



Foreign Born Spouses Committee of AAFSW-Active and Ready to Help

Approximately three years ago, the AAFSW in cooperation with the Family Liaison Office and the Overseas Briefing Center, worked together to organize a support network for the spouses of foreign affairs agencies' employees arriving in the Washington metropolitan area for the first time. The majority, but by no means all, of these spouses are foreign born. (Approximately one quarter of our members are American-born).

Our group has been set up to ease the process of adjustment to a new culture by such things as helping a newcomer recognize and deal with cultural differences and expectations, helping to locate and utilize the many resources available in the area, to answer practical questions about housing, schools, shopping and employment, and to generally ensure that YOU will have some friends who understand and are sympathetic because they know first-hand what it is like to be "home—but not really."

We now have 138 members in the Washington area, from over 35 countries plus the USA. Our monthly calendar includes educational, social, and cultural activities. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact one of the committee members listed below:

Chairman and Hospitality: Sheila Switzer
ph 644-0417

Co-Chairman and Membership: Hazel Kassebaum
ph 378-8593

Program Secretary: Elizabeth Kaplan
ph 966-2360

Publicity Secretary: Hadia Roberts
ph 244-9819

Editing Secretary: Gloria Nelson ph 820

By Hazel Kassebaum

FBS November Activities

Nov. 6/85 at 10:00 a.m.

Penne Laingen has invited us to her home on this date for a program on the role of the spouse in the Foreign Service. As we all know, Penne was the chairman of the committee who wrote the report, *The Role of the Spouse in the Foreign Service*. Please read the report beforehand (you can obtain a copy by contacting the Forum Chairman, Carol Sutherland), so that we can come with questions and have a lively discussion of some of the issues. We are fortunate indeed that Penne has not only agreed to talk with us but also invited us to her home for the occasion. Her house is located at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Quarters 15, which is located in SW Washington. Coffee and tea will be served.

Nov. 16/85 at 12:30 p.m.

We will hold a potluck social at the home of Cathy Roberts, 5128 Pumphrey Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032. Please call Hazel Kassebaum to coordinate your dishes. Guest speaker will be communications consultant Ann Utterback, Ph.D., author of *Improving Your Speaking Voice*.

The Foreign Born Spouse Committee invites all members of the AAFSW to attend these activities.

—"There are certain things which you can do and say which your husbands cannot."

Remarks of Mrs. W. Averell Harriman at the Annual Luncheon of the Association of American Foreign Service Women

The annual luncheon of AAFSW was held this year at Fort McNair Officer's Club on May 15. During this luncheon Mrs. Harriman awarded the Avis Bohlen Award to our current AAFSW President, Pamela Moffat. Mrs. Harriman in presenting this award to Pamela said, "Mrs. Moffat has brought a rare energy and initiative to a distant, uncoveted, and unglamorous post." She stated further that she had established this award because she believed that the efforts of Foreign Service women deserve to be singled out.

Recalling an incident which occurred during a World War II visit to the residence of the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, Mrs. Harriman stated that—

"After the morning cabinet meeting General DeGaulle came to lunch and Mrs. Churchill—Clemmie and I were told: 'The General has been very difficult during the cabinet meeting. Be careful what you say.' Things proceeded quietly for a while and I was talking with Winston when suddenly we heard raised voices at the other end of the table. Clemmie was obviously speaking angrily to the General. Winston looked down the table, and said hopefully: 'Mon General, it is because she speaks such good French.' Clemmie paused and then responded: 'No, Winston, that is not it at all. It is because there are certain things a woman can say to a man that a man cannot say. And I am saying them to you, General De Gaulle.'"

"That morning, the remnants of the French fleet had fired on the British Navy near Toulon. And Clemmie was only expressing aloud what Winston was thinking, but keeping to himself."

Concluding her remarks, Mrs. Harriman said that it is her hope that today our country and Foreign Service understands fully the importance of the Foreign Service woman. She stated, "Each of you, in your own way, has learned at times that there are certain things which you can do and say which your husbands cannot. And those things also make an indispensable contribution to the progress of American diplomacy."