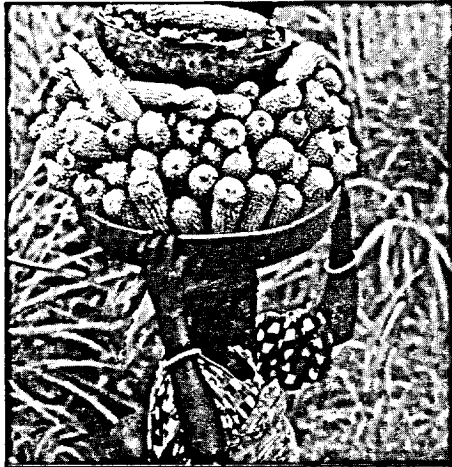


CANADIAN POSTS ABROAD

ABIDJAN, THE IVORY COAST, WEST AFRICA

In each issue, we will be highlighting a different post abroad, starting first with:



Abidjan,
The Ivory Coast, West Africa

Population: 1 200 000 in Abidjan; 7 000 000 in The Ivory Coast.

Climate: Hot and humid. Temperatures range from 22°C to 39°C with a relative humidity of 80-90 per cent.

The Country: Since its independence in 1960, The Ivory Coast has been a politically stable country. Houphouët-Boigny has been both the Head of State and the Prime Minister since that date.

The City: Considered by some to be the "little Paris of Africa", the city offers much in terms of excellent restaurants, outdoor markets and recreational facilities (including tennis courts, a golf course, riding stables and the only indoor skating rink in Africa). A short drive away is the ocean, where Canadians often rent beach huts and spend their weekends (the undertow however, is dangerous). The local food — fresh fish, avocados, pineapples, mangoes, papayas etc. — is plentiful, healthy, and moderately priced.

Imported food is obtainable but quite expensive.

The Embassy: There are 24 Canada-based employees and 27 locally engaged. The Canadian government owns or leases 17 homes and seven apartments in the downtown and residential areas. Each home has a night watchman who is paid for by the embassy. In addition, many families hire domestics to assist in the home.

Education: The only English language school is the American School which goes from nursery to grade 8. The local schools provide education resembling the French system, but of a more traditional, conservative nature. Collège Jean Mermoz is the French system school generally used.

Health: You must be a little cautious — receive numerous injections before going, take anti-malaria pills regularly while there and always boil and filter your water.

FSD'S AND OUR LIVES ABROAD

Packing, shipping, housing, education, medical care — all the expenses that occur while we are abroad are regulated by the Foreign Service Directives. Shouldn't we therefore, be familiar with them — or at least as familiar as possible? The task, granted, is an overwhelming one. The FSD book itself is over 200 pages with innumerable inserts. Another version, however, entitled *Foreign Service Employees' Handbook*, does manage to pull all the facts together into a concise, comprehensible format. As of this spring, it will be totally updated and will be sent to all the spouses whose addresses have already been received on the *Direct Communication With Spouses* form (The form is included in this bulletin).

To assist you further in understanding the FSD's, in this column each issue we will be noting some of the changes plus highlighting some of the key areas.

FSD's — The Latest Changes

Every three years the FSD's are reviewed. In fact they are currently under review once again in order to meet the April 1, 1985 revision requirements.

April 1984 Amendments

Posting Loan (FSD 10) As of April 1984, the maximum on this loan will be \$17 407 or one half of the employee's annual salary, whichever is less. Should you not take the full amount of the loan, you are entitled to top-up your loan but only to the maximum amount available when the original loan was granted.

Specified Incidental Expenses (FSD 15.31) (Expenses which occur during relocation) As of April 1984 the maximum amount that can be claimed will be \$2 088. These expenses include such items as: car rentals, shipment of domestic pets, cleaning of residence after removal of furniture, taking up or re-laying of wall-to-wall carpeting, alterations to draperies, legal fees on a lease for your home, professional appraisal of heirlooms and other valuables, plus many more. You must have receipts for all but \$200 of these expenses.

Foreign Service Premium (FSD 56) and the **Post Differential Allowance (FSD 58)** will also both increase by 7.61 per cent as of April 1, 1984.

Highlighting FSD's

Relocation (FSD 15) More flexibility has been given to allow you to make your own travel arrangements to your next place of duty. You are given an advance to cover transportation, ground transportation, accommodation and living expenses in temporary accommodation, then you may choose your own route there. (Be sure to check all the details carefully first, though.)

Insurance (FSD 15.23) The crown accepts no liability for loss or damage to: furs, jewellery, coin collections, sums of money in transit, personally created items such as paintings valued at more than \$100 or valuables such as art objects valued at more than \$300, unless they have been professionally evaluated. (Evaluation may be claimed under FSD 15.31.)

The above are brief summaries of the FSD's. Before claiming any expenses be sure to check with the official directives. (The 1982 directives are now ready and are about to be distributed.)