

SPOUSES — WORKING ABROAD AND AT HOME

There is always work to be done. The problem is, there is not always work for which we can be paid. For those spouses who wish to work either abroad or at home, the fact remains that it is still a problem — but not an insurmountable one.

The Department of External Affairs is now receptive to the idea of working spouses. That was step number one. This was due directly to the McDougall Report, but indirectly (and of equal importance) to the efforts of the Working Spouses' Committee of the Foreign Service Community Association which, through meetings and publications, was instrumental in bringing about many changes. Two publications in particular, written by their members, *Employment Source Book* and *Employment Opportunities for Foreign Service Spouses* (prepared on contract for the Department) contain a wealth of information that should be shared. In this column we will endeavour to summarize some of this material, plus keep you informed of any new and pertinent information.

Abroad

Canada now has reciprocal employment agreements with 14 countries — The United States, Australia, New Zealand, The United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Barbados, Jamaica, Israel, India, Guyana, Peru, Indonesia and Columbia. In addition, there are four countries where a reciprocal agreement is not necessary — Ireland, The Ivory Coast, South Korea and Hong Kong.

This sounds impressive, but all it means is that a spouse is free to accept employment (if he or she can find it) in that country. By accepting work the spouse must give up his/her diplomatic immunity during the hours of work (including travelling to and from) plus must pay all contributions required of local employees — local taxes, social security benefits and others. Despite these drawbacks, obtaining these reciprocal agreements was an essential first step.

In Ottawa

There are some organizations that do hire spouses, usually on a contract basis. Dealing first with the Federal Government:

The Posting Briefing Centre offers contracts to spouses to teach foreign languages (not French and English), plus sometimes has other projects than can be contracted out. Phone 992-2221

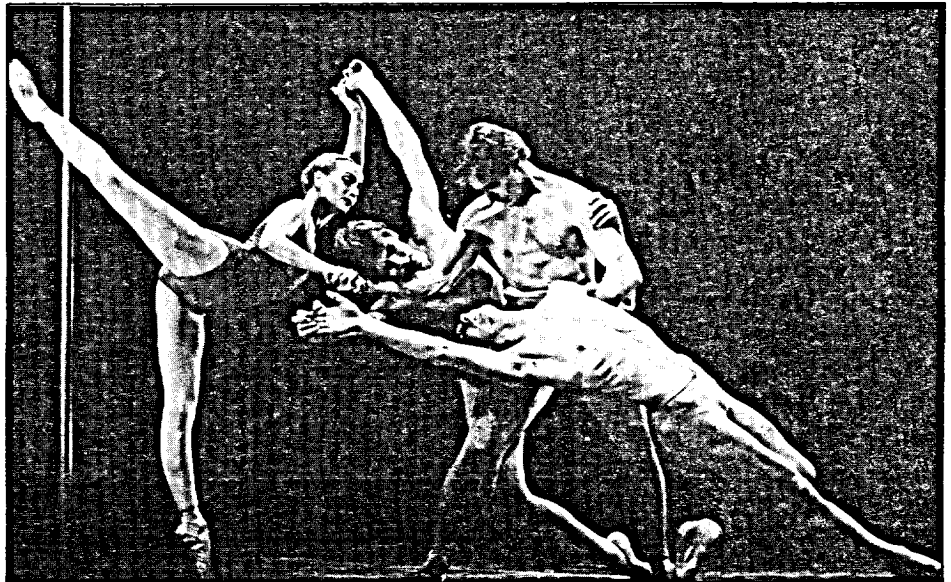
CIDA from time to time is looking for spouses who have just returned from third world countries and who can brief CIDA employees who will be going to that country. Phone 997-4091

Official Languages Division will employ spouses who are qualified ESL and FSL teachers to teach English or French to External Affairs personnel. Phone 992-9775.

Employment Profile

All spouses who participated in the Direct Communication With Spouses Program will soon be receiving an Employment Profile Questionnaire and a Training Needs Study. Your responses will enable the Department to be more attuned to your wishes regarding employment and consequently they will be able to be of greater assistance to you. For further information contact the Employment Consultation Officer at 992-2221.

CANADIAN GROUPS TOURING ABROAD



Les Grands Ballets canadiens

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS COULD BE COMING YOUR WAY

So could the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, a Robert Bateman art collection, the Danny Grossman Dance Theatre plus many more talented Canadians and/or their works.

The Cultural Affairs Division partially funds Canadian artists and their works to tour abroad. Between April and August 1984, there will be 19 different groups touring. The posts involved are kept informed of the upcoming events but for those of you posted near by or travelling in that area, listed here is a brief summary of some of the activities.

For more specific information contact the post involved or the Cultural Affairs Division (SCA) of External Affairs.

Touring from April to August, 1984

Les Grands Ballets canadiens — Bangkok, Beijing, Singapore, and Tokyo.

The Montreal Symphony Orchestra — Bonn, The Hague, London, Munich, Paris and Vienna.

Danny Grossman Dance Theatre — Bonn, Brussels, The Hague and Paris.

Nexus (percussion group) — Athens, Berne, Bonn, Brussels, Copenhagen, The Hague, Helsinki, London, Oslo, Rome and Vienna.

Robert Bateman art collection — The Hague, Lisbon, Madrid and Rome.

Yuri Mazurkevich (violin) — Delhi, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Paris.