

# DONNA HERSEY SANDIN

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### Department of Agriculture

- First woman Assistant Agricultural Attaché appointed to Europe (1960)
- Dept. of Agriculture interested in publicity for woman's appointment
- Featured in *Mademoiselle* magazine
- Only one incident of discrimination during first tour in The Hague
- Older, sexist FSN considered DS a threat
- Dept. of Agriculture told her not to type because of secretarial stigma

### Protocol

- Diplomatic image
- Told to call on Embassy wives
- Second boss tried unsuccessfully to block her assignment to Caracas
- Numerous Dept. of Agriculture contacts in Venezuela were women
- Ambassador gave her permission to work after marriage
- Skirted regulations by hiring her locally
- Tribute to efficiency of Dutch FSNs

### Representation

- Unable to work in Brazil, no Agriculture office in Bahia
- Trouble with woman officer who "didn't like the way DS entertained"
- With new baby, DS felt caught between Consul's wife and woman officer
- Lacked self-confidence
- Should have let difficult woman know she had left Agriculture as a GS-13

### Spouse Issues

- In Arlington, found a writing job to do at home
- Spouse very supportive
- 1972 Directive
- Would prefer to have a role to play
- U.S. women in Brazil
- Spouses benefit from employment in the mission
- Daughter benefited from youth summer employment program

### Roles Overseas

- Managing commissary in Montevideo
- Chance encounter on beach in Montevideo led to translating job and new career
- Not granted work permit in Sao Paulo
- Paid cash by member of law firm where she worked as translator
- Works at Dept. of State as part-time qualified translator
- Spouse is support system for DS during week, works at USIS weekends
- Traditional spouse role in Bahia

Importance of welcoming new families, offices to post  
Ambassador's dinner invitation  
Receiving line in Montevideo  
In The Hague, told she could not date FSN in Budget & Fiscal Office because he was not  
from the correct social class  
Boss in Caracas introduced her to future husband, hoping to "get rid of her"

#### General Discussion

*Blueprint for Memory*

Memory hints and tips

Children enjoyed FS

American fashions vs. styles in other countries

1950's

Member of Eisenhower generation