

# THE PRE-POSTING BRIEFING

The Pre-Posting Briefing is designed to familiarize employees and spouses with the various Foreign Service Directives that will affect their relationship with the employer as well as their personal lifestyles during the posting cycle. It also introduces the various services offered to employees and their families prior, during and after their postings. By attending the briefing, you will receive all the necessary information in order to prepare for a posting and therefore avoid misunderstandings, misconceptions and frustrations, which are the inevitable result of dated or faulty information. During the briefing, representatives from various headquarters' sections as well as from other government departments provide up-to-date, accurate and pertinent information and answer questions about all aspects of a foreign posting.

From March until the end of June, a two-day Pre-Posting Briefing will be held each week. The Pre-Posting Arrangements Coordinator in the Posting Services Centre will arrange a briefing date for each employee and spouse to attend. Experience has shown that families operate better together, but if it is not possible for both to attend at the same time, special arrange-

ments will be made in order that both may benefit from the service.

The two-day session covers the following subjects:

- An introduction and description of the Foreign Service Directives (FSDs) with special attention to FSD-15/Relocation: preparation of an inventory, weight limitations, shipment of a private motor vehicle, travel arrangements, stopovers, househunting trip, incidental relocation expenses, etc.
- An explanation of the directives concerning the Posting Loan (FSD-10), salary equalization (FSD-55), the foreign service premium (FSD-56), and the post differential allowance (FSD-58).
- A reminder of the importance of settling financial matters prior to leaving the country.
- A presentation from the medical officer in charge of the Overseas Clinic of Health and Welfare Canada on the role of Health and Welfare medical officers at posts and a brief review on how to stay healthy abroad.
- A briefing from a representative from Customs and Excise on duty-free exemptions, customs reporting requirements, federal controls on certain goods, personal exemptions, limitations and more.

— A briefing on diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities and the framework of international law within which it operates.

— A briefing on personal safety at posts abroad given by the Special Adviser on Threat Assessments of the Department.

— A meeting with the manager of the mail room of the department to clarify personal mailing privileges through P.O. Box 489 or 500.

— Advice on how to prepare electrical appliances for a foreign posting.

— A reminder of the importance of changing provincial hospital and medical insurance plans to the GSMIP Outside Canada Plan.

These are two extremely busy days that are intended to generate awareness about the conditions and implications of a foreign posting in order to help families prepare for life outside Canada.

For more information on the Pre-Posting Briefing please contact Maryse Leroux in ADTB at 992-2221.

## SPOUSES WORKING AT HOME AND ABROAD

### Spousal Employment Profiles

To date, 184 profiles have been received at the Centre and have now been put into the data bank. These will be used to identify the knowledge and skills of foreign service spouses in order to provide counselling and training programs that will be of assistance to them. If you have not filled in the Profile and wish to do so, please contact the Posting Services Centre.

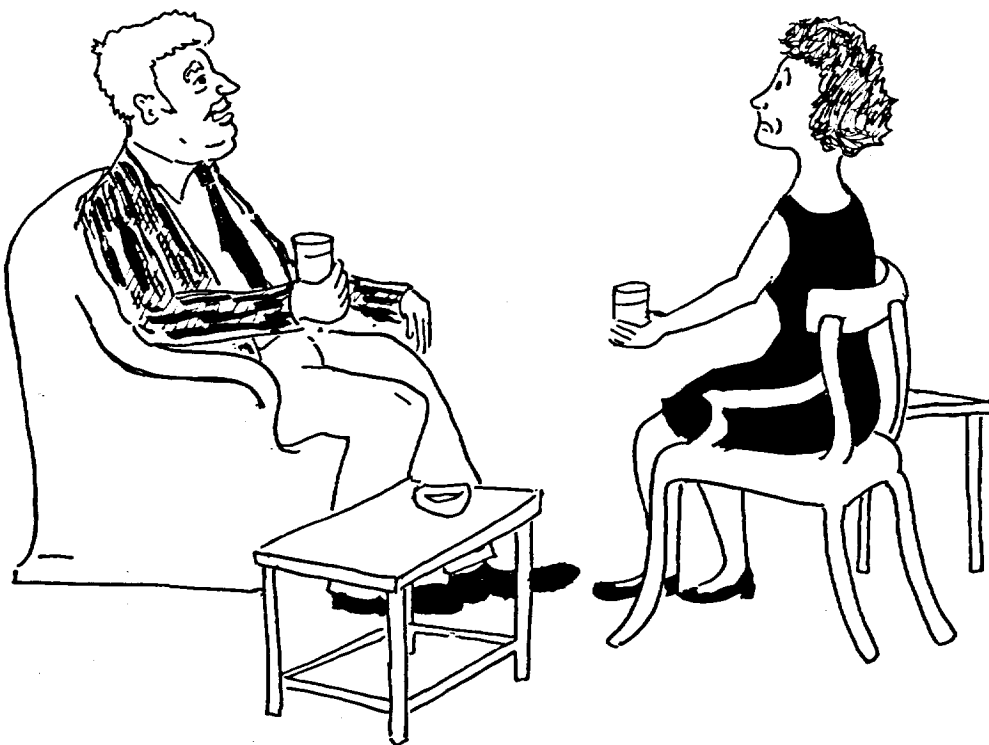
### Possibilities for Employment Abroad

In order to assist spouses in finding employment abroad, we need facts. Here at headquarters, we must have the names and addresses of present and potential employers abroad, plus a short description of the nature of the work involved, if we are to be of assistance to spouses prior to posting.

To compile these facts, all posts, with the exception of those in the United States, have been authorized to hire spouses of Canadian employees on contract, to conduct these surveys. As of February 1, 1985, 22 posts had indicated that they had already done so. Should you be interested in a project of this nature, please communicate with your post.

In *Liaison* number 4, October issue, we indicated that a reciprocal employment agreement was deemed to exist with South Korea. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. The Department is now in the process of trying to negotiate an agreement.

## Dip Doodles by Vic Lotto



*"...but dear, the office manager tells me we will save lots of money by painting the whole residence in battleship grey."*