

PATIENCE SPIERS

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Wye meetings purpose: to create better management, especially for spouses
Other names were proposed for FS Associate, narrator found them demeaning
(Dependent Spouse, etc.)

FS Associate selected by narrator; FSA concept not shaped at Wye

Lack of funding responsible for lack of progress on spouse issues
Congressman Smith has traditional spouse, sees no need for funding spouse recognition
Compliments Brandon Grove on FSI attitude toward spouses
Unrealistic to expect Congress to fund spouse volunteer activities abroad
Possibility exists to develop process for spouse compensation

Non-career appointees unaware of needs of Service
Some meet needs criteria, are not recognized by Congress
Need for supplement in FS family income
When a form asked for "Occupation", narrator makes a statement: writes None or Unemployed

All four children born in Washington area
London first post, David Bruce was Ambassador, Evangeline Bruce a model
EB sent mission spouses formal written invitations to monthly coffees
Formal reply expected, spouses expected to attend, wore hats and gloves
PS never saw this pattern repeated in FS
These were cultural gatherings: playwrights, artists, musicians would speak

Mrs. Bruce's clothes, elegant but few; she wore fashionable things repeatedly
PS emulated her
PS's spouse became first Ambassador to Nassau; time of Kissinger Directive
PS had cultural coffees, but without Mrs. Bruce's formality, post-1972
Invited wives of Bahamian Cabinet Ministers and Embassy wives to coffee
Spouse of Administrative Officer refused to attend; told PS she felt harassed
In future, PS invited only the officer who was required to attend, spouse welcome
PS felt she was viewed as potential dragon lady