

POSTING SERVICES CENTRE UPDATE

The name of the Posting Briefing Centre has been changed to Posting Services Centre to reflect the Centre's additional responsibilities such as the spousal employment policy, counselling spouses with respect to employment prospects, development of a community coordinator program at posts, educational counselling and the publication of *Liaison*. The logo has also been changed to include the Community Liaison section, which in the logo is represented by a family with the maple leaf in the background. Any mail sent from the Centre will have the logo stamp so that it will be easily recognized.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SECTION

While the Foreign Language Section is still part of the centre, it has moved to the second floor of Tower D. With the expansion of the centre it was necessary to find additional office accommodation.

Foreign Language Classes. Starting in early October, group classes will be offered (two, 2-hour sessions per week), in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, Russian, Japanese, Arabic and other languages. Spouses and/or employees who are interested in taking these classes should contact Dealtry Bell (ADTB) after September 1, 1984.

A Foreign Language Glossary that provides a brief description of 40 languages for which the centre organizes courses has just been published. Anyone who is interested in obtaining a copy should contact the Centre by telephone or by writing. Most of the employees and spouses have finished their pre-posting training and are now en route or have arrived at the post. Good luck to all of you.



COMMUNITY LIAISON SECTION

Community Co-ordinators at Posts Abroad. The program is about to be implemented. Telexes will soon be sent to all posts, then a circular document will follow giving all the details. (See the article "Community Co-ordinators at Posts Abroad" in this issue for more details.)

Spousal Employment Policy. Things are proceeding as quickly as they can with the draft policy paper on spousal employment. It is presently at the Human Rights Commission for review and will then be redrafted to include input from there plus from other areas. (See the article "Spouses Working At Home and Abroad" for further details.)

Education Report. Questionnaires concerning the education facilities abroad were sent to all our posts in February 1984. The facts are coming in and are about to be computerized. It is expected that as of February 1985, employees and their families will be able to prepare for their next posting by having ADTB obtain from its computerized data bank the information they require. The education reports will also be updated as the facts are received and will be printed into a new revised format.

POSTING OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SECTION

Protocol brochure. A publication on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and Protocol is being prepared for the Posting Services Centre with the cooperation of the Office of Protocol. This is being done in response to a need expressed by employees and their spouses regarding the present rules and practices in diplomatic relations.

The privileges and immunities of diplomatic and consular representatives are governed by conventions signed in Vienna. The convention dealing with diplomatic relations was concluded on April 18, 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations came into force on March 19, 1967.

The brochure should be published by September and copies will be available for distribution by the Centre.

Workshops. From January to the end of July, 41 workshops were held at the Centre (26 during the day and 15 in the evening) to facilitate the adaptation of foreign service employees and their families into a foreign environment. A total of 244 people participated in these sessions, including 95 family members. Spouses were contracted as the resource persons or as participants in panel discussions for a number of these workshops. Two evening briefing sessions were held to provide employees and their families information on the services offered by the Centre.

Pre-posting Administrative Briefings. From January to the end of July, 16 one and a half day briefings were conducted by the Centre to cover the administrative aspects of relocations to a post. 389 employees and 80 spouses attended these briefings.

OUR FRONT COVER — Altigracia Church in Santo Domingo by Phyllis Ross

After 12 1/2 years in Latin America, Phyllis Ross has the most impressive collection of artwork depicting that area of the world, imaginable. (Finding a cover for our publication was a sheer delight.) From portraits as realistic as photographs; to vivid, abstract oils; to soft, subtle watercolors; each medium she uses results in effective, aesthetically appealing, yet totally different creations. Her work is so varied, it is difficult to believe that it has all been created by the same person.

A serious artist, Phyllis has been painting since she was a child and teaching art in Latin America and Canada since 1965.

During their last posting in Atlanta, Georgia, she went back to school full time to study Fine Arts, then completed her degree in 1982 at the University of Ottawa. She has had "Solo" shows in Santo Domingo (1969), Santiago (1974), Art Lending of Ottawa (1982) and most recently in Dow's Lake Pavilion in May 1984. After 32 years in the foreign service and with her husband, Andy, retired and their three children grown up, you'd think she would be slowing down a little. Quite the contrary. Instead, she is studying, teaching, painting, gardening, playing tennis and rushing off to art displays all over the country.

