

BETSY LANE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background

- Daughter of missionaries
- Grew up in the Middle East
- Returning as an FSO wife

Middle East

- Not enough embassy support for families then compared to now
- Asked to teach English to Saudi princesses
- Children's schooling and household help
- Assignment to Aleppo, her place of birth
- Frustrations waiting for housing in hotel with small children
- Her special sensitivity to local issues having grown up there
- Posting to Rabat pleasant but too short
- Benghazi "challenging" but good schools, children happy

Revolution

- The young Qadhafi
- Curfew
- Only news on BBC
- Mob scenes

Daily Life After the Coup

- Representation
- Travel
- Good morale of small post sports
- Theatre group

Return to Washington

- Reentry difficult for children
- Becoming a suburban mom

Return Overseas

- Swaziland
- Pros and Cons of FS life for children
- Sudden appointment to Beirut for George
- Difficulties with housing and schooling
- Appointed Ambassador to Yemen
- Residence in Yemen
- Youngest child's serious problems adjusting to university in Washington – distance

Thoughts on FS

1972 Directive

Loved FS

Should be more support for spouses who want to play the traditional role

Interest in music and theatre a great asset at small posts

Future of the FS

Importance of flexibility