

One European ambassador who was asked his opinion about the attendance of a woman Chargé advised strongly against her going. The Protocol Officer, however, said she should go — “perhaps I’ll just tell the Emir’s secretary”. The secretary replied: “Of course, she should come. But perhaps I’ll mention it to the Emir.” The result was that, of all the heads of post present, the Canadian Chargé was the one the Emir could most easily identify and he and Miss Loggie had a cordial conversation.

Marion Macpherson, the present Canadian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, is another officer whose career has followed a pattern typical of so many in the Department: work in Ottawa in eight or more divisions (one of which she headed), three postings abroad, and a slight pause for the Career Assignment Program — all before she reached Colombo. Included in her experience, as in that of Miss McDougall, was a posting to Vietnam, as an adviser to the International Commission for Supervision and Control.

Dorothy Armstrong has been Director of the Northwestern European Division since 1974. Her experience has included administering aid matters at the High Commission in New Delhi and serving as Permanent Delegate on the Development Assistance Committee when she was with the Canadian Mission to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris — all before joining the Canadian Embassy in Bonn in 1968 as Counsellor for economic and labour affairs. On her return to Ottawa in 1973, Miss Armstrong joined the Policy Analysis Group as Deputy Head, where there was an opportunity to study and put together into a comprehensive pattern long-range foreign-policy objectives for Canada.

Three women in the Department have received the Order of Canada: Elizabeth MacCallum, recipient of the Medal of Service in the first group in Centennial Year, who later became an Officer, for her achievements in various posts in the Canadian diplomatic service; Margaret Meagher, appointed an Officer in 1974 for her career in diplomacy and her contribution to international affairs; and Pauline Sabourin, who became a Member in 1974 in recognition of her service as private secretary to many Under-Secretaries of State for External Affairs. Miss Sabourin entered the Department in 1949 as a Stenographer 2 and is now an Administrative Services Officer. The Department is attracting more young women whose mother tongue is French and who are able to continue working in French with their bilingual colleagues at a number

of posts, as well as in certain headquarters sections in Ottawa.

The Canadian Medal of Bravery was awarded in 1973 to two members of the staff of the Canadian Embassy in Peking, Margaret Cornish and Ann Dale-Harris. While skating near a group of children in January of that year, the two young women helped to rescue four-year-old Wei Min-Tung when the boy’s toboggan broke through a patch of thin ice. In a letter to the two Canadians, his parents wrote: “Your action demonstrates your friendly feelings for the Chinese people and has deepened the friendship between the peoples of our two countries.” The headline to the *Chinese People’s Daily* story was “Canadian Aunts Save Me”.

The career pattern for the postwar entrants who joined as clerks and stenographers has been varied. To some, the nomadic life has so much appeal that Ottawa catches only fleeting glimpses of them between postings. One woman has just reached Singapore on her ninth posting. She enjoys working abroad, preferably at small posts where there is a little bit of everything to do. Now she knows that, wherever she goes, she will find friends in other capitals or will meet in Ottawa someone who has just arrived, introduced to her by a colleague at a Canadian post abroad. The network is world-wide.

According to a former Chargé d’affaires at the Canadian Embassy in Athens, the secretaries at any post abroad are its most important members. On the day of a *coup d’état* in 1967, he recalls, he woke up early to the sound of martial music and to smooth, reassuring voices proclaiming that the situation was in hand. When he tried to reach the Chancery later in the morning, he was stopped at the first road-block and was unable to proceed. Every male member of the staff had the same experience; none got through. But every secretary did. Each had talked her way through the tanks and the machine-guns and each was at her desk on time.

In the mid-1950s, a number of the postwar recruits, who had served both in Ottawa and abroad, were selected as External Affairs Officers — a blanket title for the heterogeneous collection of duties they were already performing. With the beginning of collective bargaining in the Public Service and the need for a recognizable classification, they, as well as their male colleagues, became Administrative Service Officers. During the last few years, those who were confirmed as rotational were transferred, in a “one-time” operation, to the Foreign Service category. Those who preferred to remain non-

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