

POSTING BRIEFING CENTRE UPDATE

It's posting time and the Briefing Centre is active. The obvious activities are those concerning pre-posting preparations. Yet, at the same time, activities are also going on to assist employees and their families both during their stay at a post and upon their return home. In order to keep you abreast of all the activities, in each issue we will be providing an UPDATE.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SECTION

Spanish Language Laboratory Exercises. A complete set of grammar exercises in Spanish (with books and cassettes) is now available to those who wish to review or study Spanish at their leisure. Distribution to all Spanish speaking posts will take place soon. (Contact Andrée Fouquet).

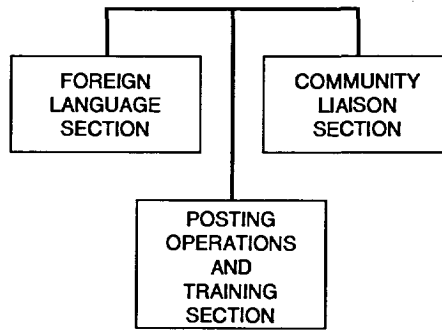
Mandarin Training. A three month survival Mandarin training course has been designed by a consultant from McGill University, Professor Peggy Wong. This program will be piloted in Ottawa starting in June, 1984. (Contact Luce Duval).

Arabic Training. A ten week survival Arabic program has been designed by a consultant from Laval University, Professor Raja Hammoud. It is now being piloted in Ottawa. (Contact Luce Duval).

Foreign Languages. A glossary providing a brief description on forty foreign languages has been prepared and will be distributed in June 1984. (Contact Andrée Fouquet).

Group Classes. Foreign language group classes have been organized and provided to those employees and their spouses considering future postings. These classes will begin again in September 1984. (Contact Dealtry Bell).

Posting Briefing Centre



POSTING OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SECTION

Pre-posting Briefings. During the months of April, May and June, more than 40 sessions on different aspects of posting have been conducted at the Centre. The areas covered included: health in under-developed countries, culture shock, managing stress abroad, first aid, education systems in the world, spousal employment, protocol, personal safety and area workshops. (Contact Christina Dowler).

Co-ordination of Pre-posting Administration. In order for employees and their families to fully understand the administrative aspects of relocation to a post, a one and a half day briefing has been conducted by the Centre every week during the months of April, May and June. The following aspects were covered: an overview of the Foreign Service Directives, diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities, welfare counselling, mailing privileges, accommodations, technical services, health plans, health abroad, travel and removal, pay and allowances, financial services, and customs and excise. (Contact Maryse Leroux.)

COMMUNITY LIAISON SECTION

Community Co-ordinators at Posts. The pilot project that is presently underway in Paris, has proven so successful that it will be extended to include numerous other posts. The program will be partially in operation by this summer to help welcome new families to posts abroad. For more details see the article on "Community Co-ordinators" in this issue.

Spousal Employment Policy. The first draft of the departmental spousal employment policy has been written, preliminary discussions have been held with the FSCA, the unions and departmental officials and all the posts have been informed of its general framework. Readers of *Liaison* will be kept informed of further developments and, hopefully soon, on its approval.

Spousal Employment Profiles. A questionnaire, developed to establish the employment profiles of spouses of foreign service personnel, has been sent to all spouses on the *Direct Communication With Spouses* list. The data gathered will assist the department in developing its policy, plus will enable it to better counsel and assist spouses seeking employment. (See the article under "Spouses — Working Abroad and At Home" for more details.)

Welcome Kits. 54 posts have been actively preparing welcome kits for employees and their families about to arrive at their new assignments. Spouses have been contracted for these projects.

Schools Abroad. Questionnaires pertaining to educational facilities at posts abroad have been sent out and approximately 50 spouses have been contracted to do the research. The data at the Posting Briefing Centre concerning education should, therefore, soon be totally up-to-date.

OUR FRONT COVER — A Chinese Brush Painting by Norma Bobinski



Chinese Brush Painting is not only an art, it is a discipline. One doesn't just paint, one must progress through specified stages — from bamboo, chrysanthemums and orchids to horses, tigers and peacocks — and each stage must be personally signed by the teacher. No mistakes can be made. You have only one stroke in which to create an eye or the feeling of motion. It requires not only natural talent but years of study and discipline. All of these, Norma Bobinski has. She, her husband Ed and their three children

have spent a total of six years in Manila, The Philippines (1966-68 and 1979-83) during which time she was introduced to the art, studied it diligently and mastered it. Her collection is impressive — each piece is finely detailed, natural and aesthetically appealing. Even now, back in Ottawa, she intends to continue her studies because as she says "you can never really stop learning about this ancient Chinese art."

(The Chinese writing on the paintings means: made by Norma Bobinski.)