

# SUSANNE NEWBERRY

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### Early Years

Interest in FS as a teenager  
Joined USIS to return to Paris  
Lived in Greece, Paris before World War II  
Family friendship with Foy Kohler  
Assumed no woman could pass old 3-day FS exam  
Majored in government and minored in French at Smith  
Attended the Sorbonne, fantastic year  
Applied to FS and CIA for secretarial job  
Accepted USIS position  
Brushed up on protocol, had calling cards  
Cohn and Schine tactics during McCarthy Era  
McCarthyism's effect on office morale  
Resigns after two years in Paris  
Brush with Senate investigators led to resignation  
Wanted nothing more to do with U.S. government  
Directed Radio/TV Institute run by Barnard, NBC  
Became UNICEF secretary, tired of secretarial work and resigned  
Hired as reporter for *The Christian Science Monitor* at UN  
Met spouse at UN, marriage

### Vientiane, Laos

1959-1960

DCM's wife insisted SN be on women's club board  
Felt she was a failure giving programs with cultural emphasis  
Bridge  
Had baptism of fire re women's clubs  
Concentrated on relationship with new spouse, not making friends  
Pregnant, evacuated to Bangkok, without many friends

### Bangkok, Thailand

1960-1961

Felt alone  
Embassy wives envious  
Tribute to kindness of Frances Dixon  
"Adopted" also by Mrs. Johnson

### Tehran, Iran

1962-1964

Dragon couple in Teheran caused two junior officers to resign  
Disgusted and distressed by dragon lady's behavior  
Publicly reprimanded by her at reception  
Spouse curtailed Tehran assignment

Washington, DC	1964-1969
Children and housework occupied time, unaware of women's movement	
Church work, Junior League	
Carlisle, Pennsylvania	1969-1970
Regimented, over-structured year at U.S. Army War College	
Adana, Turkey	1970-1972
Had contact with military	
Admired military wives, relationship with other spouse at consulate	
Tangier, Morocco	1972
Transfer	
Found no reason for a Consulate General there	
Spouse recommended closing it	
Peculiar people	
Spouse requested transfer	
Dacca, Bangladesh	1972-1974
Arrived just after civil war	
Spouse was in charge, established Embassy	
Unhappy with abject poverty	
AID program kept country alive	
Spouse, children enjoyed post	
Good schooling, dedicated teachers	
No TV, children read during monsoons	
Arranged export to US of jute products made by Bengali women	
Unaware of 1972 Directive	
Organized interest groups for spouses	
Women preferred, and later organized, a women's club	
Did not ask Embassy wives for assistance	
Washington, DC	1974-1980
Heard about 1972 Directive in Washington while helping with the AAFSW Book fair	
Disappointment at no longer being a part of the FS	
"Where does this leave me?"	
Completed Civil Service form 171 and sought employment for a year	
Just as she found a job, there was a hiring freeze	
Got involved in local community, Montgomery County school Board, zoning	
Course in American culture, protocol at FSI	
Need remains for protocol, to avoid hurt feelings, trouble	
Ankara, Turkey	1980-1981
Transfer, children remain behind	
Dismayed by air pollution, shortages, no children	
Neglected by Embassy spouses	

Volunteering for fashion show was good entrée to Turkish friends  
Value of volunteering as community entrée

Istanbul, Turkey

1981-1985

Istanbul was very large Consulate, like being Ambassador's spouse, responsibility-wise  
CLO took care of Embassy staff problems

In U.S. mission, narrator had no role as spouse of Consul General

Became CLO for wives of American businessmen and American women married to  
Turks

Called upon them for assistance with representational events

Consulate wives preferred to work at Consulate, didn't attend Turkish-American  
Association events

Seemed to need jobs for their identities

Consulate spouses would have resented any attempt to organize them

Established Friends of the American Research Institute in Turkey

Very few Consulate spouses attended

The Friends got these women out into the community

"Ran a hotel" for teenagers and visiting friends

Istanbul a satisfying experience, knew everyone in town

Only relations with Consulate staff were disappointing

Had to defend lack of courtesy of Consulate staff members to Turks, other diplomats

1972 Directive, women's movement

Patience Spiers talk on Eagleburger proposal

Administrative nightmare, women staff and Tandem couples objected

Spouses were divided, also opposed to Foreign Service Associate Proposal

Spouse compensation

Discussion

Valuable courses taken at FSI

Job possibilities for spouses

Resentment of FSNs when positions at post are filled by wives