

SUE WHITMAN

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1972 Directive

DoS Personnel knew nothing about draft of Directive
AID Personnel called to ask how DoS had approved it
Mary Olmstead, Jean Joyce challenged by Personnel
SW reviewed draft with them to soften language
MO moved to Per immediately afterward

1976

Carol Laise asks SW to join task force for Per. Changes
SW caught between CL and Research Committee on Spouses
Not permitted to show her draft on concerns to Committee
Drafted concerns for CL, received Hope Meyers' approval
CL not initially sympathetic to spouses, but was trying to get a handle on spouse issues
OBC, FLO
Per not involved in spouse issues before or after 72 Directive
"Dropped whole thing" as not being their responsibility
Per tried to brush off divorced spouse compensation
Wives taken by surprise by efforts on their behalf by WAO
Some were comfortable with "two for the price of one"

1972 Directive

Per obtained draft, AID very critical
Copy came from Wm. Macomber's office
JJ, MO annoyed because draft had Macomber's approval
Per knew nothing about pre-Directive activities, took no interest
SW questions how men got involved
Rick Williamson tape, "wives inability to do it themselves"

Karachi, Pakistan

1955-1958

Hardship post, nothing to recommend it
New country
Great FS experience for many
No provision made for education
Leadership not from spouse of AEP
School initiated by Harvard group, AID
David Bell, AID, Bureau of Budget
Informal interview done with each spouse arriving at post
Majority of women involved with the school, refugee camps
Dried milk mixed in washing machines
Miserable conditions in refugee camps
Other wives involved with Pakistani women in crafts

Other wives made over the museum using local fabrics
American women always worked with Pakistanis
School had problems, was limited to Americans
Great involvement of part of women at post
Friendships life long, made through work
40 years later, group still meets annually
Post morale, leadership came from “off-center”
DCM’s wife involved with influential minority group
Wives at school either recruited new arrivals or directed them to other projects
Nothing to do, nowhere to go, but is still favorite post for many
Attitudes then vs. attitudes now

General Discussion

FS offers extraordinary opportunities
Fails to understand, cites spouse today who felt imposed upon
Cites spouse who chose to work at Savings & Loan in Bethesda rather than be spouse of
CIA Chief in Iran
Need to make spouses “part of the picture”
Narrator’s neighbor chose not to go to Yemen, remained here to work
During visit to Yemen, cites inertia on part of spouses re unsatisfactory school
Attitude was that Ambassador should take care of school
Small spouse compensation will not solve problem
In long career, SW’s favorite job was principal of Karachi school
Found education theory useless
Stipend \$100 per month
“Crockett Rockets”
Pamphlet re retirement, volunteering, aging
Involvement
Mother involved in leadership in Chicago
Did not want SW to marry, volunteer