

A message from the Editor

Hello again Gentle Readers:

I hope you all had a chance to catch your breath at the end of 1994. If there is anyone out there who still thinks that the foreign service is a sinecure, I would like to introduce them to our colleagues in Beijing, Hong Kong, Hanoi, and the Asia Pacific Branch. Those of you who are preparing to receive your own "high level visits" should take note of the old Chinese proverb "when the big guy must ride in a limousine, those in the vans must have a sense of humour".

Here in Ottawa, things also continued apace — in fact this place is entirely too busy. I arrived here in September only to be swept up in the frenzy of preparations for the National Conference, on October 3. The one day celebration of a century of service by Canada's TCS was also the beginning of the second century. It was a huge success. The overwhelming response and support from our clients

was good return for all of our efforts. At the same time, their constructive comments set the agenda for the new century. The Centenary celebrations will continue in Australia to coincide with John Larke's arrival in Sydney in 1895. John, you could not have known what you started.

Of course the "Red" Wilson report and ongoing action plans to implement its recommendations, the Foreign Policy Review, the program review, and the next budget all serve to keep us active and on the edge of our seats. The ferment and upheaval surrounding these changes to the Service and the way we do our job was surprising and exciting for me after seven years outside of headquarters. We will keep you posted on developments. In the meantime, please call, telex, fax or e-mail your comments and ideas. Your contribution is what makes it your newsletter. Drop in to see us when you can.

Rick Mann

➔ BRIEFINGS

During last year's posting season, briefing sessions were held for Trade Commissioners being posted and crossposted, and for those returning to Canada.

The purpose of the briefings is to keep Trade Commissioners apprised of current International Business Development operations and issues.

If you are anticipating a move this year, please keep a day open — we'll be in touch.

