

IT WAS A REFLECTIVE, EXHILARATING, INFORMATIVE DAY

What would you like to be doing five years from now? Where would you like to be? If you could have the ideal job, what would it be?

Thoughts like these often flit through our minds, but rarely are we asked to focus in on them. Dr. Nancy Adler, at **Conference 85**, which was organized by the FSCA (Foreign Service Community Association) on April 27, 1985, asked us to do just that. She threw scores of provocative questions at the 120 or more of us sitting in the audience and paused just long enough between each that we were forced to mentally start responding. It was a valuable exercise.

Exhilarating? Rotational life is a plus, not a minus. Travelling around the world gives us definite advantages, let's profit from them — such were the thoughts expressed throughout the day. Even in terms of employment for spouses, if the panel of four women plus the moderator are good examples, then it's because of their experience abroad (plus of course their ingenuity and resourcefulness) that they now have the satisfying jobs they have — two with CIDA, one as a special assistant to Flora MacDonald, one as the China desk officer at WUSC and one as the founder and executive director of IDEA, a non-profit organization which brings artists from third world countries to Canada. Questions and comments from the floor after also indicated that numerous others have parlayed their experience abroad into satisfying employment both at home and abroad. It was gratifying to see.

Informative? Should you invest in a RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan)? Should you pay off the mortgage first and then invest in an RRSP? Is a five year guaranteed investment certificate at 11 % a good investment? No. Yes. Yes — in that order but not as categorical as that, according to Monica Townson, a well known economist and the morning key note speaker at the conference. Plus other vital facts and tips concerning financial planning were passed on to us not only by Monica but by Peter Brauns, a personal financial planner and Joanne McManus a bank manager.

The information didn't stop at finances. Two key note speeches and seven workshops all addressed vital issues — education of children, care for aged and dependent relatives while abroad, stress and mobility and one's public image versus one's self image.

The only unfortunate part was not being able to attend all seven workshops at the same time. A wrap up at the end, however, pulled together the content from each.

One left the conference pondering new facts, future plans, the present situation plus, no doubt, feeling very positive about this advantageous life we lead.

Congratulations to the FSCA and all the people who worked so long and hard on Conference 85 — particularly to Mary McKinnon who had the vision, focused in on it and pursued it to its very successful end. May there be a Conference 86, 87, 88 and on.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CANADIAN WOMEN IN WARSAW

It was a major undertaking, but a great success. Because of it, the Saska Kupa Children's Hospital in Warsaw, Poland will soon have an essential new piece of equipment. Due to it and the efforts of the Canadian women in Warsaw, on April 22, 1985, over \$4 000 was raised towards the purchase of a special piece of bone drilling equipment — a 3M mini driver which is used to mend broken bones. But, what is IT, how did they do it and why?

It's interesting how such things get started. It might never have happened had it not been for the fact that Gigi Caldato, the son of one of our people in Warsaw, suffered a multiple fracture and was treated at the Saska Kupa Children's Hospital. The treatment was excellent and the child recovered perfectly, but the staff at the hospital had to handle the case without the use of this vital piece of equipment — the mini driver.

This, coupled with the fact that there was an energetic group of Canadian women in Warsaw, that four of them happened to be nurses, that they had already raised a certain amount of funds that they wished to put to good use and before long it all mushroomed into an enormous project — to hold a fashion show and auction of Canadian fashions complete with 200 designer clothes (including Alfred Sung, Marilyn Brooks, Leo Chevalier and Michel Robichaud), an opening scene in red and white reflecting the national colours of both Poland and Canada, a special display of modern medical wear, models representing fifteen countries and a wine and cheese reception — and all donated free of charge. That takes organization and effort.

The key organizer of the project was Tudi McLaine, the wife of our Ambassador to Poland, the Honorary Chairperson was Mrs. Jablonska, the wife of the President of Poland, but all the Canadian women in Warsaw deserve recognition for the vital roles they played. Plus, close to 30 companies donated their goods and services including Air Canada, Poland's Lot Airlines, Balderson Cheese, Canadian medical suppliers and many of the fashion designers.

Over 500 people attended the function and over \$4 000 was raised towards the purchase of the \$8 000 piece of equipment. It is hoped that with further support both in Poland and Canada, the machine will soon become a reality. Anyone wishing to add their support to this worthwhile objective should contact Mrs. Tudi McLaine, P.O. Box 500 (WSAW) Station A. Ottawa K1N 8T7.

Dip Doodles by Vic Lotto



It's time for a third world posting, dear.