

DONNA EDMONDSON

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Mrs. Edmonson accompanied her husband, Ambassador William B. Edmondson, on his assignments in the United States and abroad.

Background

Born in Nebraska
University of Nebraska
Profession; Teacher
Family
Engagement and marriage, 1961

Posts of Assignment

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	1953-1955
Life in capital of (then) Tanganyika	
Colonial atmosphere	
Local Americans	
Social life	
Julius Nyerere	
UN Trusteeship Council	
Demands for self-government	
UN Visiting Commission Report	
US policy	
Birth of children	
Berne, Switzerland	1955-1957
Northwestern University	1957-1958
Washington, DC	1958-1961
Accra, Ghana	1961-1964
President Kwame Nkrumah	
Anti-US demonstrations	
Relations	
Attempted coups	
Hospital volunteer work	
Lusaka, Zambia	1965-1969
Ambassador Robert Good	
Geography	

Environment
Housing
American International School
Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) independence
U.N. oil embargo
Teaching English
Climate
President Kenneth Kaunda
Ambassador Oliver Troxel

Washington, DC 1969-1974

Recording for the Blind
National Gallery of Art
Associates of American Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW)

Pretoria, South Africa 1974-1976

Apartheid segregation
Cape Town
Living conditions
Cape Town/Pretoria government transfers
Official entertaining
Ambassador John Hurd
Ambassador Bill Bowdler
Soweto riots

Washington, DC 1976-1978

Pretoria, South Africa 1978-1981

Ambassador William Edmondson
Afrikaners
Human Rights
Anti-Americanism
Zimbabwe
Namibia independence
“Group of Five” Ambassadors
“Arts in Embassy”
Visiting VIPs
Official entertaining
Racial mixture
Local press
Fourth of July picnic
South African women
Helen Suzman
Diminished apartheid
Niko Milan Theater
Local theater

The Blue Train
Scenic South Africa
Travels
Chief Buthelezi
“Independent” homelands
Charitable activities
The Black Sash organization
Townships (Homelands) visits
Wives of officials
Ben Bradlee, Sally Quinn visit
Political differences
Inter-racial gatherings
USIS programs
Embassy Residences

Washington, DC

1981-1986

Accompanying husband on Foreign Service Inspection trips