

# ALICE PICKERING

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mrs. Pickering was a Foreign Service Officer (USIS) in the Hague, Netherlands when she resigned to marry Thomas R. Pickering. He subsequently joined the State Department Foreign Service, and Mrs. Pickering accompanied him on his assignments in the United States and abroad.

### Background

Born and raised in Pennsylvania  
Swarthmore College; Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Catholic University  
Entered the Foreign Service (USIS) in 1954  
Degree in Library Science

The Hague, the Netherlands: USIA Officer 1954-1955  
Marriage to Thomas Pickering

Resignation from the Foreign Service 1955  
Reasons for resignation  
Possibility of reinstatement as FSO

Accompanying husband 1955-1959

Washington, DC: Spouse of INR Officer 1959-1962

Geneva, Switzerland: Spouse of Political Officer 1962-1964  
Life as spouse with children  
Consideration given by senior wives

Washington, DC: Spouse of Foreign Service Officer 1964-1965  
Study of Library Science

Zanzibar: Spouse of Consul 1965-1967  
Anti-American sentiment  
Feeling of isolation  
Foreign community  
Children's education

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Spouse of Deputy Chief of Mission: 1967-1969

Washington, DC: Spouse of Deputy Office Director 1969-1973  
Study of Library Science

Amman, Jordan: Spouse of Ambassador 1974-1978

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate Housing</li> <li>Kissinger and VIP visitors</li> <li>American Women's Clubs</li> <li>Staff and dependents morale issues</li> <li>Community Liaison Office (CLO)</li> <li>Archaeology</li> <li>Regional travel (auto) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arabian Peninsula</li> <li>Zanzibar</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1978-1981
Washington, DC Spouse of Assistant Secretary of State Professional Librarian, Fairfax County	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lagos, Nigeria: Spouse of Ambassador <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel to Sahara</li> <li>Preparations and equipment</li> <li>Travel group</li> <li>Post-travel "Road Show"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1981-1983
San Salvador, El Salvador	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security</li> <li>Death threats</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Residence becomes VIP "hotel"</li> <li>Mental Health program</li> <li>Embassy (officers) protocol memorandum</li> <li>Embassy workload</li> <li>Elections</li> <li>Officer morale</li> <li>Security</li> <li>American Women's Club</li> <li>Schooling</li> <li>Regional travel</li> </ul>	1983-1985
Tel Aviv, Israel: Spouse of Ambassador	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavy entertaining</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Demands on wives at post</li> <li>Learning labor negotiations</li> <li>Lack of Embassy "togetherness"</li> <li>Community Liaison Officer (CLO) position</li> <li>Archaeological sites</li> <li>Travel to Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephoning Washington</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1985-1989
New York City, New York: Spouse of US Ambassador to UN	

Notice of assignment  
Lack of compensation normally supplied abroad 1989-  
Housing costs  
Representation responsibilities  
New York City environment  
Living at the Waldorf  
Volunteering  
Satisfaction from work and responsibilities

#### General Comments

Provisions of 1972 directive  
Lack of involvement by current dependent wives  
Congressional visitors “handling”  
Representation responsibilities of officers and wives  
Lack of pre-post instruction for spouses and FS personnel  
Payment to spouses for services at mission  
Danger and terrorism threats abroad  
Effect of instant international communication (TV, etc)  
Importance of counseling and training of new wives in FS  
Volunteer work  
Reporting as taxable “gifts”, free travel with husband  
Classification as “non-employees”  
Reforming the 1972 Directive  
Family Liaison Office (FLO) operations  
    Role of spouses abroad  
    Household allowance discrimination  
    Spouse employment initiatives  
Canadian proposal for spouse compensation  
Foreign Service Associates (FSA) proposal  
Lack of staff response to official invitations

Which was our “best” post?  
How to enjoy all your posts