

BOAS FESTAS, AMIGOS! (continued)

There are several things I shall always remember about that Christmas. Every time I opened the kitchen door, the maid was mopping up turkey fat from the tile floor. Neither her smiling face nor her wooden clogs seemed to mind the flood.

Soon it was time for the toasts. First "The King", then I asked a Brazilian friend to toast the President. Her face got as red as fire and she refused. However, she did toast her country and we all drank thankfully. The U.S. President was toasted and then we called out to the Swedish lad at a far-off table. Puzzled, he said, "The King? What king? Oh, the King!" and we could all sit down.

• Allegro non troppo

The full season of my time in Brazil was rounding to a close. My last

Christmas I spent with friends in the country.

To go to the country, one should go by train in Brazil, if you wish to see sleepy little towns and buy stalk after stalk of little bananas, the banana doro, tastiest of all, and packets of small cheeses to go with the heavy guava paste that makes one of the best desserts in the world.

My friends lived with a group of Finnish folk who had originally come over to grow eucalyptus trees for a drug firm.

Christmas Eve afternoon we found a large fir tree had arrived, freshly cut from a nearby wood. That evening we trimmed it.

This fresh tree from the country needed little decoration, so full was it of green branches and life.

Out in the kitchen we cleaned a duck by oil lamp and a cookbook, peering into the shadows until almost all the duck seemed to be outside his frame. Then we sat and talked of other Christmases, how it had been in Europe as a child or in Canada. And at midnight we yielded to a tradition other than our own and opened our presents.

Christmas Day we welcomed friends and enjoyed the duck. But it was hot and I wished for the refreshing cold of a Canadian Christmas. My spirit had turned to northward flight and I would soon follow ▢

7

CIRCULAR DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST TO EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

CHANCERY VISITORS' BOOKS

Admin. No. 48, 1986 (MIR)

The Department has been informed by the Public Archives that the Visitors' Books retained in the reception area of our missions which have previously been forwarded to Headquarters, as indicated in the instructions in the Manual of Communications, Volume 2, are no longer required by the Archives. They are of the opinion that these books have no historical or permanent value. Therefore, when these books have been com-

pleted, they should be destroyed. An amendment to the Manual will be issued shortly.

SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM

Headquarters Edition

No. 39, 1986

ABKE is trying to determine the employee interest in an individual or group smoking cessation program. A group program could involve a maximum of 20 people, possibly at mid-day, and

could last approximately one hour a week for six weeks, with one half hour of the employee's time and one half hour of the employer's time.

If you are interested, sent a memo to ABKE. This declaration will be used at this time solely for the purpose of determining the amount of employee interest in the programs. Management will make the result known and then make a specific offer to employees, which they can accept or not ▢