

From Jim Harris, Assistant Deputy Minister, Personnel

We are pleased to send you this first issue of *Liaison*, a publication intended to provide information of interest and relevance to foreign service personnel and their families.

Through *Liaison*, you will be kept informed about topics of particular interest to rotational families — education, spousal employment, health, FSD's and others — plus kept attuned to happenings both at home and at Canadian posts abroad.

Liaison, and the Community Liaison Section that is responsible for it, are integral parts of the Government's response to the Royal Commission on Conditions of Foreign Service.

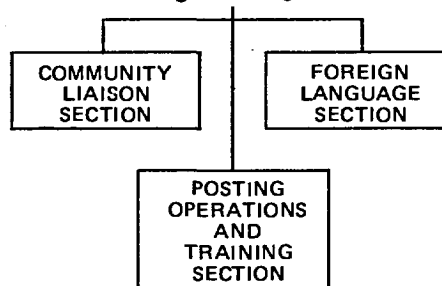
With this publication, we wish to emphasize the importance of the contributions made by all those who are a part of our foreign service — the employees, their spouses and their families.

THE POSTING BRIEFING CENTRE HAS A NEW LOOK

First of all, the office has been relocated and is now on the main floor across from the passport office. The new space is functional and will enable us to be more responsive to the needs of foreign service families. In addition, the Community Liaison Section, which was located in the same area, has now been integrated with the Centre. So, what is new at the Briefing Centre? The mandate is still the same — to assist rotational employees and their families but this assistance covers several new aspects.

To begin with, there are administrative arrangements that must be made prior to posting. We co-ordinate these with the various departmental divisions, as well as with the Department of Health and Welfare. Briefings on the Foreign Service Directives, plus workshops in areas such as stress, protocol, health and security are organized by the Centre and spouses are encouraged to attend. In 1982-83, on the statistical side, 566 employees and 166 spouses attended these sessions. We anticipate an increase in participation in 1983-84.

Posting Briefing Centre



The Centre has an interesting collection of books and information on all countries of the world, slides prepared by many wives, audio-visual interviews on a wide variety of topics and, of course, the post reports. Before going on a posting, do come in and look over this material. Even if you are currently at a post and are being cross-posted, we'd be pleased to send you any information you wish.

The departmental foreign language training program (excluding French and English) is also the responsibility of the Centre. In 1982-83, 460 employees and 156 spouses obtained instruction in 32 different languages in Ottawa and abroad.

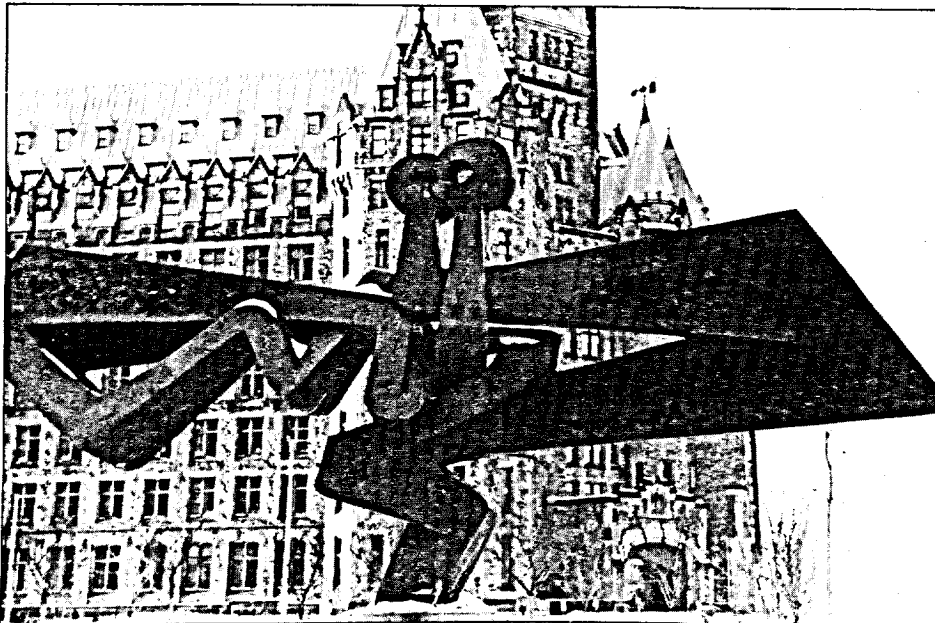
Should you be going to a posting requiring a foreign language, please get in touch with us.

The Community Liaison Section is responsible for concerns pertaining to the foreign service community. Projects which were begun by this unit prior to amalgamation — education, employment of spouses, direct communication with spouses and the implementation of community co-ordinators at posts abroad — will be continuing with even greater importance.

We are also one of the first sections to see employees when they return to Ottawa from a posting. To assist you and your families in becoming re-established here, we are in the process of setting up a re-entry program.

The Posting Briefing Centre has a new look, but it is to enable us to be of greater service to you, the foreign service employees and your families. If we can be of assistance, please contact us at: The Posting Briefing Centre (ADTB), Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2. Phone 992-2221

Our front cover — *FLIGHT*, by Canadian artist Sorel Etrog



This statue is located in front of the Bank of Canada and across from the Confederation Buildings in Ottawa. Originally created for the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 67, it was purchased by the Bank in December of that year and moved to its present location.

The idea for this cover came from Helen Verbanz, (a photographer, fine arts student and foreign service secretary) who was approached after her work was seen at the FSCA Art Display in January 1984. Rather than use one of the photographs she had already taken, she wondered if there might be another subject that would be more relevant to foreign service life. After much thought, and numerous photographs, this cover was created. Our thanks Helen and best wishes on your upcoming first posting.