

## JUDY SMITH

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Being spouse of AEP is climax of many FS careers, for narrator is new adventure  
FS was “shared decision” with spouse after Peace Corps  
Committed to working in developing countries  
All assignments have been hardship posts; AEP to Guinea seems appropriate  
Looks forward to the challenge

Being FS spouse was difficult at first post  
    involved soul searching, identity crisis and depression  
After twenty years of maturing, working out role  
    hopes to return to West Africa with different outlook  
Will not have to ask  
    “What am I?  
    Who am I?  
    What role do I serve other than entertaining and being entertained?”

Grew up in self sufficient family where work ethic was to do everything yourself  
Felt worthwhile and useful in Peace Corps  
Did not feel she had useful role as FS spouse  
Resented the household help, but Senegalese needed employment

Realized need for creating role of her own, other than “just being hostess”  
Became depressed in Dakar  
Spouse supportive, offered to resign  
It (depression) was “a very private thing, didn’t talk about it to anyone”

Lack of language skills, sophisticated French culture, role of FS spouse all contributed to depression  
Detailed discussion about creating American atmosphere for US children abroad

Children had eight years in Washington, DC, have roots here  
Discussion of boarding school difficulties

Depressed again on arrival in Monrovia after lengthy stay in US  
Felt worthless, like an outsider; psychiatrist at post was helpful  
Important for narrator to keep busy when she is abroad, i.e., teaching, investigating the culture, getting to know the people

As spouse of AEP, plans to teach part-time; enjoyed teaching at the university in Khartoum  
Initiated monthly lecture series for foreigners on Sudanese culture

Served as Community Liaison Office in Botswana

Enjoyed trying to introduce Americans to Botswana community, and organizing activities for American community

Enjoyed being paid at CLO; felt like a professional

Asked if she wanted to teach on a volunteer basis in Conakry; responded emphatically "No"

Unfortunately, in our society our worth is measured in financial terms

Sees no evidence that State is moving toward payment of spouses

Feels that she is the last of an old breed; entering the FS ten or fifteen years later, she would probably have opted to be a Tandem Couple

Spouse who continues to be community organizer and hostess should be paid to make her role professional

Spouses with varying careers, different expectations present a dilemma to FS

Bombing in Khartoum; spouse had bodyguard, also bodyguards at residence

Later a coup in Khartoum; no telephone communication, but a radio network

Demonstrations because of lack of bread, transportation; things were tense

Most frightening experience, when Landrover was stoned; intended to get out of car, explain who she was; companion urged her to "Gun it!"

Also had a flood, ferried people across the Nile to the university in her Landrover

Difficult to be in a country where people are suffering