

AMBASSADOR ROZANNE L. RIDGWAY

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Background

- Childhood in Saint Paul, Minn.
- Hamline University
- Foreign Service exams in junior year

Department of State

- A-100 course
- International Educational Exchange Service

Manila

- Personnel Officer

Palermo

- Italian language training
- Visa officer

Department of State

- European Bureau – NATO office
- Excellent training ground for young officers
- NATO visitors
- NATO Parliament Conference
- Excellence of Foreign Service colleagues

Oslo

- Political officer, science officer
- Norwegian Labor politicians
- Norwegian language lessons
- Comments on superiority of Ambassador Margaret Tibbetts
- Loneliness of post for singles

Department of State

- Ecuadorian desk officer
- Seriousness of fisheries problems
- Exposure to congressmen, union leaders, other domestic interests
- Long hours and work week
- Deputy director ARA policy office

Nassau as DCM

- Excellent ambassador (Ronald Spiers)
- Shift of embassy ties solely with whites to black community
- New ambassador with markedly different approach

Role of DCM

Department of State

- Senior Seminar for short time
- Ambassador for Oceans and Fisheries
- Imposition of 200 mile fishing zone
- Governing International Fishing Agreement (GIFA)
- Numerous fishing agreements
- Poor relationship with new assistant secretary Patsy Mink
- Soviet violation of 200 mile zone

Ambassadors to Finland

- Swearing-in ceremony
- Pres. Carter's shortcomings in symbols of support for ambassadors
- Crowds on arrival at airport
- Impact on self of being an ambassador
- Presentation of credentials, emotions

Helsinki- staff matters

- Selection of deputy chief mission
- Collegial –type country team meetings
- Challenges of management
- Division of representational funds

Helsinki – outside contacts

- NATO colleagues
- Iron curtain diplomats
- Promotion of American business
- Links with Finnish professionals

Helsinki –policy

- Major policy speech prior to departure

Department of State as counselor

- Undefined position
- Varied ad hoc activities
- Change of administration

Department of State as special assistant to secretary

- Establishment of role for self in unstructured position
- Scallop agreement with Canada
- Return of Czech gold

Ambassador to German Democratic Republic

- Change of administration
- Marriage
- Meeting with Pres. Reagan

Reception at airport
Experiences with DCMs

East Berlin –relations with government
Change in policy approach
Moderate successes
Asylum seekers
Limited contacts with East Germans

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Impact on staff of proximity of West Berlin
Visit of regional psychiatrist
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Limited official entertainment
Household duties at residence
Fragmented American community
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