

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Program

WILLIAM R. BREW

*Interviewed by: Charles Stuart Kennedy
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INTERVIEW

Q: Today is the 22nd of September, 2011, an interview with William Brew, B-R-E-W. Do you have a middle initial?

BREW: "R" for Robert.

Q: "R," okay. And I'm Charles Stuart Kennedy and we're doing this on behalf of the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training.

Okay, let me start kind of at the beginning. When and where were you born?

BREW: I was born in 1941, in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Q: Okay. And you go by Bill, I assume?

BREW: That's right.

Q: Alright. Well let's start kind of at the beginning. In the first place, what do you know about, let's do the Brew family; what do you know about your family?

BREW: Well actually I've been looking into that a little bit. I had a great-grandfather named George Brew from County Mayo who settled in New England, actually in Hoosick Falls, New York, about 1873, 1875. The other side of my family, my mother's family, were from Poland, actually up in the Belarusia, Lithuania/Poland corner; her last name was Markowitz. They came in 1906 and 1907.

Q: Okay. Well let's talk about your father's side first.

BREW: Alright.

Q: Were they brewers or is that where the name came from?

BREW: The name apparently has been Brew for a long time, for many generations. It's not that uncommon, particularly on the Isle of Mann but we're not from there; we're from

the northern area of Ireland. And they probably came over when the king of England was conquering Ireland in about 1600. They lived in Northern Ireland and County Mayo and County Clare, right now in Ireland. They were laborers, farmers; when my great-grandfather came here he worked in an iron foundry, basically, that attracted a lot of Irishmen at the time to that particular area near Troy, New York, and then later to Westfield, which had a big foundry and they made boilers.

Q: Westfield is where?

BREW: About ten miles west of Springfield, about twenty five to thirty miles north of Hartford, near the Connecticut border.

Q: On the Connecticut River.

BREW: Well, the Connecticut River runs through Springfield, the Westfield River runs into the Connecticut River and it's right there; it's eight or ten miles.

Q: Well then, how about further generations of your family; what were they up to?

BREW: You mean closer?

Q: Yes.

BREW: My grandfather was a boilermaker in a boiler factory, H.B. Smith Company in Westfield. That's what brought him to Westfield, basically, was that kind of work, about—— it was around 1910 that they moved there. My father was born in 1912. He wanted to be a lawyer, went to law school for six months after graduating from high school but that was in 1930 and funds were very tight so he——

Q: Middle of the Depression.

BREW: Middle of the Depression. And after a while he actually ran a trap line catching little animals and selling them for fur. In the 1940s he owned a gas station right in the middle of town and he ran it until we moved to Florida in 1948.

Q: Okay. While you were—— You had about seven years in Westfield?

BREW: I was seven or eight years old when we left.

Q: What do you recall—— what was Westfield like for a kid?

BREW: Oh it was great. I could ride my bike to school, ride my bike down the hill in front of the school and sometimes crack it up at the bottom of the hill. Go downtown, walk anywhere I wanted; it was all pretty close. I could walk down to my father's station at seven years old, six years old, believe it or not, and people would stop and give you a ride. The town was 18,000 people but——

Q: What was the composition? Was it an Irish town, was it an Italian town or mixed or what?

BREW: Certainly mixed. The leadership basically was old English, maybe German, Congregationalists. There was a significant Irish Catholic and Polish Catholic or Eastern European Catholic group in town. We fit into the Irish and the Polish groups. There were no, as we say 'African Americans,' or essentially none at the time but it was very possible that you talked to someone on the street and they wouldn't speak English or wouldn't speak it very well because there were a lot of Eastern European immigrants, many Jewish, many Catholic, Eastern European Catholic, a few Eastern Europeans who were non-Catholic.

Q: Where did your mother fit in in all this, her family?

BREW: Well they were Polish, as I said, from—— My grandfather came here first in 1906 and he was from a little town called Grajewo in northeastern Poland. My grandmother had been born in—— it's actually Lithuania right now in a town called [inaudible] but she was living in the Russian side and they were both —— and their immigration papers listed as Russia/Polish so they were under Russian control but of Polish ethnicity. As I say they came around 1906. My grandfather worked as a laborer in various factories around town.

Q: As a kid what was the language spoken in the house?

BREW: English in mine.

Q: Did you pick up any Polish or not?

BREW: A few words, a few phrases. Nothing really seemed—— Sometimes they said funny things in Polish accidentally.

Q: How about religion? I assume—— It sounds like you came from a Catholic——

BREW: Actually my Polish grandparents were National Catholic, which is aligned with the Anglicans but my grandmother and grandfather, they'd go to any Catholic Church was okay with them. It just—— that was where they were. And my father's father was Episcopalian, although his wife was Roman Catholic and that tracked through.

Q: I was wondering how, in your family, how important was religion?

BREW: For my father not particularly although I mean he went to church sometimes but for my mother it was much more important. And for her mother it was much more important.

Q: And where did they fall politically?

BREW: Democrats, basically or on the relatively liberal side. My father was a member of the labor union when he worked— where he worked in California as was my mother. When they were alive we didn't have quite the same distinction between Eastern Europe— Eastern Republicans and the Rockefeller-type under Western Republicans and the successors to Reagan and what we see now with the Tea Party.

Q: You were about, what, seven or eight, I guess, when you moved. Where did you move to?

BREW: To Tampa, Florida.

Q: Tampa, Florida.

BREW: Very near Tampa.

Q: That must have been quite a change, wasn't it?

BREW: It was quite a change. We drove all the way with a car full of suitcases and some miscellaneous things like blankets and towels and stuff, and a '37 Packard it was.

Q: What caused the move?

BREW: My mother was told that she had a heart condition that wouldn't survive another winter in Massachusetts. So I'm not sure that that was actually an accurate diagnosis. She lived to be almost 91.

Q: No, but in those days people were moved; if you had a lung problem you were off to Arizona.

BREW: Correct.

Q: You know, I mean people were moving all over the place.

BREW: But it was quite a my father, when he found this out packed up, went to Tampa; found a way— a little business that he thought he could start. Got it going on, came back and picked up the family and we all went late one October.

Q: Okay, you're in Tampa. What was your father doing there?

BREW: Initially he started out having a small business, just individual business with a partner; he had a bunch of gumball machines, 300 or 400 of those he had in different stores all around the middle of Florida, and he also sold a variety of cleaning products to stores, garages, whatever. That didn't work. He ended up later on working in a factory, canning plant, for a food company.

Q: For those that will be reading this later who might not be familiar with a gumball machine, if you'll explain what a—

BREW: Gumball machines are penny machines; you put a penny in and you get a piece of gum, a round ball of gum out of it. Sometimes you'd get a little teeny plastic prize along with the gumball. So you don't— At the time you got a penny; there were no quarter or fifty-cent machines.

Q: Oh no.

BREW: This is back in the late '40s.

Q: Well, you'd been going to school in Massachusetts. How did you mesh with school; how did you find school?

BREW: In Florida?

Q: No, in Massachusetts first.

BREW: I liked to go to school as a kid. I enjoyed it, did well. I was in the fourth grade when we moved.

Q: How did you find— Was there a difference between the schools?

BREW: Quality of schools, quality of education?

Q: Yes.

BREW: Yes, quite a bit. Massachusetts was much more intense and frankly it was six months or a year ahead on the same program.

Q: How did you find you fit in? Were you given a rough time by the kids?

BREW: Nope. There wasn't any trouble fitting in. I had any number of good friends. You know, at the fourth grade level; I haven't seen them since the fourth or fifth grade, frankly, but it was there was nothing— no problem being a Yankee if that's what you're getting at. No, that was not a problem.

Q: What was Tampa like from a kid's point of view when you got there?

BREW: Well we lived in, actually in Sulphur Springs, which is right on the very edge of Tampa. And you could carry a BB gun; you could wander around in the fields, go down to the river and look at snakes in the river. The roads were not necessarily paved; they were, what's it called, stone, gravel, compressed, maybe oiled. This was during the time of segregation in 1948. We had— there were a number of years to go. You would see— did see, I saw fountains and restrooms and grocery stores that were marked

“colored” or “negro” and “white” and there was a difference in cleanliness and difference in quality, very definitely. There was nothing equal— You know, for a seven- or eight-year-old it was kind of a shock, frankly. I didn’t know what to put if anything. I didn’t think of saying anything about it except to my parents; I said my gosh, it’s different.

Q: I take it the school was segregated.

BREW: Oh yes, absolutely. Well the whole community was segregated. There was a colored area, as it was called at the time although sometimes worse terms. And white areas. And it would have been very difficult for those who lived in the black area to just get in there and it would have been just as difficult for a black to move into the white area.

Q: How about, though, playing? Was there a mixing in playing or not?

BREW: No, none. None, because you played with your neighbor friends.

Q: Yes.

BREW: And there was no integration of housing at the time whatsoever.

Q: What were your activities as a kid in Tampa?

BREW: As a fourth and fifth grader, sixth grader, finishing each day’s class work as early as possible and getting outside and running around with a BB gun or a bow and arrow that we made out of sticks or things of that sort. I belonged to the Cub Scouts.

Q: Well then did you do well in school there?

BREW: I did fine, very well.

Q: How about, were you much of a reader during the time and also back in Massachusetts?

BREW: Yes, I used to read quite a bit but it wasn’t an all encompassing, all consuming activity. Frankly when we moved later on, we spent some time in Wisconsin, and that was harder to make friends in. I was a little older. I read quite a bit there.

Q: Well then you left Tampa; how old were you then?

BREW: It was 1948 so I would have been about seven.

Q: And where’d you go?

BREW: We lived in Tampa for three years, although for two of those years, two summers, the company that my father worked for sent us to work in Wisconsin or Indiana, so we spent three months each year living there in Peru, Indiana, and basically Columbus, Wisconsin.

Q: What sort of work?

BREW: He worked for a food processing company, Stokely-Van Camp, and started out just right on the operations line just doing things and ended up as a—— in Florida as sort of a crew chief for one shift a day sort of thing. And when that was out of season we'd go to—— we'd follow the crop in a sense; go to Wisconsin where he ran some of the major equipment or supervising some of the equipment there in the canning process. But it was factory work; he was a factory hand. We moved from there to California.

Q: Well in Wisconsin and Indiana, how did you find life there?

BREW: We were only there for such a brief time that I didn't really know anyone in particular, although we lived in Wisconsin, we lived in Verona, in the middle of farmland. I mean, there was a farm a mile down the road and another—— a general store a mile down the road and we lived in some housing that the company owned at the time, so my sister and I were very close at that point. That was the end of the fourth grade and the end of the fifth grade.

Q: Well then you eventually moved to California, is that it?

BREW: Yes.

Q: How old were you then?

BREW: Seventh grade. What would that be? Eleven, twelve; about eleven, twelve years old.

Q: Where in California?

BREW: Actually the first place we moved to was Newport Beach, which is quite different now than it was then.

Q: Oh yes. Well as a kid, my mother rented a house on Balboa Island for——

BREW: A week or two in the summer?

Q: Huh?

BREW: The summer?

Q: The summer, yes.

BREW: We lived in Balboa, on the peninsula, for—— I was in the seventh through the eleventh grade; seventh through, yes, seventh through eleventh grades.

Q: Did you become a surfer or——?

BREW: No, never surfed. My sister used to actually ride a surfboard down at the—— it was called The Trestle where Richard Nixon's home is or near where President Nixon's home is. And I didn't learn to sail a boat either. I was working much of the time.

Q: What were you doing?

BREW: I had two jobs. For a couple of years I worked in the Newport Harbor Library on the peninsula in Balboa, putting books away, getting books, checking them out, doing miscellaneous things; whatever a high school kid does who's working for the city maintaining a library.

Q: I must have used that library. I was younger then but I wasn't—— I was born in '28 so there's an age difference but I sort of vaguely recall——

BREW: It's a very nice low one-story building on a peninsula.

Q: Yes. We'd take the ferry across.

BREW: You could take the ferry across and you could walk six blocks to the library.

Q: Yes.

BREW: Well you will remember the other place then that I did work, and that was at the Balboa Fun Zone, running a merry-go-round and a Ferris wheel.

Q: I don't think it was even going when I was there.

BREW: Really? That could be. That's what paid my way, a third of my way through college.

Q: Well okay, so how did you find moving from Florida to California? A difference in schools?

BREW: I had actually moved ahead a little bit in the sixth grade at the school in Tampa, managed to finish the regular work during the—— a couple of months early and the teacher gave me additional work. I fit right in perfectly well in seventh grade in California, and the schools were roughly equivalent.

Q: Well then were you looking—— what were you looking at before you got to—— Where'd you go to high school?

BREW: California, Newport Beach.

Q: How was that?

BREW: Great fun. It was good academically, a fine high school. I liked everybody there. Did well academically.

Q: Did you ever get intrigued by boats or not?

BREW: A little bit. Not terribly but a little bit. It's too old for me, I think, to learn how to seriously sail or anything of that sort right now.

Q: Yes. I used to watch them go. I mean I'd sit on the beach and watch the people with money and their boats.

BREW: In Newport Harbor?

Q: Yes. And that island there.

BREW: The harbor runs around the island and it's—— they have regattas; it's called the Beer Can Regatta every Friday or they did while I was there, from 2:00 to 5:00 every Friday you could hear the bells ringing and the cheering and the boats would come sailing up and down.

Q: Well then, in high school, what were your favorite subjects?

BREW: The sciences mostly; chemistry, physics, maybe math, I don't know. I also really enjoyed history and civics and that sort of thing. I wasn't deeply into the humanities exactly but certainly into social studies.

Q: Was the high school pointing you towards university or not?

BREW: Oh, very much. Sixty, seventy percent of the student body went on to college, university one way or another and it was pretty much expected that you would.

Q: Where'd you go?

BREW: Harvey Mudd College. Ever hear of it?

Q: Where?

BREW: Harvey Mudd College.

Q: Oh yes, yes. Sort of an odd name but a well known school.

BREW: Yes.

Q: Where is it located?

BREW: It's in Claremont, California.

Q: Is it one of those complexes?

BREW: It's one of those, I guess it's six now, Claremont colleges because there's five undergraduate and one graduate school. It was founded specifically to have a school that dealt with the physical sciences. It's expanded now to be more engineering and information technology.

Q: Well Pomona, I think, was——

BREW: Pomona's a big one.

Q: ——was the big one; this one has more liberal arts?

BREW: It's a broad spectrum but yes, liberal arts is what I would call it primarily. It has very good sciences, science programs, very good English, history, whatever. Well there's Scripps for women and Pitzer for women; at the time it was called Claremont Men's College. It's now Claremont-McKenna College. It was strictly for men at the time when I went there, now it's co-educational, I believe.

Q: Well were you taking, I mean, going to Harvey Mudd, were you pointed towards the science side of things?

BREW: Well it's—— the degree usually is a bachelor of science. Its majors are in the sciences or engineering or math. You can't major in English there or anything else but it does require that forty percent of your work, school work, be in the social sciences and the humanities, which is what attracted me there. This was the time of Sputnik and all when I started there and everybody was pushed to go into the sciences or engineering. I was happy to do so, enjoyed it, liked it but also liked the social sciences.

Q: You were at Harvey Mudd from when to when?

BREW: My fiftieth reunion this coming year so I graduated in '62, class of '62, so I was there from '58 to '62, the second full entering class. It was a brand new school at the time.

Q: Well what was social life like at Harvey Mudd?

BREW: I'm not sure we should comment on that [laughs]. Sandra, my wife, is here. Scripps College was across the street, the girls' school; Pomona College was four, five blocks down the street, all sorts of people there. It was active. We lived in a dorm that

was all men from—— oh well, actually for part of one year it wasn't, it was co-ed. So you got a lot of rough necking in the hall—— she would say rough necking in the hallways, water balloons into the trucks driving by, that kind of stuff.

Q: Later—— You missed the '60s generation and all that.

BREW: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: What——

BREW: I was in law school. I graduated the year before the students took over the school, the university at the time.

Q: Yes, it was an interesting period in California.

BREW: Well we weren't in California then, no.

Q: No. What areas were you dealing with mainly in the field of studies at Harvey?

BREW: I majored in chemistry at Harvey Mudd and really more interested in the organic than the inorganic physical but everyone did the same program in chemistry. You had—— there were no choices, essentially no choices; I'll take this portion or that portion. You did—— I mean, there were only seven or eight people who graduated with a chemistry degree in my class and I think the total number graduating was thirty-six or thirty-eight. That's out of seventy-one who started; we lost over fifty percent.

Q: Were there any industries in the neighborhood that were feeding off the graduates?

BREW: There were very few graduates who went on to work for industrial industries or businesses nearby. Most went on, actually, to do a PhD. There's a very high percentage of PhDs among graduates in the school. And the others were—— who wanted to go to work were able to do so pretty much anywhere they wanted in the United States. It was recognized as a very good school.

Q: Yes, I was going to say, did you—— at the time you were there it was a brand new school but were you feeling you were getting a first class education?

BREW: Absolutely, absolutely. I was also active in the little theater, student theater, but it was—— you were getting a very first class education in the sciences and it was accredited within a year of its—— of being first class, which is quite rare. Half of my time the last three years was spent in the theater, which was out of Scripps College.

Q: What sort of plays were you involved in?

BREW: What sort of plays? Well I worked backstage more than anything else and we did plays like "Glass Menagerie" or some one acts that were student written, a variety of

things. We built one huge set one time for Shakespeare; we did Shakespeare. For a couple of years we did Shakespeare in the summer right there on the campus and that was quite a bit of— there were four plays a year.

Q: Did sort of foreign affairs intrude on you at all or was this far away?

BREW: Not really. There wasn't that much. I guess Vietnam was sort of beginning to trickle around a little bit at that point. I mean, Kennedy was elected my last year there so it was really just at a very low level and even when I worked at a plant nearby, well I was one of the few who did for one year. There was a question about the draft but it wasn't difficult to not be drafted at that point if you were working in an industry that had some relationship to the war, the small war that was going on.

Q: Well did the 1960 election with Kennedy and Nixon attract you? I mean, did you get involved?

BREW: Oh yes. Actually the last night before, I think it was the last night of the campaign, Nixon flew back into Ontario Airport, which is quite near where he lived, a bunch of us went out to see him back when he landed. It was kind of fun and interesting. What do you do when you're twenty years old and can't vote yet? But it was interesting and the student body was largely Republican, I will say that, so you didn't get too actively involved in discussions.

Q: Well then, you graduated in '52, is that it?

BREW: I graduated from high school in '58 and from Harvey Mudd in '62.

Q: Sixty-two.

BREW: Right.

Q: And then what?

BREW: Well actually I worked as a chemist for a year at a place called Aerojet-General Corporation. They'd been very active in assisting the Air Force with military equipment. They invented the JATO bottle which jets could take off on.

Q: Which is, yes, it's sort of a—

BREW: Boom, a big boom, push that got the plane going 100 miles an hour.

Q: Yes.

BREW: The founder invented the JATO bottle. But I worked for a year on solid rocket propellant. Government contract, but didn't last longer than it did. I mean, it lasted for a

few years but it began to get a little soft after awhile and discovered they just weren't applying the standards of purity. I spent a year doing that and then went off to law school.

Q: Why law?

BREW: My roommate in college had gone to law school and convinced me that it was— didn't take much convincing but urged me to go and that it would provide range for all sorts of things. It was a nice, good profession and you could do anything you wanted and I was interested in international law, beginning to be a little bit at that time, and decided to go and was admitted at Columbia, so I went there eventually.

Q: Columbia's quite a ways from Harvey Mudd.

BREW: It's a long way, yes, and one of the reasons is that my wife, Sandra, was working and going to school there so I decided to move back east for that.

Q: Your wife is sitting here.

BREW: Yes.

Q: Where did you meet?

MRS. BREW: In college. He was president of the drama club when my friends tricked me into auditioning for a play and that—

Q: So you passed the audition?

BREW: I guess I did.

MRS. BREW: In fact I got the lead, yes.

BREW: She got the lead, yes.

MRS. BREW: And he worked backstage and so forth and we went out in groups after shows so stuff like that.

Q: So then you're off to Columbia?

BREW: Yes.

Q: You were at Columbia from when to when?

BREW: I started in '63 and graduated in '66. Three years.

Q: What type of law were you studying?

BREW: Oh, anything and everything but a little bit more international than normal—— than usual but most people at Columbia are interested in securities law; defense, criminal law, it's pretty good at that too.

Q: Well, had you been following foreign events much in college?

BREW: A little bit but I became much more interested in law school when I was given a 1-A draft status one year. I'd just started a year of school and I managed to write and get them to change it to a student deferment at the time, which they should have given me anyway to begin with.

But that was—— when I was in law school was when Kennedy was killed, when the intensity of the war in Vietnam went up dramatically at that time and a lot of people were being drafted.

Q: Well Columbia was one of the centers of the Students for Democratic Society.

BREW: Yes. I wasn't involved, wasn't even aware of that, frankly. And it wasn't until '67, the year after I graduated, that the SDS or whatever the groups were, I don't think it was SDS necessarily, took over the campus including the main administration building, climbed all over a statue called the Alma Mater and made things difficult for all the professors. There were a few in the law school who were doing the same thing.

Q: Well did you—— I mean your era really wasn't feeling the protest movement.

BREW: No, we were feeling it but I mean I was going to school full-time.

MRS. BREW: And working.

BREW: And working in the library, married. It wasn't something that I was actively involved—— would be actively involved in and I—— Actually, after I joined the Foreign Service right out of law school I ended up at a place where I was called on to publicly defend the war in Vietnam and I still think there was some logic to it. I'm not sure that it was quite such a horrible thing as many people do think it was. It's also very important that you're not—— I find that you not raise this issue with a lot of people right now because they're still virulently opposed and it can be a very nasty experience right now.

Q: Well how did you hear about the Foreign Service?

BREW: Studying international law, from one of the courses that I took my first year and then during that year thought it might be very interesting to take the exam. Well how do you get a job in the Foreign Service or the diplomatic service? I wrote and they sent me back an application to be a courier. I wrote back saying no, I didn't really—— I wasn't really interested in being a courier; what about just working for the State Department as a regular employee. So they sent me back all the information on the exam and I took the

exam, passed the written and passed the oral. The oral was given in downtown Manhattan; there were three guys up on the dais and I was on a chair down below.

Q: Do you recall any of the questions asked you?

BREW: I recall one very, very well. What has recently happened in—— well, it was the capitol of Rhodesia was what the man was asking about but he had such a very, very heavy southern accent that it was—— it came to me as it were the Austrian city where there had just been musical programs and I kept—— I said something about musical——

Q: Salisbury.

BREW: Salisbury. It came out as ‘Salzburrah.’ Finally I asked them, the inquisitors, do you mean Salisbury, Rhodesia? And they said yes. So I went on to talk about Ian Smith for a couple of minutes.

Q: UDI (Unilateral Declaration of Independence), I guess.

BREW: UDI, exactly, the Unilateral Declaration of Independence. This was all happening while I was in law school. You could see the demonstrations going on around here and there, it’s on television.

Q: How did law appeal to you?

BREW: Well I did, actually did practice it for four years but it was interesting but it seemed awfully office-bound, in a way. I didn’t want to be a trial lawyer, I wasn’t interested in that, so other than that it seemed to me like it was going to be a lot of contracts sort of thing. When I graduated, having passed the bar exam and spent three years before in the service, I still was wondering what it was like so I did go back and practice for four years, out of the Foreign Service.

Q: Well let’s speak——

BREW: That came much later.

Q: You—— In the Foreign Service—— When you took the exam did they ask you where you wanted to serve or what you wanted to be doing or——?

BREW: I don’t recall anything specifically about that. The written exam had been separated into sort of different portions for people who wanted—— for admin or for political or for public affairs, that sort of thing, so they had an idea already what I would have been interested in.

Q: What did you say?

BREW: I said political.

Q: Well then, when you got—— you passed this exam——

BREW: My first year of law school, it was the end of my first year of law school, I passed it.

Q: And when did you plan to come into the Foreign Service on graduation or——?

BREW: I wasn't sure, no, I wasn't sure at all that I'd finish law school. I thought, I mean, it was—— I wasn't that enthralled with it, frankly. So after one semester I'd done very poorly. That was the first semester I did quite fairly well after that for five semesters, but I was thinking of doing something else and leaving law school at the end of the year. I didn't, but I took the Foreign Service exam as one of a couple of different options. I actually went out and looked around and looked at a couple of different jobs at the time to being a patent, oh kind of liaison person with——

Q: Did you ever run across Tom Hayden, who was the head of the protestors——?

BREW: No.

MRS. BREW: Jane Fonda's husband?

BREW: Yes, I lived in California for awhile but we weren't into that.

Q: Yes he later married Jane Fonda but I think he was—— started at Columbia. But you didn't know him as a student?

BREW: No. I was into law school. It was a very calm, quiet place. We were also studying five hours a night. I was fortunate. I had a part-time job working in a library at a hospital and I was working twenty hours a week, of which I could study sixteen. So that kept me studied-up for—— during law school for the last few years. You know, so it got the bills paid.

Q: Were you exempt from the military?

BREW: No. No. Not at any time.

Q: Did you feel it breathing down the back of your neck?

BREW: Yes. The last two years of law school, absolutely. I felt the draft breathing down the back of my neck; I'm not sure that I would call it the military.

Q: Well then——

BREW: When I graduated from law school you couldn't get a job as a lawyer unless you had already done your military duty or what they called——

Q: Medical—

BREW: No, no. Well, if you had a medical exemption— if you had an exemption of some sort, you were in the reserves—

MRS. BREW: People were able to get into the JAG (Judge Advocate General) Corps.

BREW: Very few got into JAG, that was one. There were a couple in my class, right at the very top, who went to JAG or to DOD (Department of Defense) General Counsel, that sort of thing.

Q: JAG is Judge Advocate General Corps—

BREW: General Corps.

Q: Well now, so you graduated from law school in 1960?

BREW: 1966.

Q: Sixty-six.

BREW: Joined the Foreign Service a few months later, four months later, something like that.

Q: When you came in, how did you— what were they offering you?

BREW: You mean in terms of pay grade or?

Q: I mean, no, meaning assignments—

BREW: They made no promises whatsoever. Had a lot of people— a few at that time were going to Vietnam already, but it wasn't a major thing at the time through the Foreign Service.

Q: It really picked up later on.

BREW: One class after mine.

Q: And the CORDS program.

BREW: Yes, exactly.

Q: Well how did you find your introductory course, the basic course?

BREW: What was it; it was six weeks, I think, the A-100 course it was called; six weeks and then three weeks—— it was eight weeks and then a consular course for three weeks. It was kind of scattershot but it covered quite a bit, one way or another. Yes, I would say scattershot. You would assume that you would do that and then something else—— It wasn't contiguous topics that you could work through. It didn't have a week on regulations or whatever or three days on regulations, you may have a day or two and then another day or two a few days later on something else. You had a day of writing an air gram. Whoever's heard of an air gram these days?

Q: No.

BREW: But it was well worth doing.

Q: How big was your A-100 course?

BREW: It was about fifty, sixty. It was a good size.

Q: The male/female ratio; how was that?

BREW: Appreciably more male than female, two to one, three to one, something like that. That's what I vaguely remember. It wasn't, frankly it wasn't at the top of my mind, at the forefront of my mind at the time.

Q: Well how about minorities and all that?

BREW: There was one fellow who was Hispanic, maybe two. That was really about it. I don't recall anybody Black, no African American. There were actually half a dozen to a dozen women in the fifty, although two or three were in what was called staff corps then.

Q: Well then, where did they assign you?

BREW: My first assignment was to go back to New York, to the U.S. Mission to the UN. And I told them they interviewed us, they gave us an hour each, where would you like to go and what the options were privately and then we were told one day at the end of the course where you were going and I was USUN, which was fine with me, except that it's very hard to function there without a housing allowance of any sort. In fact, it was extremely hard.

And they announced I was going back—— they said in the political or economic section, I'm not sure which, but it was—— frankly the the assignment people here weren't sure what was going to happen and I ended up writing, rewriting cables for two or three months and then working in the political section for a couple of years, twenty months, and as the Special Assistant to the Permanent Representative for about eight months.

Q: Okay, you were there from when to when now?

BREW: Late '66 until '69. Was it '69 we went to Germany? I think so. It was either '68 or '69 that we moved down—— I'll say two and a half years.

MRS. BREW: It was '69. Benjamin was born in '68.

BREW: Sixty-nine, yes.

Q: What were you—— Were you sort of a staff assistant or what?

BREW: Well that was at the end. I was in—— had a regular job in the political section for two years or eighteen months, I guess. Worked on decolonization, the Committee of Twenty-Four, the Fourth Committee a little bit.

Q: Translate these.

BREW: The Committee of 24 was the committee that dealt—— special committee, twenty-four countries—— that dealt with countries which were still not independent, in various statuses. We also dealt with the trust territories, of which the United States had a couple, and they then reported to the Fourth Committee. The General Assembly has actually seven committees of the whole; Fourth Committee deals with trusteeship, colonial affairs, this sort of thing, and that was the—— worked on that committee as the—— reported to that. We also worked on the Fourth Committee although my job during the regular assembly was Control Officer for the General Assembly in plenary. That's when the votes are taken, the speeches are given.

Q: How'd the UN strike you?

BREW: I enjoyed it. I thought it was great. It was a very lively time. It wasn't old and stodgy. You were working on things that were of some significance. At the time when I was there we had the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia to deal with, the Six Day War in the Middle East, which was all-consuming for months. There were other things that everybody got pulled into to work on and the permanent representative and these five other ambassadors were all very good about making sure everybody on the staff had a—— played a role, had something to do.

Q: What was a permanent representative?

BREW: There were three while I was there. First it was Arthur Goldberg, Mr. Justice Goldberg, and then second was George Ball, number four. Third was—— Ball had been Under Secretary when there was no Deputy Secretary. The next was a man named Russ Wiggins, who I suspect most people are not familiar with but he was the managing editor, basically, of "*The Washington Post*" before he took the job of being Perm Rep for Lyndon Johnson. And he moved from "*The Post*" to be the Permanent Representative for about five months, and recently died, unfortunately. And then the last was Charles Yost, who was assigned—— given the job by Richard Nixon under some supposedly unusual circumstances. Nixon had promised to name a Democrat to his cabinet; someone

suggested that Ambassador Yost, who was the current ambassador, was also a Democrat so he could assign him to be Perm Rep and that happened. That may be a spurious speech or story but at least a——

Q: This is a period, of course, that we were very suspicious of the Soviets, weren't we?

BREW: Very.

Q: Did you have any run-ins with them or anything to do with them?

BREW: No, not really. They did serve on the Committee of Twenty-Four, which I worked on. But frankly the individual who worked there was, I thought, was a regular Foreign Service officer for the Russians, for the Soviet Union, and actually was there to deal with the United Nations and wasn't there to make trouble for us.

Q: How about the Indians? I mean, the Indians always seem to be somewhat at odds with us or something.

BREW: They do seem to be that, yes. And questions were raised at various times, why do we speak the same language but mean such different things with the same words. And there was a question of why—— how many times have we voted the same way, the Indians with us or us with the Indians. And somebody did check it out and it was frankly very rare, other than purely procedural issues everybody has voted the same way. When I was there we were at odds with the Russians but the Russian ambassador, perm rep, was able to talk to Justice Goldberg and Justice Goldberg was able to talk to him. I think. So it wasn't a particularly obnoxious time to be there.

Q: How'd you manage to survive rent-wise and all that?

BREW: Someone else paid the rent, my wife. At the time we were assigned, the day we were given this assignment, that night where there was some sort of a gathering at which the Assistant Secretary for Administration, who was also the Director General, attended and we spoke for a few minutes and he asked where I was going and he said "Are there any problems with that?" And I said "Well, yes, there's one and that's the cost of living, the cost of rent, the fact that we don't get anything and we've given up our apartment to come down here for the A-100 course." And he said "Well, give it a try." I said "My wife is going to go back to work; she's planning to do that." He said "Give that a try, see how it worked and then if it didn't work to call him." Well we never called him back but it was tight; it was incredibly tight and it was at that time that one woman, a young JO (junior officer) complained vociferously and they started a year or two later to provide some kind of housing allowance for people who might have need to be called to work on short notice.

MRS. BREW: You actually were shocked at going overseas and hearing that it was forbidden for wives to work.

BREW: Yes, yes. Wives had to get permission at the time to work overseas and many countries forbade spouses to work overseas, yet it was expected that they work here, in a way. So very different from the current Foreign Service, I suspect.

Q: Who was your immediate supervisor?

BREW: In New York?

Q: Yes.

BREW: The first one was John Baker, who was a Soviet expert, a political counselor. Then Don Toussaint became political counselor. But that was within the political section. Within there actually a man named Dick Johnson——

MRS. BREW: Who died recently.

BREW: Who did die recently, yes. Richard E. Johnson.

Q: I interviewed her father I guess it was——

MRS BREW:: Her uncle was George Kennan.

Q: I interviewed her father, I guess it was, wasn't it?

BREW: Really? Could be, could be. She's still alive, I believe.

MRS. BREW: Yes, she still is.

BREW: Working on the Trusteeship Council with Eugenie Anderson, Ambassador Anderson, who was a political—— Democratic political figure from Minnesota.

Q: Was our relationship with Israel as all consuming as it's become?

BREW: No. It was very important, it was important, but it was not so, so, so seemingly controlling in many ways or certainly in the Middle Eastern view as it is now.

Q: I imagine that being involved when the General Assembly meets used up an awful lot of—— the efforts of your staff, didn't it? I mean these plenary sessions.

BREW: That was more responsibility, getting people to come to them. And if they didn't go I went; I was there anyway. The responsibility was to get someone who could vote and that's really limited to the six top people in our delegation plus the six political appointees that we have every year who run the delegation. There are 12 people. Having one of those there just in case we needed to vote. And I—— we could get someone to fill in for an hour or two here and there on their own issues if they had—— depending on who's coming up on the agenda in the plenary. Otherwise in the committees they——

people responsible, they sat there through the long droning discussions many times in the actual working committees. But the plenary I was able to get people to come for an hour or two at different times. It just took a lot of planning every day, really.

Q: Were there many demonstrations?

BREW: There was one demonstration about something. It was about—— I'd been there about two years, I served two and a half there; they came upstairs—— a couple of them came to see the man with whom I shared an office, Ernest, Ernie Grigg, and it had something to do with African or colonial affairs, South Africa, and—— I believe—— and they asked—— they stopped in for an hour and then asked well how can we get attention within the government? And Ernie and I looked at each other; you know, I don't know whether you—— if you've got to sit down outside or something and the next day they were doing it.

I've never acknowledged that before.

Q: Well the——

BREW: But that was about South Africa, I believe, which was, at the time, a significant UN-related issue.

Q: Oh yes.

As you looked at this, did any particular areas of the world attract you where you wanted to go serve?

BREW: Yes, the Middle East. Good God, it was my major interest. Well I had followed the '67 war to a certain extent and I mean wasn't the most active. In fact, I was among the least active on the delegation but I was still very interested. And I got to know a couple of the Israelis around and a number of the Palestinians who were around at the UN and I thought it would be fun to be there and I was offered the job of going to Israel later on. It was three or four years later; in fact, that's many years later as an econ counselor and it's a good job there so I took it, enjoyed it.

Q: So what job was this?

BREW: It was as economic counselor in Israel, '79 to '89. When did we go there? No, we went there——

MRS. BREW: Eighty-two——

BREW: We went there in '83 to '87, we were there.

Q: But—— Okay, you got out of the UN assignment when?

BREW: After two and a half years; it was in late '68, '69, I think.

MRS. BREW: Yes, I guess so. Ben was born in July '68 while you were at the UN.

BREW: Yes. So it would have been in——

MRS. BREW: And you went there for so many——

BREW: No, we went to Germany.

MRS. BREW: Oh, we went to Germany.

BREW: I went to Germany for a couple of years——

MRS. BREW: To Hamburg.

BREW: To Hamburg and then practiced law.

MRS. BREW: Yes.

Q: You went to Germany from when to when?

BREW: Seventy-nine to eighty——

MRS. BREW: No, not '79; it was '69 to '71.

BREW: Sixty-nine; '69 to '71.

MRS. BREW: Right.

BREW: Seventy-one to '75 I practiced law; '75, '76 we came back, late '75. I was reappointed to the Foreign Service.

Q: What were you doing in Germany?

BREW: Well, I was a consular officer in Hamburg for the first eight months, or nine months.

MRS. BREW: TDY, yes.

BREW: Yes, I was basically a TDY. I was assigned to be a junior officer in Bonn and then they asked me if we'd got to Hamburg to fill in for someone who was going to have to leave for an extended period home. And the person didn't eventually leave and we stayed there for eight or nine months but I worked in both the visa and the citizen services sections and then came back to Bonn and was assistant science attaché for about fourteen months there.

Q: What type of a—— Well who was consul general in Hamburg?

MRS. BREW: Johnpoll..

BREW: Yes, that's it, Alex Johnpoll. Did you know him?

Q: I knew Johnpoll because he was Political Counselor in Belgrade with George Kennan when I was Chief of the Consular Section.

BREW: Could well be.

Q: In Belgrade.

BREW: Yes. Yes, he was Chief of the Consular—— he was the Consul General and P.E. Mullin was the—— actually the Chief Consul, real Consular services of all sorts. Well, you have Peters Mullin.

Q: What was consular work like in Hamburg?

BREW: Pretty quiet. Germans didn't really—— I mean, it was before the visa waiver but most Germans were not going to go and become wards of the state in the United States so we were looking for criminals, that sort of thing but that was a pretty thin group of people to be looking for.

MRS. BREW: Tell him about your rubber stamp.

BREW: Oh yes. Well there was my—— I had my—— Became Consul while I was there rather than Vice Consul so we had to get a whole new set of rubber stamps for under the visas in the passport, German passports. And I eventually got a letter back from a lawyer in Chicago suggesting that—— he thought that a lot of things had gone to hell in a handbasket but he wasn't—— didn't get—— hadn't yet realized that the United States were actually the Untied States of America. They transposed the "I" and the "T" and I used that rubber stamp for six months.

Q: Actually it's a spelling the same way made a number of times, I found out.

MRS. BREW: Yes.

Q: It's a trap.

BREW: But there were an awful lot of third country nationals coming through; an awful lot, four or five a day something like that.

Q: How about seamen and shipping? Did you have much of a problem with them?

BREW: No. Not really, not right there. There were a few big seamen's passbook—— visas that you had to sign every now and then and so we had to check out the names but that took a little time because the computer system that we were using depended upon punched green tape and it took thirty minutes to an hour to get a response from Washington that everything was okay, said so and so it was a slow process. And Citizen Services was really making sure that the checks got sent out on time and got to the right addresses. There were a couple people who had emotional or psychiatric breakdowns at the time, during the time I was there. They eventually got their parents or grandparents, whatever, to come and take care of them but that required a bit of attention.

Q: Were you feeling much of a residue from World War II there, a Nazi past or results of the great fire bombing raids?

BREW: Every time you went to the snack bar, which was in the basement, you wondered what the [inaudible] had done in the basement of that building, which had been his headquarters. Or the two buildings that we had were joined together and the one room was perfectly sealed—— behind a steel plate that we kept using for storage of materials to be burned or thrown out.

No, I didn't notice it particularly there. In fact, at the time I never—— People spoke about it. I had one good friend who actually was a child at the time and when the Americans came through his village and he remembered that and mentioned it, we spoke about it a couple of times but it wasn't a major thing.

Q: How did the Foreign Service strike you after these two assignments?

BREW: I liked it myself. I enjoyed it. It was always a question of whether you'd be able to stand not knowing where you were going the next time, which is really the way it was. And there was minimal knowledge about what was going to happen to you and joked about where April Fool's Day was the day you put in your request for the next assignment.

Q: Well what about you then—— This is about the time you went back to practice law.

BREW: After Germany we practiced law.

Q: How come?

BREW: Having passed—— Having graduated, having actually looked at this one firm once while I was working in New York at the Mission, I thought I'd just like to try it and see what it was like. And the firms, one particular firm I did work for, had offered me a job previously and I hadn't taken it, offered that job again and I took it and went and spent almost exactly four years there. And eventually I was practicing banking law primarily at [inaudible]. You get into a lot of borrowing agreements, term loan contracts and that kind of stuff and searching for the perfect term loan agreement by moving commas and then pondering the results. It gets pretty tiring after a while so it was not

something I wanted to continue with. Plus, we lived in Summit, New Jersey, which was an hour's train ride, the best train ride was forty-five minutes but the average train ride at night was an hour or more then you had fifteen minutes to get across the Port Authority transits and tubes to go from the World Trade Center across to, well, I forget the name of the town but—— Hackensack——

MRS. BREW: Hoboken.

BREW: Hoboken, Hoboken, yes. Get there and then—— And you wouldn't leave the office until 8:30 at night so you'd get home at 10:30.

MRS. BREW: That was early.

BREW: Yes. So, I did a lot of work, paid well. I learned a lot about business, about banking and that sort of stuff.

Q: Well, you did this for about three years?

BREW: I did it for almost exactly four years but it was after about three years that I began thinking of something else and I looked at a couple places about being a lawyer there house lawyer, and also thought about going back to the Foreign Service and did happen to know two Under Secretaries so I was able to get in touch with them and they recommended that I be reappointed and I'd gone through the process, the normal process of the appointment and then that got moved up a bit and I was sworn in again.

Q: Well then, so we're talking about 1970-what?

BREW: End of 1975.

Q: Seventy-five. So where did

BREW: Where did I go in 1975?

Q: Yes.

BREW: It was the beginning of almost eight years in Washington. I went to be a textile negotiator. I bet nobody has heard of that, but I've forgotten her name, gosh. The woman who ran DB, administratively.

Q: Wilson?

BREW: Miss Wilson? I don't know. Could be—— just decided that my economic background and business background, banking background would do well for the Economic Bureau so they'd like to have me and they even had a specific job and I was to be their number four in the textiles division and to go out and help negotiate restrictive textile agreements. So I came back and did that for three years.

Q: Who was the head of the textile business?

BREW: Mike Smith was the chief textile negotiator. But he was resident at USTR (United States Trade Representative). He is a Foreign Service officer.

Q: I've interviewed Mike.

BREW: I'm sure you have, yes. He was a Career Minister and number two in the—— or one of the deputies at USTR; a very, very capable man. But he'd travel around the world negotiating these agreements.

Q: This is?

BREW: 1975 to 1978 or 1979. I forget which.

Q: This is very important for—— politically at the time, wasn't it?

BREW: It was quite important.

Q: Because if I recall Nixon was particularly—— Well, I mean, that was sort of later on——

BREW: Yes.

Q: But it was—— it helped turn the South Republican.

BREW: I think so. It actually started under John Kennedy, who decided he would create support for the wool industry in New England by setting limits on the amount of wool fabric that could be imported and that got expanded to the three fibers, wool, cotton and manmade, and I think that was basically under Nixon. It was to protect sewing, apparel factories in the South and residually the cloth makers in various ports. But it was politically very, very sensitive that it could—— you didn't say the wrong thing, what you didn't do.

Q: This is—— So much of it was moving towards Japan and——

BREW: Japan was the first country that we did a lot in. They then actually had bought up facilities in other countries in South Asia and East Asia and the manufacturing process had gone out of Japan for a while, although it came back and it spread to other countries like the Philippines, Middle Asia, Korea, Hong Kong.

Q: Did you have any sort of specific issues that you dealt with? Or was it sort of a general?

BREW: We never had written instructions that I'm aware of other than somebody giving a speech and saying it's important that we control the stuff. But we traveled with an

entourage of a number of people from the industry, covering all aspects, ranging from people who made the string, the thread, to those who did the final knitted outerwear product, a sweater or whatever, and they could tell us which X country or Y country was a problem for them, whether they were sending in a lot of stuff or not sending in a lot of material. So we had advice right on the spot and it was all a balancing act, really, among all the different needs that the U.S. had and all the different options that the exporting country could work with or live with or——

Q: I would think it would be a very good place for a lawyer, wasn't it?

BREW: Well yes, that helped. Not so much in the negotiation, getting X for this for nine of that but being able to put it down on paper and make sure that it was precisely what was agreed.

And that was one of my jobs on the delegation after the first couple of months, was writing or drafting the actual agreements.

Q: Was your principal antagonist the Japanese or the Philippines or who was it?

BREW: We didn't have a principal antagonist. We were very worried about Korea and Hong Kong and Taiwan because they had the ability to ramp up quickly in any one particular thing and they were always busily soliciting business in the United States and doing very well. But we had a long well with these people, with the negotiators, because they saw some benefit for themselves in having a trade agreement that could live within terms of their productive capacity because it was a guarantee that they'd be able to ship that much, whereas we often cut off other countries that didn't have any agreement, we could cut them off at very low levels. And it happened at times. It wasn't what you'd call a happy type of job; it was tough.

Q: I would imagine.

BREW: It was a tough——

Q: Very much like being a labor lawyer, in a way.

BREW: I suppose. As you travel around the South right now you can take a look and you can see the factories that have closed in the last five, six, seven, eight years—— they're essentially gone now. So there was a reason for trying to protect these people, Americans. On the other hand we were cutting off some very, very undeveloped, really less developed countries from developing a little bit. So it was a hard decision either way.

Q: Did you travel much?

BREW: Oh God; twenty-six, twenty-eight weeks out of the year. I think I counted 150,000 miles one year in airplanes, which was a lot. Three or four times around the earth.

Q: Well I think this would— Where did you go after that?

BREW: I was informed while in the Philippines that this lady who ran EB (Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs), Frances Wilson, Miss Wilson—

Q: Miss Wilson. She was a power. She died before I could get to her but her name has come up so often. A Civil Servant who fought for her Economic Bureau and she had her team—

BREW: Her boys, her team. If you did a good job in that bureau she would do a good job for you. And I mean she'd really look out for you.

Q: A name to be reckoned with.

BREW: The normal approach was, Miss Wilson, you decide where I go. You're a 10 that I like, so you make the decision. I stayed in the Bureau, EB, and became Deputy Director of the Office of Business Practices. What was man's name of the man who headed that? Harvey Winter. Did you interview Harvey?

Q: No.

BREW: I'm not sure you could now. He'd be about 90. It was the first office that dealt with intellectual property, patents, trademarks and copyrights, and also with the code of conduct for the transfer of technology, code of conduct for anti-trust law. I did both of those, mostly the transfer of technology.

Q: I remember we used to get a lot of copies of books very cheaply out of Taiwan at one time.

BREW: This is not to say we were successful with the intellectual property requirements (chuckling).

Q: Where did you go then?

BREW: I spent the next five years— four years, five years in EB then went to Israel.

Q: Okay, let's talk about the next years in EB and then on what you were up to. You were with EB for how long?

BREW: About seven years. My first job in EB was textiles and then from there I went into the Office of Business Practices as the Deputy Director. Harvey Winter was the Director. Everybody knew Harvey, he had been there for many, many years. Dealing with intellectual property and actually with transfer of technology.

Q: We didn't cover that too thoroughly. What were the principal issues that you found yourself dealing with?

BREW: The primary issue was a code of conduct for the transfer of technology and another code of conduct for restrictive business practices, which is actually what we call antitrust law in the United States. These were both being negotiated in Geneva under the auspices of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

Q: When were you doing this?

BREW: When were we there? I rejoined in 1976——

MRS. BREW: That would be in 1980. Charlie was in third grade.

BREW: Yes, I came back to rejoin the Foreign Service at the end of 1975, then did the Textile Division for three years and then went to the Office of Business Practices.

Q: Where were your most difficult areas? I mean, what countries were you particularly worried about restrictive practices?

BREW: Well someone else negotiated that. I did the Washington end of it. Actually someone from L (Legal), I think his name was Joel Davidow as I recall, and we just kept track of it, but it was a huge—— well the full range of antitrust law so there were no particular special problems in terms of substance. In terms of countries I don't recall that there were any. It was a negotiation between Group B, the Group of 77, the Soviet Bloc, this sort of thing, and you worked invasively and it was very fixed pieces.

Q: So after working on that, where did you go?

BREW: I became Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Consumer, Legislative and Public Affairs. That was Bob Hormats, who's now the Under Secretary, for one year and then McCormick for another year.

Q: Well let's talk about what essentially were Hormats' and your concerns?

BREW: Bob's concerns were the whole gamut of everything that was going on economically in the world. I mean I recall once he raised all hell—— maybe I'll have to correct that later on—— when he discovered that we were selling surplus butter to the Soviet Union, and selling it pretty much at a loss, and he didn't like that. He thought it would be politically difficult to sell in the Congress. He looked after everything and I was involved in everything, but primarily from the focus of what was going on on the Hill. I didn't know everything that was going on in the Bureau.

Q: I would have thought that if you talk about butter you're talking about Wisconsin and Minnesota.

BREW: Well this is government-owned butter. It could be from Wisconsin, it could be from Minnesota. California has a good sized business in the dairy industry. This was

surplus butter owned by the U.S. Government, frozen, which they wanted to get rid of. What did we call it, a—

Q: A wasting asset.

BREW: Actually butter, if you freeze it, it will last because we could salt it here in this country, it will last almost forever but you've got to keep it frozen constantly.

Q: Really?

BREW: It will last a long time. And that actually was called the butter mountain and the big problem is it was costing the U.S. Government so much money just to maintain the warehouses and the refrigeration systems to keep the stuff frozen so they wanted to get rid of it and it was an appreciable amount. Although we ended up striking a deal that New Zealand would buy the stuff from us and they knew how to remove the salt and they could then sell it to the Russians, who wanted it without salt. New Zealand was about the only country that could do that and they gave it to the Russians for the same price that we were going to give them so we took a little loss on that one, a penny or two a pound.

Q: Yes. Well Russians of course are great consumers of things such as butter and—

BREW: Cream sauce.

Q: Yes.

Well then, how did Hormats strike you as an operator?

BREW: Bob's very, very, very capable. He had extraordinary connections with influential people on the Hill, very influential, was very thoughtful about everyone who worked in the Bureau and he in particular was one of the best people I've ever worked for, frankly.

Q: Well then, after you worked in this area then where did you move?

BREW: We went from there to Israel.

Q: You were in Israel from when to when?

BREW: When did we go to Israel? 1983 to 1987?

MRS. BREW: Eighty-two, I thought it was.

BREW: We arrived in July 1983, and left at roughly the end of September, 1987.

Q: What was your job?

BREW: Economic Counselor.

Q: Who was the Ambassador?

BREW: I started out with Sam Lewis for three years and then Tom Pickering for the last year, year and a half of the four years we were there.

Q: What was happening in Israel when you arrived?

BREW: Well the most exciting thing, the most distressing thing was of course the bombings of Beirut and the bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut during 1983, when we got out there. We didn't know whether the Marines were going to descend down along the troop hospitals in Tel Aviv or not. The Israelis were very good about offering immediately the use of their trauma units but I think the, as I understand it, everyone was taken off to Germany by medevac and aircraft and it was probably the best way to go that way because it would have been a more complicated trip getting out and around to go down to Israel.

My work there primarily was to help the Israelis conquer inflation. When we arrived the inflation was 100 percent a year and a year later it was 1,000 percent a year. Secretary Shultz took a personal interest in this, I mean very personal interest. He commented at one point that he thought that a couple private sector economists or academics from the United States should probably go to Israel and try to work with them and give them some advice. And that did happen. He appointed two different people. Stan Fisher was a professor at MIT and Herb Stein, who had been President Nixon's Economic Advisor and has a seat at the University of Virginia and here at the—— I don't know whether—— it's American Enterprise Institute that he was—— where he worked——

Q: How was the inflation caused and what were our recommendations and what were the Israelis doing about it?

BREW: Well the Israelis had followed some inconsistent and not workable plans originally but when I arrived they were following one where they were simply trying to, by operation of law, control the prices so they may not go up more than five percent in a month or in a quarter and accordingly the shekel would not be devalued more than five percent no matter what happened. And getting tied up this way simply wasn't going to work.

Stan and Herb visited there, spent four or five days talking to a variety of people, working very, very closely with the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, a man named (inaudible - unable to find) Sharon, not to be confused with Ariel Sharon, who was quite different. And ultimately they devised just some suggestions on a piece of paper which they sent down and Herb typed it out one afternoon and handed it to the Israelis and said this is what we think you should do and they didn't get involved, basically, setting an anchor, something that was observable and measurable that would be used to judge whether or not they were having success in their anti-inflationary efforts. But it also involved very difficult negotiations with the countrywide labor union, the Histadrut,

which had worked into its contracts various escalator clauses. Every bank account was indexed directly to the shekel so while you put fifty in and a month later if inflation at ten percent in that time you got 55 back so there was no way for them to control it. Everything sort of moved automatically. And a fundamental recommendation was that something be done, broadly, to break the linkage that had been built into everything.

It worked. It was announced in July, I forget which year it was; it would have been '84 probably and within two months they were down to about a fifteen or eighteen percent inflation rate. Everybody took a good haircut in those two months. A lot of people were expecting big indexed repayments, this sort of thing, and it didn't happen because they managed, they convinced everybody in the Knesset and the Histadrut Manufacturers Association all played very significant roles. And we were very concerned here that—we knew it was going to happen, they were going to announce it, we had very close communication on this—and ultimately we offered them, I think it was a billion dollar backup. They wanted some financial backup, a reserve they could draw on if there were to be a run on the shekel and this was provided. I think that Congress was fully aware of everything that was going on at this point in terms of providing the money. They didn't need it because no one—there was no run on the shekel and everything was moving along at fifteen percent inflation for the next couple—well, next few years. And the economy has grown very, very well since then.

But it was great. We had our own communications, telegram, you know. If you get into EXDIS and NODIS cables, you sometimes put a little additional marker on it, an indicator which tells the reader, the communicator, what the subject matter is and we had one for the economic situation and the recovery program. It's no longer used as far as I know.

Q: Did you find that the Israelis and the Americans were really in lockstep on this whole process?

BREW: Well we worked extremely closely together and the leader of the government at that time was Shimon Peres, was the Prime Minister, and as I say we worked with the Treasury Department and were able to talk to them on a very open basis, except that we never said anything to anyone else. Secretary Shultz was very involved and he and a couple other people here who he had brought in, the Under Secretary, and we were all open. We could also speak to each other because it was advice that we provided plus the backup financing. It was the Israeli government that was making the decisions and we knew and accepted that, but there were no arguments.

Q: When you got to Israel were they still suffering from the consequences of the, I'd call it ill-advised, invasion of Lebanon?

BREW: I think they suffered from that for many years after I finished there, until they withdrew really just a few years ago. I mean finally it was under Barack, I believe, they drew the last of some troops out of there. Now, whether it was terribly costly to them, at the time when they were invading, yes, it was, it was expensive and there were people

hurt. But that wasn't going on that much when I was there, but it still greatly disrupted— very, very disruptive of the Israeli society. Many people thought it was a good thing to have done, others were absolutely not. They agreed that it was a mistaken war that Sharon had promoted— But it wasn't an economic burden. I mean, the men were there, the men and a few women and that's disruptive and expensive but—

Q: How'd you find living in Israel at the time?

BREW: It was quite pleasant, actually. We lived in— eventually in (inaudible), maybe eight or ten miles north of Tel Aviv that you could drive in very readily. The school was good and the kids were picked up in a bus. They were very careful about that, the routing they took and everything, not that anything ever happened to anyone. It was easy to go out and look around the countryside and see the biblical history pretty much in front of you, the historical places. The Israelis were largely friendly. We were allowed to go to the West Bank for personal tourism purposes. The consul general in Jerusalem actually runs our activities in the West Bank rather than the ambassador in Tel Aviv but— and that was interesting, too.

MRS. BREW: The Palestinians loved us.

BREW: Palestinians basically liked, yes, they liked the Americans at that time out there. The embassy was responsible for our AID program in Gaza and I supervised that operation. It's conducted by NGOs, private voluntary organizations, CARE or AMIDEAST. Catholic Relief Services was there for a while. And one, one person on my staff actually worked full-time on that program.

Q: I've heard concern that the Israelis and their occupation of Gaza have cut out some of the most productive land and sources of water for a small group of settlers. How was it?

BREW: When I was there there were very, very few settlers. I think it was in the two or three hundred total. It grew to 2,500, 3,000 when they emerged, what, half a dozen, four or five years ago when the Israelis withdrew. They— withdrawing water; I had not heard that at the time because the number was really quite small. Now those water resources are fairly limited to begin with. We never visited the settlements so I really don't know firsthand about how water was delivered or how they obtained water. I assume they drilled.

Q: One of the complaints I've heard about from people who have served in the economic section of our embassy in Tel Aviv is that we would often get involved with what amounted to the subsidies to the Israelis and we might draw carefully crafted plans and the Israelis would sort of nod and then go to Congress and usually get what they want.

BREW: This is, I would say, not an uncommon occurrence. You're speaking in generalities but it's a pattern that you see. AIPAC is active, as is the Israel embassy. They have a very— fairly senior person who's responsible for the congressional leanings on this. They did while I was working with them. Frankly the first free trade agreement that

we did on a country basis rather than a worldwide basis was with Israel, a fellow named—— a man named Danny Halperin, who was the minister and counselor for economic affairs at the embassy, while I was working in Tel Aviv, was the one who came up with the idea and ultimately I think we were fairly well aware that we weren't going to go into this negotiation of this agreement and cut the Israelis back in terms of shipments of any sort. The purpose clearly was to really try to make it grow on both sides but there was no—— I don't think there was any particular concern about whether one was faster than the other, more rapidly. And it has helped Israel quite a bit.

Q: Was there much trade with Egypt at the time?

BREW: Israeli trade? Israeli trade was mostly what we call NEFT, which is oil, petroleum, which the Egyptians sold to Israel. There was—— I mean, it was open but frankly it didn't grow very rapidly. The Egyptians weren't particularly interested in anything other than very specialized products that somebody would want but that doesn't make huge amounts of money; it doesn't account for much in trade.

Q: How about the impact of immigration, particularly from the Soviet Union, which was still the Soviet Union, I guess at that time?

BREW: Yes, it was. That's a complex situation. There wasn't that much immigration, Russian immigration, to Israel at the time I was there.

MRS. BREW: It was the Ethiopians.

BREW: Yes, the Ethiopians were coming but that was a different story.

The Russians had a special deal with the United States. They could—— they were given permits to leave if they were coming to the United States. They would go to a resettlement or camp; there's two or three of them in Europe, one was, I think, in Austria. They would then decide that they didn't—— that they wanted to go to the United States, they did not want to go to Israel because one of the conditions—— one of the conditions oddly was that they would be going to Israel and they didn't want to do that. The Israelis were not pleased. They wanted us to force these people to—— or essentially force them to go to Israel. The numbers were not huge. We're talking twenty-five, seventy-five, maybe 100,000 people a year. And they had, as I say, a special arrangement similar to what the Cubans have where they're treated differently than anyone—— any other refugee. So there weren't that many Russians there. They came much, much later and I was no longer there at the time. It's had quite an impact, clearly.

Q: Did the Ethiopian immigrants have much of an impact or not on the economy?

BREW: On the economy?

Q: Yes.

BREW: No. Minimal. You know, their numbers were small. They were not—— they did not come with any particular amount of capital with them. They were poor farmers in Ethiopia. Ultimately they were flown in; they were brought in a variety of different ways. They stayed in a camp such as any new immigrant to Israel from, basically from the Third World and stay and it was—— they were trained in the language, educated to a certain extent if need be how to read and write properly, and I actually did visit one of those camps with our coordinator for refugees at the time and they were very nice people. I don't think they were treated as well as they thought they should have been. Most people, most of the foreigners thought they should have been. They didn't speak good Hebrew so they had trouble. They would go into the army and discover that their—— not inadequate but less than ideal Hebrew really wasn't enough to get them promoted.

MRS. BREW: Weren't there arguments though whether they were proper Jews or not?

BREW: There were, yes, there were arguments among the Israeli clergy, among the various rabbis as to whether they were actually Jews or whether they were playing some kind of tricks.

It's interesting, when I did visit this camp they showed us their bible, which actually is just the first five or six books of the Old Testament, and it's written in another language called Ge'ez, which I had never heard of at the time but I've heard of since, which is used for religious purposes in Ethiopia, apparently. It's just—— they do follow many of the religious requirements of Jews as they would be required in Israel.

Q: Was there any economic relationship with the West Bank?

BREW: The West Bank supplied labor. Gaza; Gaza also supplied labor.

BREW: The laborers had to go home every day. They didn't have all the blocks that they have now or have had over the past twenty years.

MRS. BREW: And water was a big issue then, wasn't it?

BREW: Water was another thing I worked on. There were some settlements at the time. It was possible to calculate how much water they used per capita where they were getting it, it's from an aquaphor under the west bank. That water is actually now sent to Israel and the numbers, they were totally disproportionate. An Israeli settler would be easily fifty gallons a day and the average in the West Bank, the Arab, got about five. And most West Bank agriculture was not irrigated but then the Israelis were specialized at doing the special 'fertigation' process using pipes delivering water in small amounts. But the situation at that time was before the first intifada that broke out a few months after we left. It wasn't anywhere near as tense as it has been really since just shortly after we left with the first intifada.

Q: Well you were—— was there any difference between Tom Pickering as ambassador and——

BREW: Sam Lewis?

Q: Sam Lewis?

BREW: Tom has incredible physical energy. You'd talk to him at night, and he'd say "You're going to have to do something to so-and-so in the morning," and check with him in the morning and he's say "Don't worry about it, I talked to him last night at some party, it's all taken care of." And Sam had eight years of experience there, and knew everyone on a first name basis. One year, one and half years I worked for Tom, he was meeting people a lot although he did it very, very rapidly. He was very good at pinpointing where he should focus his efforts. Sam, frankly, he'd give a speech every now and then but he'd pretty much write it himself was my experience. With Tom, with Ambassador Pickering, he would sometimes ask for ideas, suggestions, drafts, whatever. They were both very, very effective.

Q: Yes. Well you left there when?

MRS. BREW: Nineteen eighty-seven.

BREW: Eighty-three to '87 we were there. We left there in August of '87. I went from there to the Senior Seminar.

Q: So the Senior Seminar was a year?

BREW: One year. Well actually it's September to the end of June, so we had kind of an enforced one-month vacation in there which was——

Q: How did you like the Senior Seminar?

BREW: I enjoyed it. This was at a time when State was just building in the five-year period for being reviewed for being—— to be promoted into the Senior Service, the SES. I was in a seminar, I was the one FSO-1 [Foreign Service Officer rank number one in a ranking from seven as the lowest and one as the highest before entering the Senior Foreign Service] in it at the time and I was concerned that being in an academic or a non-active year, having a non-active year was going to hurt the promotion possibility. But other than that it was, I think, quite a good learning experience and back in touch with the United States.

Q: Any particular episodes stain your memory?

BREW: No. Nothing jumps out in terms of being unusual or——

MRS. BREW: Riding in cop cars?

BREW: No. One trip we made was to—— it involved stopping in Detroit; they assigned each one of us to a one or two policemen of the Detroit Police Department, and we rode around with them from 6:00 pm to midnight and some of them, a couple of them were apparently kind of adventurous. There was one fellow in our class from the Secret Service and they immediately assigned him to the toughest area of town, and he ended up crawling through a crack house with a bunch of Detroit cops, as I recall the story. Beyond that it was——

(Inaudible name) was running it at the time had an interesting idea on how to structure or how to develop the program and he got us all together for three days out in Harpers Ferry right at the very beginning and we all had—— we were supposed to come up with ideas, what did we want to do for the coming year. That was the first two days and on the third day he attempted to put them back in a coherent picture so that we spent so much time doing this, so much time looking at something else and then coming back and taking another look, do we really want to do something else? So we were very self-directed. And everyone got along extremely well. Nobody was pushing anybody or anything of that sort.

Q: Well then, what did you do after you left that?

BREW: After Senior Seminar I went to be Director of the Office of Food Policy and Programs in EB again. This is as an FSO-1; I was in an MC (Minister Counselor) [the first of three ranks in the Senior Foreign Service] position for that one. And it's a difficult office.

Q: What made it difficult?

BREW: Politically difficult.

Q: What were the issues?

BREW: Do we want to sell subsidized products to various countries? Should we do it? Is it legal? Is it not legal? Where can we get in trouble on that? What's the size of the domestic subsidy for the Farm Bill? And the Farm Bill's for American farmers. We sat in on it and someone else for one day, on the sort of operation at OMB (Office of Management and Budget) deciding on how to structure the Five-Year Farm Bill in 1986, was it? No, I guess it would be later than that, '87. Yes, it was later than that. But we got to say a few things about whether we should have a \$26 billion subsidy or a \$31 billion or a \$15 billion. That's legislative planning.

Q: Was something like sugar a major problem?

BREW: Oh, everybody in the world knew that we were adamant about not allowing more than the most minimal amount of sugar into the United States. There were ambassadors, our ambassadors, other countries' ambassadors, politicians always talking about getting

more, can we do more, can we do something, and the answer was very straightforward: no. Why don't you talk to the Agriculture Department but if you think you can get anything out of them let us know how you did it. Yes, it's an unpleasant issue; it's like textile negotiations in a way. That's one where everybody knows what they got and what they don't have and they're welcome to complain about it publicly.

Q: What about soybeans? Was this a big— was this a problem at the time?

BREW: No. I'm not sure if there's a problem now unless it's the genetically modified soybeans. That came up later.

Q: But the so-called genetically modified crops weren't an issue at the time?

BREW: Not while I was working in the Office of Business Practices.

Q: And how long were you there?

BREW: Two years. Yes, about two years.

Q: Then what did you do?

BREW: Went to be Country Director for Israel and— well for and Arab-Israel affairs was the official title. Basically it's the office of the Department that supports the embassy in Tel Aviv and the Consul General in Jerusalem. So it's now called Israeli-Palestinian affairs, which is a more accurate description of what was going on.

Q: Did you have anything to do with Jordan or Lebanon or—?

BREW: Not an awful lot to do with Lebanon. Jordan, I don't recall anything in particular that I think that they hadn't yet negotiated the agreement, the peace agreement but there were no major problems back and forth other than water, division of water for the— what the Jordanians needed for the East Ghor Canal and what the Israelis wanted to take out of the Yarmouk River is what it was really and that the Syrians of course were drawing down the Yarmouk River as well as it rises in their territory so they have something of a right to use the water up there. But it wasn't— the Israelis and the Jordanians were able to find ways to communicate with each other.

Q: What about during this time on food? What were the issues with Israel?

BREW: There weren't any on food. There were serious issues on housing, housing guarantees and that sort of stuff. But I don't recall food being an issue. We were happy to sell them all the grain or whatever they wanted to buy and we were pleased that, frankly, when I was first there working in Israel they had a quiet policy of buying all agricultural products from the United States with a very, very few minor exceptions that came from Europe which we didn't really supply. But I don't recall any problems with food.

Q: Did you get involved with housing at all?

BREW: Oh yes.

Q: Well this became quite an issue with George Bush, wasn't it?

BREW: George H. W. Bush.

MRS. BREW: He visited while——

BREW: What?

MRS. BREW: He visited Israel while we were there.

BREW: He visited Israel while we were there.

MRS. BREW: So you didn't get to go to Rhodes with me.

BREW: Yes, but that's earlier.

MRS. BREW: I know.

BREW: That's while we were in Israel, yes. Yes, George Bush got very unhappy with the Israeli ambassador, the Israeli embassy and their activities here. When they were talking about bringing a thousand lobbyists, personal lobbyists, individual lobbyists, citizen lobbyists to Washington to talk to Congress and to push, make sure that the American government does the right thing. And contrary to what President Bush wanted and he got very difficult with them, shall we say, in a public statement there. And there was also the question of could the housing be built in the territories or could money be used in the territories if they wanted to—— they were going to borrow and they wanted guarantees for it really.

It was worked out. There were some hard moments, times when people didn't want to talk to each other during that period because of housing. And actually we even held up a closing that the Israelis were having to sell the bonds. They were going to bear the U.S. Government guarantee until we got a good look at the nature of the agreement and their signature and how to deal with these political issues that come up involving the West Bank.

This gets confused in my mind, frankly, because there were two times when they were—— when housing came up and there was a big \$10 million—— \$10 billion dollars' worth of bonds and that's the one where it was ultimately worked out that it shouldn't be used in the West Bank but if we found out that something was being done over there it was going to be—— something would be proportionally reduced in the amount of guarantee that would be available.

MRS. BREW: Did it ever happen?

BREW: Oh yes, all the time.

Q: Well I mean did you feel that you were in a political minefield in this?

BREW: I've never used that term but that certainly sets a—— there's a lot of improvised explosive devices wandering around, yes. You had to be very careful thinking about who's thinking what on all sides of all issues and the Israelis were not here to be difficult; they were here to work with us. And the same is true of American Jewish organizations, if that's what you're talking about. We used to work with the Anti-Defamation League quite often. We once got a question that we couldn't answer and called up AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) and called up their director of research and asked if he could answer the question and he found out the answer about the same time that we were able to look it up ourselves on an agreement that had been signed quietly many, many years earlier. But yes, you might want to call it a minefield.

Q: Well you'd been doing this, I mean both in Israel and here for a long time so I guess you—— I mean all your instincts were well honed about——

BREW: Yes, I would think so.

Q: ——what could be done and what couldn't be done.

BREW: Yes. I like to think that. I mean, I'm not sure that it's that good.

Q: Well did this cause you, well, to be a supporter of Israel or a non-supporter? I mean, how did you feel about Israel?

BREW: I think I'd like to take the American position; I was a supporter of our position which was to try to be a neutral arbiter in the case of the negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza. It's their country, they've got it one way or another. The UN approved of it in some ways, or recognized them. Nobody knows what the line is going to be in the interior. So you have to deal with all the people involved and try to maintain a line to everybody in this and it's not always that easy to do. They were not impossible to work with; they were very good to work with in many—— most cases.

Q: Well then you moved on after this. When did you leave this economic Israeli job?

BREW: Oh that was '87. Then I went to the Senior Seminar then went to the Office of Food Policy.

Q: Were there other food policy issues? I mean, we kept coming back to Israel and all but how about with Eastern Europe, China? I mean, in other words of the——?

BREW: No. We were the—— the office looked to be two different things. One is promotion of American trade or regulation of American exports; two, countries of agriculture. And looking at imports, what's being imported by the United States. And separately the aid program, the L480 and how that was run. Now that's run by AID so we couldn't control it but we were—— we did have say in it.

Q: Well did you get into—— I've talked to people that served in Australia and New Zealand and they seem to be particularly sensitive to anything that has anything to do with, well, sheep.

BREW: Sheep, yes. Yes. We got—— there's an agreement with Australia about how much they'll send to the United States. My recollection is that it's not something that we could have changed. The Australians knew what it was, agreed to it. And sometimes these agreements, you think they're not—— they're more advantageous to us than they are but a country sometimes, they're very advantageous to the other country in that they know how they can allocate their production and the high price is going to go to the United States but if they want to get—— move 50,000 sheep off to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj, they can do that sort of thing and they can manage it all right.

Q: How about beef? I think of Argentina, maybe China and Japan.

BREW: Well, you're talking about two different issues.

Q: Well let's go to Argentina first.

BREW: Argentina would like to send it to us and I assume that McDonald's wants it too but I don't recall when I was there any particular problems with Argentina, frankly.

Q: How about with——?

BREW: I don't recall any problems with beef other than people complaining about restrictions that we have. Phytosanitary as well as just whole numbers.

Q: How about the—— were there any problems with food for Japan?

BREW: Can't send rice there. They won't accept it. That's a big problem.

Q: Well the Japanese——

BREW: Grow their own.

Q: Well yes and the Japanese stomach won't take our rice.

BREW: That's right, that's right.

MRS. BREW: I remember that. We dealt with that issue.

BREW: Yes. We go a little bit.

MRS. BREW: Rice and baseball bats.

BREW: Baseball—— softball bats, softball bats. They had to be tested to make sure that they were properly strong enough so he could drill a hole in each one. That's how you tested them. I didn't deal with that at all; that's just a story I heard.

Rice, there was a Japanese rice merchant who wanted to import American rice but the rice needed packages with spices and everything else in it. He got permission to bring it in and they found it at some trade show. The government reversed itself and insisted that it all be removed. Yet Japan doesn't have—— doesn't make that kind of rice or rice product.

MRS. BREW: Because they can't digest it.

Q: How about with China? Were we—— trade opening up with China on food?

BREW: I don't recall anything from China, frankly.

Q: How about Canada? Any problems with Canada?

BREW: If there were problems STR [?] was dealing with them because they were dealt with as trade issues. We'd know about them, have an opportunity but I don't recall anything other than a long-standing thing with bringing trees and lumber, pine, soft pine, into the United States and how we would classify it for tariff purposes. And that was a long standing problem but there's nothing we could do about it, and it was STR that was dealing with it.

Q: Well then after this where did they send you?

BREW: Well after the food policy I became the Office Director for Israel and Palestine; Palestinians, Palestine. And this was when Madrid held the big conference after the war. One of the bigger problems during the time of the first Iraq war was keeping the Israelis from jumping in. It would have been a terrible problem with the other—— with all the Arab countries that were allied with us and working with us. So the Israelis were pretty good about it. My immediate boss and Larry Eagleburger, who was Deputy Secretary, went over and spent about ten days with the Israelis, keeping them calm or trying to, calming them down about the need to intervene. There were thirty-nine—— I think it was thirty-nine missiles, SCUDS, that landed in Israel or in the ocean just beyond it from Iraq, so they had a right to be a little worried.

The Madrid conference was a major, major thing. Frankly, that was done by Dennis Ross and the staff on the seventh floor of the secretary's office on our involvement in that and

we were a little aware of what was going on. But it was really rather not a major issue for us, my office.

Q: Well you left that office when?

BREW: When did I work there? We went to Dhahran in '92; '90 to '92 I was there.

Q: In Dhahran?

BREW: No. In the Israeli-Palestinian job.

Q: And then you went to-?

BREW: Then I went to Dhahran as Consul General.

Q: How long were you there?

BREW: Two years.

Q: I had a daughter born in Dhahran.

BREW: Did you really?

Q: Yes. I was the Vice Consul there. This goes back from '58 to '60. So what were the issues in Dhahran?

BREW: There weren't that many political or economic issues. It was a time of low prices for oil so the Saudi government was feeling a little strapped, we believe. But with oil at ten to fifteen dollars a barrel you could see that they're not going to be making much money on it.

Q: Did you replace Ken Stammerman?

BREW: That's right.

Q: And I have an interview of Ken you might——

BREW: Did you?

Q: It's on the internet.

BREW: He went off to be in New Mexico for a year or two and then retired.

Q: Was there anything happening in the Eastern Province at that time? I mean, how about——

MRS. BREW: He spent a lot of time talking to the Shia, you know.

BREW: We tried to maintain good connections, good contacts with the Shia, who had been pretty well squashed-down during the first Iraq war. They'd agreed not to create any problems and they didn't, during the war, and then it was a slow process to bring the restrictions off of them. But they were coming off slowly. Our chargé in Riyadh talked to the foreign ministry and others about the plight of the Shia every now and then but there are very few of them down there in Riyadh. But they didn't— they weren't finding problems, issues. Beyond that the main problem was the lack of price for oil. Could ARAMCO do the necessary repair work and exploration, production, and still have something left for the government?

Q: Well how— When I was there, of course, ARAMCO was an American organization.

BREW: Not any more.

Q: But I was wondering how— Did Americans play much of a role at all in ARAMCO when you were there?

BREW: They played a very important role in— not in the number one and number two in the company, but in working within the planning unit of or having engineers who were capable, engineers in the exploration group, this sort of thing. Their chief legal officer was an American because they were dealing primarily with Western law and U.S. law in many ways. But it was in the idea of highly-skilled, highly-experienced people who were brought over to work with, to support a Saudi who was heading up the significant sections of ARAMCO. There was the President, Al-Naimi, he was still the Minister of Petroleum and then there were about five under or deputy, executive vice presidents. Most of them had gone to school in the United States. I think one may not have, or he only went a year or two.

Q: You know, looking at it as an American political observer, how, at the time, were the Saudis dealing with the big influx of foreigners who had come there to do most of the scut work?

BREW: The influx had taken place and they were trying to figure out a way to Saudi-ize most of the jobs and frankly I don't think they were having great success in many, in most, of these other jobs that they were trying to get rid of, move into Saudi hands and away from foreigners. They didn't try to— I mean, they made it very difficult for foreigners to live there by having employers confiscate passports, this sort of thing. You couldn't leave the country if you were there and with a contract without the employer's permission. So they had difficult times that way, it was unpleasant, but they were just trying to do it. Frankly I didn't notice a major effort being undertaken, there wasn't a groundswell of any sort to Saudi-ize; it was something they wanted to do, they were trying to do.

Q: Was there a concern about the growing Saudi population and the lack of significant employment?

BREW: I think they had more of a problem getting the Saudis to want to take jobs, to take the jobs. ARAMCO could hire pretty much as it wished and that was a major employment source. So it was the government that the Saudis were trying to work for, government-owned companies, the power company, the flash-distillation plant, this sort of stuff, electricity, electric company, and they had to have certain qualifications to be able to work in the power company or other industrial operations. These were government-owned.

Q: Was there, particularly in the eastern provinces, the heartland of Wahhabism, was there a concern about the Wahabis?

BREW: No, they were in the central, in the middle part as well and the province didn't go out as far west as Ha'il and some of these cities were up in the middle, in the rocky ledges there so I didn't travel out to Ha'il or anywhere like that.

Q: Was there concern about the development of very slow, Wahhabism, whatever it is you want to call it, a very strict Islamic religious practice which was——

BREW: Do you mean government?

Q: ——just essentially was going to become a source of a great deal of trouble for us, anti-Americanism, anti-Westernism.

BREW: I think that the leadership of the government, including the leadership of the Eastern Provinces was definitely not in favor of being particularly strict and the strictest form of Wahhabism but they didn't say it publicly. They had to work on this quietly and by undoing orders that had been given or would have been given by bringing the Mutawa to heel every now and then.

Q: These being the religious folks.

BREW: Religious police, the volunteers.

Q: Technically.

BREW: And they would go too far sometimes and we'd have a (inaudible) be more than happy to take a good look at what we were complaining about and then they would make their decision, usually the right one in terms of the Mutawa went too far in arresting this particular individual or something of that sort. But it wasn't a campaign; it was not the public trying to say "Don't be strict in all the things you do." But now, the general public, I think, was not particularly happy with the presence of the Mutawa or whatever, however it would be expressed, edicts from the fatwas, whatever, from the 5:00—— or the Friday sermons and instructions from that. I believe that the government was, still

does, — always will— listens to what's in the sermons which because they are— they're put out on CDs or on tapes so they can hear them as well as anyone else. And if something's going to be said it's going to be said very privately. There is an attempt now under King Abdullah to one, give women the vote in three or four years, two, King Fahd created the— or expanded the powers of the Shura Council and appointed lots of additional people to it. So his edicts are given to them for review. They don't have any final say but they're listened to and these are people who are very well respected.

Q: Was there any residue left from the first Gulf war, American troops around and that sort of thing?

BREW: Yes, there's the 4404th Composite Air Wing and CENTCOM Forward. The 4404, this is the one that flew the reinforcements in the no-fly zone over Iraq, the southern portion of Iraq, that someone else was in the north. And CENTCOM Forward, as we called it, was basically a Patriot unit plus a 100 person headquarters unit that was just topping things off. But the Patriot was still there.

Q: Patriots being anti-missiles. Did that cause any problems?

BREW: Only occasionally, and that was really more some Saudi man seeing a woman soldier driving a truck around or something and women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to do it, particularly if she didn't have her hat on and you could see she had long hair. Although ultimately all of these, virtually all of these units, I believe, after our time there, have been removed to a base south of Riyadh out in the desert. And it's always been— there's a sensitivity that having an American, even if it's only a total of, say 1,000 total there, having them walking around, going shopping, the women right along with the men, not walking behind, driving, many Saudis were unhappy with it but they couldn't do anything about it but they made their views known over time and I think that's ultimately one of the reasons why the groups were moved south.

Q: Did you have any particular problem with the Americans working in the area in various capacities, getting involved in traffic accidents or caught with a still or anything of that nature?

BREW: No. But the various employers know what to do if somebody with a still was caught. He'd get them out of the country quickly, that sort of thing. There were no particular problems like that and I don't know if Ken Stammerman mentioned it to you but the Emir of the province, Prince Muhammad, went out of his way to clear out all Americans who were in Saudi jails during the time of the first Iraq war and he personally made it, as I understand it, one of his goals was to get them out so there would be no problems with Americans. And they said they were just released and sent home. So there was a— at the Emirate there was an attempt to be— have a constructive relationship with us, a positive relationship.

Q: How'd you find your relations with the Emir?

BREW: Good. The whole leadership group at the Emirate were all very willing to see me, listen. They didn't pass on any secret Saudi information. There was—— there wasn't that much to worry about. There wasn't anything for me to worry about. But they were very willing to talk and if I had any question they'd see to it that it was answered.

Q: Did you have—— any of your staff women as Consul General?

BREW: Yes.

Q: How did that work out?

BREW: Fine. Worked out very well.

MRS. BREW: They were honorary men.

BREW: Almost. One—— there were three—— four, and an Indian woman who was only there for about six months while I was there. Our junior consular officer was a woman; she really overlapped most of the time I was there. She didn't have any reason to be going to the Emirate or to be going out on official business in general. The Supervisory Consular Officer would do that. That was a man for much of the time, the first year, but a woman, Bridget Burkart for the last year I was there. Bridget was able to go to the Emirate; you have to do a special procedure to get into the building because Saudi women are not allowed in but you'd drive in in a different place and take the elevator up to the floor you wanted to go to and you're right there where the person's office was. And women could do it. This is to the leadership of the Emirate, the top three, four people, five people. It was no problem. There were problems, well there were concerns sometimes about Saudi men or other Arab men coming in, just wanting to look at the women. But they never did anything wrong or anything of that sort.

MRS. BREW: Laura went everywhere.

BREW: Oh yes. She—— the economic officer, junior economic officer, I hadn't thought of her, she talked to everybody, with a driver but he didn't come into the meetings.

Q: Well then when you left there, this is—— you left there when?

BREW: Ninety-five. We were there '92 to '94 so we left there in '94 and was here for a year and a half on the Board of Examiners and had Spanish language.

Q: Well how did you find the Board of Examiners?

BREW: I think it's a pretty good—— the exam, I think, works pretty well. We're not going to get too many real inappropriate people. We may lose a few very good ones who for one reason or another had a bad day but the system protects for quality as much as anything else. It still allows for enough people to be brought in if they want to bring them

in. We actually had—— there was a time when they didn't give the test at one point and didn't take anybody in. They missed one class—— two classes completely.

Q: Were there efforts to tweak the system and to——

BREW: Tweak the test?

Q: Yes.

BREW: Oh yes.

MRS. BREW: It's been tweaked since then, hasn't it?

BREW: Even more, but I'm not familiar with that; I don't know just what it is.

Q: Well what were they——

BREW: Tweaking was the portion of the written exam which was basically sort of a quasi-psychological evaluation or attempt to evaluate psychologically. There were questions like when you were in high school would you rather have been a football player or a member of the chess club or something of that sort. And it was in there, was supposed to be experimental in the test for a couple of years then they decided to leave it in, getting information—— adjusting it. We finally found out how they guy—— the team that produced this section of the test, developed it; they used answers that were given to psychological questions for this type of sociological, psychological questions by highly successful Foreign Service officers. So it looked to me like they were trying to clone us, frankly.

Q: Well that's always been a—— well I mean——

BREW: We reproduce ourselves, are the ones we bring in. That may be changing now. I think that giving the test, I think the people who did it were very fair, were very thorough, very fair.

Q: Did you know much about the person who came before you when you were giving the questions? Because this has changed.

BREW: We knew nothing, absolutely nothing. We were a name.

Q: Because I was with it for a year and we knew the background of the person coming in, which has its good points, its bad points. The good points being that you could aim questions at what would be perceived as weaknesses and strengths and we give due credit, I mean, for example, if you've got a kid who worked his way up as being a wrestler on the University of West Virginia's wrestling team but really quite smart but not a Harvard graduate, you know, I mean, you could take a look and say yes, this person's got potential. We had some like that. I mean so, you know——

BREW: No, it was a cold, clean, you know nothing, absolutely nothing on the first——
Not even where he might, she might come from.

Q: Yes. Well then, after finishing that what?

BREW: Mexico.

Q: Where?

BREW: In Mexico City.

Q: Doing what?

BREW: Ministry Counselor for Economic Affairs, running NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement).

Q: How long were you doing that?

BREW: We were there for four years.

Q: Oh boy. This is early NAFTA too, wasn't it?

BREW: Oh it was just beginning. It was negotiating. It wasn't a document. But then question was how are you going to make it work, and it involved working closely with—— very closely, with the Mexican people who dealt with trade primarily, a few, couple of their government lawyers. The ministry is a trade ministry but we had very, very close working relationships with them. And the problems come up, which by the way we'll have to straighten it out, get it working again. And sometimes it looked like you were doing a lot of trivial little things and sometimes you were working on something that was larger. Now you want a trivial one, not so trivial though, the president of a major American beer company called the ambassador one morning about 8:00 and complained that the Mexicans are not allowing his product to be imported. Nobody in Mexico City drinks American beer. This was all beer going to a couple border cities for what they call 'boys town' where all the Marines were down there and they're drinking Bud Lite or whatever, Miller Lite or whatever.

Q: Having been an enlisted man in Texas at one point I know exactly what they're talking about.

BREW: Juarez was the problem at the time. The problem was that they'd passed a new regulation saying that something had to be on the label on all bottles of beer saying that it can lead to alcoholism or may be deleterious to your health or something. And they did, you know, start enforcing it. So we went out and got a half a dozen bottles of Mexican beer that afternoon. I called a friend at the Presidencia and the next day we were talking to the, roughly the Assistant Secretary in the Health Ministry who was responsible for

enforcing this rule. Put the bottles of Mexican beer on his desk, and he said “I’ll change it.” But I mean it was tough, that was a difficult one because the president of this major company was calling the ambassador.

Q: Yes.

BREW: We had huge issues about trucking in the United States.

Q: Trucking of course is, the fear of being—— that you have all these wild Mexican drivers and unsafe vehicles careening down the highways.

BREW: The vehicles that are usually cited in all of the argumentation made by opponents of letting the Mexicans come in are the ones that—— the drayage, the ones that go back and forth over a distance of about two miles from the U.S. border control to the Mexican border control because you can’t bring an American cab into Mexico and you can’t bring a Mexican cab into the United States. So you have somebody who’s neutral; the truck stays in that “neutral” zone, the neutral zone, hitches up to the trailer, pulls it across to the other side, unhitches, waits for an American one that’s going to take it back to the Mexican side and an American cab, truck cab pulls up, hitches up to the trailer. So it’s—— I mean, these are the things that 300,000, 500,000 miles on it. Not sure you can do that on a diesel but they do nothing but go two miles back and forth and yet they’re the ones that are being—— that are often cited as being unsafe and they probably are. But regular Mexican, long haul trucking is quite good.

MRS. BREW: We had wonderful drivers.

BREW: Well we were breaking the rules, our people were breaking the rules, bringing 50 three-foot trailers into Mexico and there’s only one special kind that’s permitted and that’s because the corners on the roads won’t take it—— you can’t get around without scraping your side. But we kept bringing them in, the U.S. companies did.

Q: Did you find that, I mean, what you’re trying to do is to make the system work?

BREW: Well I had people working for me on how to make the system work. That’s basically it. And with people on both sides being content.

Q: How about the Teamsters?

BREW: Well they’re opposed to trucking coming into the United States; they’re the leaders in that. But they don’t, as a union they don’t come to Mexico, they’re not in Mexico. Members of the Teamsters may be driving the trucks, the American trucks, up to the border but that’s it. It’s going to be a Mexican driving it the rest of the way down there.

Q: But so American drivers do not drive in Mexico and Mexican drivers don’t drive in the United States?

BREW: With very, very, very narrow exceptions because there's border zones that are allowed—you're allowed to come eight or ten miles, something of that sort. You can almost get to Tucson driving from Mexico.

It was great fun there. Mexico's a wonderful place to live. It's very enjoyable to go out, to the Silver country up in the mountains. You can explore; it's very interesting.

Q: Well was criminality a problem?

BREW: Yes.

Q: How did that manifest itself for an American?

BREW: Travel on the roads after dark. Sometimes before dark too. The ambassador had, actually, one time sent out a requirement that anyone—no one should travel on any Mexican road other than the autoroutes after dark. And even that was frowned-on. You were told that should just—traveling somewhere for a visit, to see what it looked like, to have lunch, plan your time so you'd get home by dark. The first week I was there I dropped Sandra off at the airport to fly back to Washington to organize our shipment and I was driving back to our apartment, still had a Virginia license plate on the car, got one block from the apartment house and the motorcycle policeman came out, waving his hat in its hand and telling me to stop and pull over and you know, all I had was a little booklet they gave me saying I was a diplomat, the only identification I had at the time, and he kept saying "Do you have money for me? Just a little money?" I said no, I'm going home, I don't have any money. I rolled the window up. That took about an hour. He finally left. But this was right in the middle of town, in Polanco. There's no way that—He would have had a hard time justifying breaking a window or anything of that sort as long as I could stand sitting in the car, being a block from home. Other than that we never were faced with criminality.

MRS. BREW: No, but we knew people like this friend who was followed into his garage or something and he had previously—

BREW: Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, yes, I know the one, USIS (United States Information Service). No, he was—yes. One fellow walked into an ATM; two men walked in right behind him with a gun, 7:00 on a Saturday morning. They just took \$500 out or \$800 out, let him go. A day or two later he asked for a transfer back to the United States.

MRS. BREW: We had fond memories of living there in his youth.

BREW: Yes. In a wholly different situation.

Q: Who was the ambassador?

BREW: Jim Jones at first and Jeff Davidow after that.

Q: How were they?

BREW: Good.

Q: I've interviewed Jim Jones.

BREW: Yes. He's got quite a background——

Q: He really does.

BREW: ——in the United States. I mean, Lyndon Johnson's appointment secretary.

Q: In his 20s.

BREW: He's very bright, a very capable guy and he really—— he just likes people so he gets along well with the Mexicans. Jeff is bright, very capable. He's now running a small think tank——

Q: In San Diego.

BREW: San Diego, yes. It's sort of affiliated with UC San Diego. They may be on the campus or something. But he gets to—— he's responsible for maintaining it.

Q: Well did you find that, in a way, that relations in an embassy in Mexico could be quite different than in an embassy in Tokyo or somewhere because everybody—— there are all sorts of contacts in Washington and all of the different Departments in Mexico, Mexican Departments, have their own contacts and there's a whole different set of channels?

BREW: There are two or three channels for everything and the Mexicans that you work with are very polite, they're professional, but you know that they're thinking this great big bear in the north and poor, weak Mexico in the south and how do I protect myself and our country from the rapacious——

Q: From the colossus to the north.

BREW: Colossus to the north.

MRS. BREW: It's the same way Canada feels.

BREW: Yes, oh yes. On the other hand if—— we had a number of, half a dozen people, different organizations, who had either—— who had been born in Mexico or who had family born in Mexico, at one time or another and they become American citizens, they had been sent back, and the Mexicans were very, very difficult about that. They would—— I think the general wisdom was if they're going to negotiate something, or try to work something out, the Mexican government would prefer to work with someone on

the American side who had no contacts with Mexico rather than someone who spoke their language, or probably did, and may have very good connections too. So I think they—— they are differing things. Although I will say that Tel Aviv was not that different from Mexico; there's no sense in having all sorts of contacts in every direction.

Q: What about water? Did that fall under your province?

BREW: While I was—— yes. While I was in Tel Aviv it certainly did.

Q: But in Mexico?

BREW: Oh, in Mexico?

Q: They had all sorts of water commissions.

BREW: You know, the Water Commission is the Water Commission. It's pretty independent. We would help them out and the Science Attaché, Science Counselor would work with them on various things, so I'm not sure where it fell within the pecking order within the embassy. I think they did their own work primarily. The water and boundary commission, is it?

Q: Yes.

BREW: Yes, they had a person in the—— Mexican, the Mexican Desk in the State Department, the person they hire who works there. But they had their own established procedures and established contacts so they could work really quite well with the Mexican people who do the same thing.

Q: Well how'd you find living in Mexico?

BREW: Great. Well, I mean, there are small problems. You don't eat the vegetables without purifying them in bleach or something.

MRS. BREW: Mexico City will wear you down.

BREW: We had a very, very nice three-bedroom apartment, a twenty-minute drive to work. Good support—— pretty good support, for the management of the apartment building, a small building, and the embassy, when things needed to be done. You could get away on weekends quite often. There wasn't very much weekend work, whereas Tel Aviv was full of it. Being it's the Mission of the UN, I mean, it's constant. And there are interesting places to go, places you learn to like.

Q: Where did you go after Mexico?

BREW: I came back and retired.

Q: Oh. You retired when?

BREW: November 30, 2000.

Q: What have you been doing since?

BREW: I worked in IPS (A Bureau, Office of Information Program Services) for about seven years.

Q: IPS being?

BREW: The folks in the Department who will clear my comments. Worked on Middle Eastern stuff for significant Middle Eastern issues, not our current ones, for a long time, I'm afraid, various things like that. I stopped there about eighteen months ago, not voluntarily but again, I fell and got banged up so it's hard walking this way.

Q: I notice you've got a cane, yes.

BREW: Yes. So I've been actually pretty limited in my endeavors for the last eighteen months.

Q: Well you've had some interesting places with a lot of pressure on you.

BREW: Yes, sometimes.

Q: Well what we'll do is, we'll get this all typed up and then send you a copy and then ask you to do the normal editing job.

BREW: Clean it up.

Q: You know, but not, don't do it as a State Department person who'd try to impress us; impression is not what we're after. And also if there are things that weren't mentioned that you think should be, incidents or comments or something, feel free to put them in.

BREW: Oh, okay.

BREW: You know, I was thinking, in our discussion we never got around to—— did we ever discuss the negotiation of Resolution 242?

MRS. BREW: You never did.

BREW: No? We didn't get a turn? That's one of the—— that's the basic resolution of the (UN) Security Council that slowly brought things back together two months after the July '67 war, which says that you shall withdraw from territory, and I was there for that. I wasn't in the negotiations but I talked to the ambassadors as they negotiated it a number of times.

Q: Okay. Well if you take a look at this, if you can slip these things in, don't worry about it. You'll get it in electronic form so you can play with it anyway you want.

BREW: Oh, you mean on a disk or something?

Q: Yes.

BREW: Okay. That's good.

Q: Great. Well, I appreciate this.

End of interview