taken in the planning and organization of a reception or any other type of gathering held at home. Servants are a luxury of the past, except in some hardship posts. Even if it is possible to engage servants and one has the means to do so, it is extremely difficult today to find reliable people. As host or hostess, you are anxious for your party to be a success. You should therefore plan to enjoy it yourself. When your guests arrive, you should be as fresh and ready to enjoy the occasion as they are.

We have prepared the attached guidelines on the assumption that you will have to do everything, or nearly everything, yourself. If you have help, so much the better, but the guide can help you to think of everything you will need, and in particular, to help you decide how much time you will have to spend on the various preparations, from the time you decide to give a dinner until your guests arrive.

(A) TYPES OF RECEPTION

Except for official representational activities, the number of receptions you will give during your posting will depend on your financial means, the customs in diplomatic and other circles in the host country, and the possibilities offered by your own house. Since every invitation accepted must be reciprocated, one way or another, some of you will feel more