



From the Foreign Service Community Association

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2 (613) 993-5729

CHOICES

It seems to me that, though as members of the foreign service we are convinced that the power over changes in our lives is limited, we do have some important choices to make. Like all personal choices they require us to establish priorities and weigh the positive and negative effects of our actions.

Of course as spouses we may have to decide whether to accompany the employee on posting. The profound effect of this decision can't be overemphasized. In a time when it is becoming more and more clear that we really do become financially dependent (at our peril in case of separation or divorce), will the resulting physical separation become permanent? Perhaps more importantly, do we want it to? Is it possible to maintain a long-distance marriage? Or is the concern of contributing to an individual pension plan so we are not financially dependent in the future going to ensure permanent break-up now? If we take a leave of absence from the Public Service, will it

be worthwhile to return when we have to pay back both segments of the pension contributions for the time we were away? Maybe it's easier to just go on the posting without even considering these choices!

If we do decide to be posted there are considerations that affect us personally and those around us. If the employee has duties that include entertaining and being entertained, do we choose to take part? Is there an adequate amount of pleasure involved in the process for us to be able to contribute without feeling resentful; does the pride that results from performing the tasks well outweigh the time, and expertise, required? Indeed, are we even interested in acquiring the expertise that may not come naturally? Does it matter; do we care? In fact, for many of us, the reason we take part is an entirely selfish one: we enjoy it! For others, it is a symbol of commitment to our husband or wife, and really has nothing to do with the government of Canada or the foreign service. It is simply part of the give and take of our marriages, and a private decision that

enables us to meet new and interesting people no matter where we happen to live.

This is the time of year when many are making decisions that will affect their lives for the next few years, and in many cases coming to terms with the realities that will result. If you are one of them, we hope you have an understanding ear close by. Whatever your situation, consider joining the FSCA, an organization of people who are interested and who care ☐

Nancy Fraser

AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS POSTED ABROAD

On March 27, 1987, two diplomatic appointments were announced. They are, respectively:

Brazil: John P. Bell as Ambassador. Mr. Bell joined the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Industry and Commerce in 1962. He has served abroad in Stockholm, Accra, Abidjan, Paris, Sydney and, from 1976 to 1979, in Sao Paulo as Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner. Since 1984, Mr. Bell has been Ambassador to the Ivory Coast with concurrent accreditation to Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Turkey: T.B. Sheehan as Ambassador. Mr. Sheehan joined the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in 1958. He served abroad in Cologne, Stuttgart, The Hague, Athens, New Delhi, and London; and, from 1978 to 1982, as High Commissioner to Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize. Since 1983, he has been Director General Consular and Immigration Affairs ☐

FOREIGN SERVICE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

- Membership Application
- Fee: \$12.00 per year

Name of member:

Postal address:

Telephone No.: Home Office

Name of Spouse (if married):

Memberships are due in January of each year.

Tel.: (613) 993-5729