The Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project

VANCE C. PACE

Interviewed by: David Reuther
Initial interview date: May 15, 2015

Q: Today -- this is a Foreign Affairs Oral History Program Interview with Vance Pace. Today is the 15th of May, 2015. This interview is being conducted under the auspices of the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training and I'm David Reuther. Vance, let's start off with a little background. Where are you from? Where were you born?

VANCE: I was born on the 20th of June, 1935 in Cedar City, Utah. Cedar City is in Southwestern Utah. At that time it was the, probably the only, only city in southern Utah that had a hospital. So I was born in the Iron County Hospital in Cedar City, Utah. But my parents lived in a small town, or hamlet with a population of about 10 souls, called New Harmony. It was about 20 miles south of Cedar. And my father was a sheepherder and my mother came from that part of the country as well.

Q: Now, is that mountain or desert or what's the geography of that part of Utah?

VANCE: Yeah, that part of Utah is on what's called the Colorado Plateau. The elevation of New Harmony is exactly 5,280 feet. It's high desert. It's very dry and the, the main source of income in almost all of southern Utah at that time was, was agriculture, mainly ranching and livestock.

Q: Now, let's talk about your parent's generation. Were they also born and raised in Utah?

VANCE: They were. Clark Pace was born there as well in 1900 and Geneva Heaton was born just east of there in another town called Alton, which is near Bryce Canyon National Park. She was born in 1903 and her family were also in the livestock business, in the sheep business as well. They happened to meet in Cedar City in the 1920s and were married in 1929.

Q: The '20s would have been a fairly rough time for farming.

VANCE: Especially during the Depression. The Depression was extremely hard on agriculture in Utah. They were really living on subsistence. They had land, they had small farms where they could raise pigs and chickens and cows and, and some vegetables and a few fruit trees, and that was really how they lived.

Q: That sounds like personal consumption rather than being on the market.

VANCE: Yes, that's right. Whatever, whatever cash income our family had came from selling wool.

Q: Hm.

VANCE: So when Reed Smoot passed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of the 1930s Clark thought that was great because it protected his wool from the, from the New Zealand and Australian wool market, and he thought that they kept the price of wool up. Unfortunately, wasn't able to see the larger implications of the act.

Q: Mm. Now, we often get people to say well, you know, my European heritage was Irish or German or --

VANCE: Ah-ha.

Q: -- something. How about your people? Your father's side?

VANCE: Almost entirely English. You know, Mormons do a lot of genealogy.

Q: Yes sir (laughs).

VANCE: And so somebody has done a lot of genealogy on both sides of my family. In both cases they go back to England, but after many, many generations. As a matter fact, I think there's considerable credible evidence that the first Pace in the United States was in Jamestown.

Q: Hm!

VANCE: There certainly was a Pace there and some genealogists have linked that Pace to our family. In any case, my Pace ancestors came out of the American South. My great great grandfather lived in Tennessee and that's where he first became aware of the Mormons. He and his wife converted and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, which was the center of Mormonism at the time. My mother's maiden name is Heaton, and her genealogy also goes back to England, but much later than my father's.

Q: Can you tell us about their education?

VANCE: Yes, my father never finished high school. His father died when he was about 15 and so he was really unable to get any schooling. He dropped out high school probably about the tenth or eleventh grade and never finished. My mother finished high school and, and took a couple of years of college in Cedar City. There was a junior college there at that time called the Branch Agricultural College. And she had two years and actually taught school for a little bit.

Q: Now, how long did you live in Cedar City?

VANCE: I was born in Cedar City which had a hospital, but we lived in the small town of New Harmony.

Q: In New Harmony.

VANCE: Yes. I lived there seven years. And there was a two-room schoolhouse in New Harmony, which went to the eighth grade. There were grades one to four in one room, and five to eight in the other room. Each grade was a line of desks. So one line of desks was the first grade, another line of desks was the second, and so on to the fourth grade. And that's where I went for my first year of school. In 1942, after the country entered World War II, my parents moved to Ogden. And that huge -- I call it a huge catastrophe for the world -- was actually a huge blessing for me, because it got me out of that little town into a place where I could get some education.

Q: So they moved up to Ogden to get a defense job.

VANCE: My father got a job at a defense plant. There were several defense plants in the Ogden area and one was an army depot, not very far from where we lived. And my father worked there and for a while my mother worked in another defense plant called the Ogden Arsenal. She worked there for a year or two, but then my younger sister was born and she didn't go back to work after that.

Q: But the work really made a difference when you're moving into an urban area and there's a cash economy.

VANCE: Right. Right, right. I am the middle child. I had a sister who was four years younger than I, and another sister that was eight years younger. She was born in 1943. She was born in Ogden. My older sister and I were both born in Cedar City.

Q: What were the schools like in Ogden as compared to New Harmony?

VANCE: There was a huge influx of people in the cities at the beginning of World War II. And this made for very rapid school growth population. So the, the elementary that -- I went to had two classes of each grade, so there were two first grades, second grades -- as far as I can remember. At least in my grade there were two classes. And I went to the, what's called Lincoln Elementary. I went there until I was, until I finished the seventh grade. And then I went to junior high, which was maybe a mile away called Mound Fort Junior High. And there I went to the eighth, ninth, and tenth grades. And then at the time there was only one high school in Ogden, but it was very crowded and I finished, I finished high school in 1953 and at the time I went there were only juniors and seniors in the high school. Ogden opened a new school year the following year, and so then they had sophomores at the high school too.

Q: Now, the war, which brings you to Ogden in the first place, must have been a point of attention even if say, you're seven, eight, nine-years-old, you must have noticed the news and stuff.

VANCE: Right. Yes, it was very much a part of our lives. We bought stamps for savings bonds. I can remember crushing steel cans and taking them to school and they were collected, and all kind of patriotic things like that that we did.

Q: Now, just as you're coming to high school graduation, the Korean War breaks out.

VANCE: That's right.

Q: And as a young teenager you probably would have been even more aware of that event.

VANCE: Exactly. As a matter of fact, in my senior year of high school there were a couple of neighbors of mine that were veterans of World War II and they were in the Army reserve, and they enlisted me in the Army reserve at that time. So I was in the Army reserve from the time I was a senior in high school until I finished my enlistment. The Army was an eight-year enlistment.

Q: Mm-hmm. In -- as you're going through junior high and high school, do you recall any special teachers that caught your intention?

VANCE: I mainly remember in junior high and high school English teachers, history teachers, and one particular math teacher. Would you like me to go into some detail about them?

Q: Yeah, because this is, you know, your maturation, what broadened your horizon.

VANCE: Yes, yes, it was. I remember an English teacher in junior high, she was, she was also the drama coach, and she was very dramatic. And one of the things that I can remember about her is that she taught me never to say, "I feel badly."

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: She had a very dramatic way of showing how you would never say that. I had, I had a, a history teacher who actually taught teacher at the junior high and then moved to the high school where I was. And he was very good on current events. When I was in the tenth grade Truman fired MacArthur for insubordination. I was incensed by MacArthur's firing and wrote my first letter to a congressman at that time -- his name was Wallace Bennett -- and protested the firing of MacArthur. Bennett -- who was a Republican, and of course so was MacArthur, but Truman was a Democrat -- came back and actually defended the action, saying that the president was the commander-in-chief and he was entitled the loyalty of his military advisors. So that was an interesting part of my junior high and high school.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: I had a, I had a math teacher both in junior high and high school. A lot of my teachers from my junior high moved to the high school when they enlarged it. And this math teacher, I thought I, I thought I was OK in math, but come to find out he had a penchant for moralizing. Looking back on it, I think I was shortchanged in the math area, which would come back to haunt me in college.

Q: What were the kinds of books that you were reading at the junior high and high school time?

VANCE: Well, I can remember, I can remember reading some novels. I read The Razor's Edge. I read a couple of books by Lloyd C. Douglas. Kind of a religious, historical religious books that I can remember, I can recall reading in high school. Of course my textbooks. I must say, I must say in high school I wasn't really a great student, I didn't study very much. But the thing that I did fairly well in was journalism. I was the sports editor for the school newspaper and so I wrote about all of our sports events, football, basketball, baseball, track. And all of the, all of the events I wrote about and there were, there were one or two other people on the staff on sports and I did the editing for that. So that was where I got my beginnings of writing.

Q: OK. Now, since you moved into an urban area there's all kinds of opportunities for a young man to get a part time job and make a little extra cash. Did you pursue some interest there?

VANCE: I actually worked from the time I was in elementary school until I retired in fact. I never was without a job. My first job was shining shoes in a barbershop. And I can remember that I earned 15 cents shining shoes. Then I had a paper route and I delivered The Salt Lake Tribune, a statewide newspaper. And I did that for two or three years. Then, and then I got a job in a grocery store and I worked there for -- I worked there until I was in college and became a Mormon missionary. My parents, who didn't have very much money, expected me to buy my own clothes.

Q: Did you have a bike or did you walk your paper route?

VANCE: I had a bike.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: the, the local Ogden newspaper is called the Standard-Examiner and almost everybody in Ogden subscribed to that. But The Salt Lake Tribune had many fewer subscribers, and so it was a fairly extensive area that I covered. I would say maybe 30 or 40 square blocks. Did it on a bike.

Q: Now, when I was a paperboy the financial part of it was I bought the papers from them, and then I sold them to my subscribers and at the end of the month had to college.

VANCE: Exactly. Yeah, that was exactly the way it was for me too.

Q: Yeah (laughs). Those were the days.

VANCE: Yeah, yeah.

Q: Well now, you graduated from Ogden High School in June of '53. In July the Korean War ends.

VANCE: Right.

Q: But as you said, you already joined the Army reserve.

VANCE: Right, right. Let me just say that my graduating class was very large, over 700 students. So it was a big class.

Q: Oh!

VANCE: I was in the Army reserve, which gave me a deferment from the draft. So I, I didn't have to go fulltime in the Army. I would go to do drill one night a week. And then two weeks in the summer our unit drilled. These were at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Camp Roberts, California, Yakama, Washington. Those are the places that I went for summer.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now --

VANCE: I dropped out of college after two quarters of my sophomore year figuring that I would be going on this mission. And I went to a fairly two month training in Army administration at the Presidio of San Francisco. I recall learning the kinds of skills a company clerk would need.

Q: You became the Radar O'Reilly of --

VANCE: I became the Radar O'Reilly *(laughs).* At that time, at that time there was a postal unit in Ogden I had transferred into. It was a lot less time consuming that commuting the 40 miles to Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City.

Q: Now, when you graduated from high school did you have any thoughts of further education, or?

VANCE: Yeah, I went, I went directly to college. There's a, there was a junior college in Ogden called Weber College. And I enrolled there that fall and went, I went there for five quarters before I dropped out and worked fulltime and went to this Army camp. I started

my college education, and that was when I realized that my high school math teacher had failed me. Or perhaps I failed myself by not being a more diligent high school student. In any case, I had no idea about higher mathematics.

Q: What sorts of classes were -- did you enroll in then at Weber?

VANCE: I had to fill certain groups -- English, Social Sciences, Life Sciences, PE. I'd do that, but my emphasis was mathematics and chemistry and engineering -- those kinds of classes --, which I didn't do well in at all. And it, it, it took me several years to realize that just wasn't going to work for me. But it was really rather special for me. Outside of class I enjoyed social life. Weber didn't have fraternities, but it had social clubs, which were similar, and I was a member of one of those.

Q: Now, you've also told me that you worked as a surveyor's assistance for the --

VANCE: I did. I had a very good friend whose father was assistant regional forester-- there was a regional office of the Forest Service based in Ogden, headquartered in Ogden. And, and I also had very good connections with the regional forester with whom I went to church. So I had really good connections. And so in the summer of 1955, and well into the fall I did survey work for the Forest Service. My job was basically to hold the surveyor's chain -- not much math required here. We surveyed basically logging roads. in Idaho, Wyoming, a little bit in central Utah, and finally in the Nevada mountains on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevadas --not far from Lake Tahoe.

Q: Well, it sounds like between your Army Reserve Service and the stint in the Forestry Service, you actually got around quite a bit in the western United States.

VANCE: Well some. The engineers took a field trip to southern California. And the Forest Service moved me to several of the national forests. So I got around the western part of the country.

Q: Now, would this be driving trips or rail or?

VANCE: It was all by driving, yeah. My parents, my parents liked to go to Yellowstone Park, so we went to Yellowstone several times and to the southern Utah park -- Zion and Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks National Monument. We also still had lots of relatives in southern Utah which we visited.

Q: Now, you were saying you stopped going to Weber after five semesters.

VANCE: We pronounce it "Weeber," although most people pronounce it "Webber." I dropped out in March or April of 1955 and then I went to the Army training at the Presidio. I came back around the first of June and then worked at the Forest Service until I left to go to Brazil.

Q: Now, how did the opportunity to be a Mormon missionary in Brazil come up?

VANCE: Well, where you go is where they send you.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: So I did -- that's just what happened. But at the time, it was not very easy to go because the Mormon Church had made an agreement with the draft boards that they would only send one missionary per year from each congregation (called a ward in LDS lexicon). And since my birthday came in June and there were several of my colleagues who turned 20 -- the minimum age at the time -- I did, So I was left without a quota. But the church is organized into several wards, called a stake (roughly comparable to a diocese). If there was another ward in the state that didn't have an eligible missionary, the stake could transfer that quota to another ward. And that's what happened to me. I got a quota from another ward, so I was able to go on the mission.

This is how Mormon missionaries are "called:" First of all, they fill out a bunch of forms - similar to an application. Then they go through a series of interviews. First with the bishop, then with the stake president, and in those days with a "general authority of the church -- a man in the top hierarchy. After a time the missionary receives a letter from the first presidency of the church: "You are hereby called to wherever you're called to," and in my case it was Brazil. This letter tells the missionary where to report, and when. And so in November of 1955 I reported to Salt Lake City and all the missionaries that are going to go wherever in the world congregated there for week of training in Salt Lake City, and then from there they go to wherever they're called to go. Does that make sense to you?

Q: Yeah, sounds not that far from the draft (laughs).

VANCE: No *(laughs).*

Q: I mean they choose when and where you go, right?

VANCE: Right. Right. I -- let me just say that today it's much better organized and they go two years younger than I did and they, they have a, a *huge* complex in Provo called the Missionary Training Center. In addition there are about maybe nine or ten other of these training centers around the world where they send young missionaries. And whereas the group of missionaries that met when I went, there were about 200 of us. Today there are 20 times that many.

Q: Excellent.

VANCE: And their training is more extensive and in the case of missionaries who are called to language missions, they have language training for them. I had no language training at all. Missionaries who were called to foreign language missions served longer and they were expected to spend the first six months in the country learning the language, at the same time performing their proselytizing duties.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: So in my case it was Portuguese.

Q: Now, how did you start language training then?

VANCE: I was paired off with an experienced missionary called a senior companion who was supposed to teach me the language. In most cases, and this is part of the reason they changed it, it didn't work very well. But in my case, I learned it. I got a grammar book, I got a dictionary, and I studied, and I memorized, and I really applied myself and I did OK.

Q: Oh. Now, you're talking about being in country before you studied, or studied in Brazil?

VANCE: I got the books before I left and studied on my own, but it was really when I got there that I really started to learn it.

Q: Surely. Now, how does one travel to one's missionary assignment in those days?

VANCE: In those days it was by train and ship. So in November of 1955 I got on a train, in Salt Lake City with about missionaries going to South America in this group. We took the train to Denver where we changed trains. Next stop was Chicago and from Chicago we took the train to Hoboken, New Jersey where took a ferry across the river to New York. And while we were in New York we went to the Brazilian consulate, picked up our visas, got -- it was so, it was so informal. All I had to do was go in there, fill out a form, and in a day or two my visa was ready, and then we boarded the *SS Argentina*, It was a two-week trip from New York to Santos, Brazil.

Q: Now, you had a couple of days in New York.

VANCE: Yes.

Q: And you're from the West. Did you take the opportunity to look around New York?

VANCE: Oh yeah! One of things I did was go to church there where I met an old friend Ogden, who took me to Chinatown and we ate Chinese food and toured around. I went to Radio City Music Hall and saw the Rockettes and a movie. And I went to a New York Knicks basketball games. Those are some of the things I remember doing while I was there.

Q: Mm-hmm. And the ship you were talking about is the Moore-McCormack SS Argentina?

VANCE: Yes, the SS Argentina?

Q: What kind of accommodations did you have? Is this a steamer sort of thing or a actual passenger --

VANCE: The Moore-McCormack ships that sailed from New York to Buenos Aires were basically freighters that had room on them for passengers. So we had, we had a state room. As I recall there were four missionaries to a room. They had two -- they had four bunk beds, and we stayed there. And I can remember how great the food was. They did have a swimming pool. And crossing the Equator was a big deal. And the food was, was wonderful.

Q: Mm (laughs)! And how long did it take?

VANCE: It took two weeks. We had, we had one stopover in Trinidad and, and then the next stopover, the next stop was in Rio. And then we got off in Santos because our mission headquarters was São Paulo.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: And we took -- part of the reason we went by ship was because we took, we had a big steamer trunk that we took with us. We took clothes and bedding and all kinds of stuff that we could have gotten in Brazil, but they didn't seem to know that. So we had this big steamer trunk and when we finished our mission we came home by plane.

Q: Now, we're talking 1955. Were there any women missionaries in the group?

VANCE: Yes, there were three who went to Brazil at that time. And the women missionaries were three years older than the men. The Mormon Church really at that time particularly wanted women to marry young. And so the church figured that if, if they weren't married by the time they were 23 might as well send them on a mission.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: My older sister went on a mission, as a matter fact.

Q: Uh-huh. Now, so you get to Santos and you get off -- I mean are you met by --

VANCE: We're met there by the mission president and maybe one assistant to the mission president. He escorted us through customs and I remember he gave us our first taste of Guaraná. You know what Guaraná is?

Q: No.

VANCE: Guaraná is a Brazilian soft drink. It's made from the guaraná berry. It's a traditional soft drink in Brazil. We got our first taste of Guaraná. Going through customs took a couple of hours, maybe longer, three hours. And then we traveled by car or bus to

São Paulo, where the mission president lived in a home there had his office and headquarters. We stayed at a *pensão* (boarding house), had our first, had our first experience sleeping on a straw mattress, which would be my experience for the next two-and-a-half years. They fed us rice and beans at the mission home, which is the standard Brazilian fare. And then I set off to my first area of work.

Q: What I want to ask is -- I mean you're in a new culture, you're learning a language, how much supervision in terms of cultural adjustment are you getting, or they're just saying you're here, work.

VANCE: You are set up on a regimented schedule. You get up at 6:30 in the morning, you study language, you study the gospel, and then you, you go out and do what's called tracting, which is knocking on doors and trying to get people to hear your message. And you do that like 60 or 70 hours a week. On Sunday, Sunday you spend pretty much all day in church.

Q: So you have a fairly set schedule that you're keeping.

VANCE: Yes, very regimented. And there was a kind of a hierarchy of missionaries. Each area that you work with is called a branch. A relatively experienced missionary called a branch president (in today's mission lexicon a district leader) who doubled as being in charge of several missionaries and the ecclesiastical leader to the Mormon converts of that area. Several branches compromised of district (when there became a critical mass of members, this would be a stake and the branches would be wards.). The district president there was also a missionary. The mission president had two counselors, who at that time were missionaries, and they would travel around the mission and sort of check up on you, give you instruction, see how you were doing and learning. There were seven discussions or lessons that missionaries had to learn in Portuguese and be able to present them to potential members, called investigators in missionary-speak. That was a daunting task, especially if the language is new to you.

Q: Yeah.

VANCE: And these discussions were what you would tell people when you went out to teach. I must say that it was, it was pretty rough going for me. I'm not sure I was very good at it.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: But it wasn't for lack of trying..

Q: But now did you have a specific territory or --

VANCE: Yeah, very specific territory. My first, my first area of, of, of work was in a city called Niteroi, across Guanabara Bay from Rio. And there were virtually no members of the church there and I didn't convert anybody. I was there for five months and -and then,

and I was transferred to São Paulo. So I spent virtually my whole mission in either Rio -- in the Rio area or in São Paulo state, although there were, there were branches or small congregations further south in other, other parts of Brazil. I didn't get there.

Q: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. So you actually rotated around certain places within the province. Now, you're working in another language, which you can speak but probably not read.

VANCE: Well I got to the point where I could read the newspapers.

Q: So how are you keeping up with what's going on in the world?

VANCE: Well, in those days we were encouraged to do that (Mormon missionaries today are prohibited from reading newspapers and magazines -- church publications excepted -- or watching television or going to movies). This was a dynamic period in Brazil. They were just getting started on Brasilia. And then, the president of Brazil was Juscelino Kubitschek.

Q: So let's see, because you were there from '55 to '58.

VANCE: Yes.

Q: So that's, that's three years. When you were there did you have an opportunity to interact with the American consulate in the area?

VANCE: Thirty months, actually. The only, my only interaction with the consulate was when I came home I went to the consulate in São Paulo to get my passport renewed. And that was my only, my only contact with them. I do remember when I was -- I was on the interior or São Paulo state. G. Mennen Williams came to town. And, and, and I went and heard him speak and I can still remember the green polka dot bowtie *(laughs).*.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: But that was about all. We had very limited contact with any Americans at all.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: In Rio there were American Mormons connected with the military and with the First National City Bank. I saw them briefly when I was in Rio, but not much.

Q: Now, you're working in the missionary field.

VANCE: Yes.

Q: Do you have any positive or negative interaction with the Catholic Church, which is predominant there, or any other Protestant missionary efforts?

VANCE: . We would sometimes have informal contacts with them. I can remember encountering a Catholic priest one time where he just sort of ignored us. The LDS Church wasn't on anybody's radar in the 50s. Its bigger now according to church records there are about a million and a quarter Brazilians who are Mormons today. When I was there it was probably a few thousand.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: In the whole country.

Q: And you were there when some very interesting international things happened. The Russians put up Sputnik, for example.

VANCE: And also, also they also crushed the Hungarian uprising while I was there.

Q: That's right, that was November '56.

VANCE: I can remember running across a Hungarian who was just livid about that. And he took it out on me.

Q: (laughs) He was not happy with the uprising?

VANCE: He was not happy with the fact that the Americans didn't intervene.

Q: Ahh.

VANCE: Sputnik went up while I was there and there were some, there were some Hungarian Mormons who had joined the church while I was there. And they were, they were wonderful, charming people. And of course they didn't, give us the same kind of treatment that this other guy did. But I can remember going to their house for dinner one time and they, and they, they loved to tell this joke about Sputnik. They said, "When Sputnik goes around the globe it goes, 'beep-beep, beep-beep,' everywhere except when it goes over the United States. Then it goes, 'ha-ha, ha-ha.'"

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: So they kind of liked to rub it in, you know.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: One of the things that I did was probably a little bit unusual. Time magazine published an international edition, which was available on newsstands in Brazil. And I bought it almost every week and read it from cover to cover. So that's one of the ways I kept up with current events.

Q: Mm, OK.

VANCE: I read, the Brazilian newspaper. There's a, there's a newspaper in São Paulo called O Estado de São Paulo, which was a pretty, it was a pretty terrific newspaper. And they did quite a bit of international news. And it was also good, it was good language study too.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, you've finished your tour, does one say?

VANCE: Yeah, my mission.

Q: Your mission. In mid '58.

VANCE: Yeah, in June of '58.

Q: June of '58. And so you returned -- and you were saying you returned by airplane. What was the itinerary?

VANCE: Oh, that's interesting because it was much less regimented then than it is today. The church gave me however much money it would cost to fly from São Paulo Salt Lake City on Braniff Airlines. And one could go however he wanted. Quite a few missionaries went home via Europe. It's not that far out of the way to Lisbon or Madrid or even Paris from, from São Paulo. I regret that I didn't do that. I came the cheapest way I could because I needed some money to buy a car when I got home. I flew on Aerolineas Argentinas from São Paulo to New York (Idlewild as it was called then), with a refueling stop in Havana.

Q: Hm!

VANCE: Which was interesting. Got off the plane, had something to eat in Havana. This was in June of 1958, six months before Castro came marching into town.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: But nobody seemed concerned at the time, and I was oblivious to Castro. I flew from New York to Detroit to Minneapolis to Salt Lake City.

Q: That sounds pretty grueling.

VANCE: It was about 24 hours. I came home with -- there was one other North American missionary that flew with us, and a couple of Brazilian Mormons that came, that came to the States to study or live. And they were with us on the flights.

Q: Because these would have been prop airplanes at that time?

VANCE: Oh yes, it was a DC-6. DC-6 from São Paulo to New York, and then in, in, in the States they were newer planes -- DC 7s, I believe

Q: Now, when you get back in June of '58 did you have some thought as to what you wanted to do?

VANCE: I did. I had decided to change my major to political science and I got right back into college that fall, although since I came home in June and school didn't start then until September again I again got a job with a surveyor. This was with a private, a private company and we surveyed for residential areas and it was different, different kind of surveying, but basically I was still just holding a chain.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: And that was a pretty good job. And so then I was ready to get back into college and I went back to Weber for two quarters. So I went seven quarters to Weber altogether. And then I, and then I transferred to Utah State University in Logan.

Q: Now, what were the last few classes you took at Weber?

VANCE: Well, I, I finished filling the groups that I needed to fill and I took, I took several political science classes, took American government and some history classes as well, because history was my minor. Weber was still a really small two year college. And I, and I took some life science classes that I had to take. I didn't have to take any physical science classes because I'd had enough of those as an engineering major.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: And, and this is also where I met my future wife.

Q: Wow.

VANCE: She was, she was a sophomore there and she was student body vice president. And anyway, that started a romance that ended in our getting married in September of 1959.

Q: OH, that's great. So you -- in '59 you transfer to Utah State.

VANCE: Yeah.

Q: And so you've already got two years of credits.

VANCE: Right. I got two years of credit, and also at Utah State they allowed me to take a test in Portuguese. And I took a test and I got 15 credit hours of Portuguese language based that test. So I was actually only a junior for one quarter, and then I was a senior.

Q: Quick promotion.

VANCE: Yeah. And then I stayed and did one year of graduate studies.

Q: OK, so -- but I mean in terms of background and whatnot, you've, you've gone all the way through college, you've got a year of graduate studies.

VANCE: At Utah State.

Q: OK.

VANCE: And I left without completing my thesis, but I completed it the following year. And I, I, my, my bachelor's degree was 1961 and my master's degree was 1963.

Q: Mm-hmm. Master's. Well now, while you were studying how were your finances? Or did you have to have a job too?

VANCE: After the war, my father got a job in a bakery in Ogden. It was called the Royal Baking Company. Since it was a union shop, he, he only had to work five days a week and so the sixth day they had to find somebody else, and I was the somebody else. So I replaced him on Friday nights. I commuted from Logan to Ogden -- about 45 miles. I'd go to work about 10:00 p.m. and get off about six in the morning. I would sleep a few hours at my parents' home and then go back to Logan. And since I got union scale it was a pretty good job. We could make it on that. My wife had scholarships, and education was really cheap then.

Q: OK.

VANCE: Then when I got into graduate school I had an assistantship. And we were able to live on that. I was, I was an assistant for two political science professors at Utah State.

Q: Now, you both did very well academically, didn't you? Say you were Phi Kappa Phi?

VANCE: Yeah, we both, we both did pretty well academically after I learned how to study.

Q: (laughs) And got out of math.

VANCE: And got out of math. We both graduated Phil Kappa Phi, which is what they had at Utah State. And my, my master's thesis was titled, "A Consideration of Fidel Castro in Certain Segments of the American Press." Sounds like a long title, but it was interesting. It was both from the standpoint of political science and from the standpoint of journalism.

Q: Right, because it's -- what is the narrative that applies?

VANCE: Well, I decided to take six sources and analyze them from the time Castro invaded Cuba from Mexico on July 26, 1953, until December, 1961, when Castro proclaimed he was a Communist. My sources were: two newspapers, The New York Times, a national newspaper, and The Salt Lake Tribune, a local newspaper;. two news magazines, Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report; and two opinion periodicals, The New Republic and Human Events.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm, yes.

VANCE: I would consider the coverage of each of these on different events that happened during that time. After quoting the articles I would try to analyze and draw conclusions from the. The main conclusions were that the conservative press was much more anti-Castro from the very beginning, and the liberal press was much more sort of tolerant of some of the stuff he did. I don't know whether you've ever heard of Herbert L. Matthews was, have you?

Q: Not right off.

VANCE: Herbert L. Matthews was on the New York Times editorial board. When much of the world press was reporting what turned out to be Batista propaganda that Castro had been assassinated in the mountains of Cuba, Matthews was actually able to get into Castro's hideout in the Sierra Maestra mountain range and interview him and take pictures and say, "He's alive and well."

Matthews became an apologist for Castro for a long time after that almost every other journalist criticized his anti-Americanism and nationalization of private property. The Times came out of it with a black eye, especially after Castro told the world he had been a Marxist-Leninist all his adult life.

Q: Now, you're getting into the academic field at a very interesting time. In 1961 Kennedy becomes president. And suddenly the country's talking Peace Corps.

VANCE: Yes.

Q: You know, ask which you can do for our country. But you've just done Peace Corps. How did you see this Kennedy phenomenon? Because you're in the academic world and your studying poli-sci would have been a very interesting --

VANCE: Well, it was. And, and it was particularly interesting for me because when Kennedy became president I changed my politics. I had grown up a Republican, although I think a moderate one. I would have considered myself a Rockefeller Republican. And then with the election of Kennedy I changed parties and I became active in local politics until I joined the Foreign Service. I was the delegate to the local and state conventions until I left Utah.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: When I was in college at Utah State one of the language professors pointed out to me a, a flier on the bulletin board of the language department that said, "The United States Information Agency is looking for people who have had foreign experience to teach English in bi-national centers overseas."

And I thought, "Man, that's me. I've certainly done that."

Q: Mm-hmm!

VANCE: And so I responded to that. In fact, none of the people that they hired were hired as teachers. They were hired as administrators in bi-national centers. But that wasn't what the flier said. So I applied. I applied for a grant to teach English overseas, thinking that my whole experience in Brazil, they'll send me back there.

Q: This bulletin board incident was when?

VANCE: 1961, as best I remember.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: When I heard nothing about my application, I took a job teaching high school in Ogden. People I had listed as references would tell me that federal agents were around asking questions about my background, and my wife and I instructed to go to the air base near Ogden for physical exams.

And then in the spring of 1962 my wife and I took the train to Denver and were interviewed by two USIA (United States Information Agency) people, and you know, to this day I don't remember who they were. They interviewed both of us, but mainly me. The questions were about international politics, international economics, and also what I did as a missionary. And so I obviously passed the interview because then they, they followed that up with an offer.

Q: Now actually, at this time in your life you've finished your academic work and you have a job in academia.

VANCE: Right.

Q: You're teaching history and government at a high school.

VANCE: Right. In October of 1962k, right at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, I got a call from my congressman, indicating that he had received an inclination I was going to be offered a job. Less than a week later, Elizabeth Hopkins (who I later learned was the queen of bi-national center grantees) called and offered me a position in Thailand or Burma. I was stunned. I would have had a hard time finding them on the map. I told her I was under contract for the academic year, and could not leave at that time.

I thought I would not get another offer, so I dived into my teaching and academic career. I was offered and accepted the position of head of the social studies department at the high school. And I took a job teaching political science in the night school of my Alma Mater, Weber College. I was well on my way in that, in that business. In the summer of 1963 I started work on a doctorate in educational administration.

In July of 1963 Elizabeth Hopkins called me again, this time offering me a grant to go to Colombia.

Q: OK, and you were saying that one of the interviewees was an Elizabeth Hopkins. No, she was the one that called you.

VANCE: She was the one that called me. And Elizabeth Hopkins was the personnel officer for bi-national center grantees. And she ran that office like a little fiefdom. And so if she liked you, you were lucky, and if she didn't, you weren't lucky.

Q: Well now, explain to me what this grant system was. You're not being hired as a permanent member of USIA.

VANCE: No, you're not. You get essentially a two-year grant to go abroad. We had regular tourist passports, but the U.S. Information Agency sponsored or subsidized them. Bi-national center are local institutions with boards of directors. Pro-American foreign nationals get together, raise some capital and start these institutions. Their basic source of income is teaching English as a foreign language. At some point the U.S. Information Agency got interested in them and began to provide materials and personnel in the form of a grantee director. There are bi-national centers all over the world, most of them in Latin America. But they had them in Burma in Thailand, that's why, that's why, at that time that's why they often did that job first. Colombia had seven or eight of them. And in Bogotá the director of the center in Colombia was a Foreign Service officer.

Q: OK, but the grand gig was almost like an academic grant. Here's, here's a grant to do research for two years, et cetera, so here's a grant to run our bi-national center --

VANCE: To direct bi-national center.

Q: To direct.

VANCE: In my case it was the small provincial city of Manizales.

Q: Right, but what -- did the grant just cover your personal salary or did it involve the housing, the salary --

VANCE: Covered housing, salary, differential if there was one. It covered all the things that -- transportation, home leave, it covered all the things that a Foreign Service officer

gets as far as money is concerned, but you didn't have that status, even though a personnel evaluation was written on you just like it was for FSOs.

Q: Right, it wasn't a career thing --

VANCE: That's right.

Q: -- it was a one off, you got the benefit of the experience, they got the benefit of your time, thank you very much.

VANCE: Yeah.

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: That was kind of what started out. But I mean for a lot of people, it was the foot in the door of the Foreign Service. Hewson Ryan who was my ambassador in Honduras and later an assistant secretary of state, began his career as a grantee in Bogotá. His first job was director of the bi-national center in there. So, for some people it was the way into the Foreign Service.

Q: OK, so --

VANCE: And eventually it was either lateral entry into the Foreign Service or finding some other work, because USIA stopped doing grants.

Q: Mm. Now, weren't you -- so they offer you this grant.

VANCE: Uh-huh.

Q: Colombia. You accept it.

VANCE: Yes.

Q: What's the next step? You're in Utah, Colombia's to the south.

VANCE: OK, so I'm in Utah and Elizabeth Hopkins calls me and says, "We're, we're going to offer the position as director of the Bucaramanga bi-national center. We're going to bring you to Washington and you're going to have about 12 or 16 weeks of orientation in Washington." The orientation included a three-week course in linguistics and area studies. We took several courses with the USIA JOT class (Junior Office Training). While I was doing my orientation the Public Affairs Officer from Bogota came to town, and I had a conversation with him my wife was pregnant and I felt uncomfortable about having her go Bogota to have this baby. Because my foreign language was Portuguese and I spoke no Spanish, the plan had been to give me Spanish language instruction in Bogotá before sending me to Bucaramanga.

He agreed that going from sea level to 8,000 feet for, for the birth of a child was not a good idea. So the Bucaramanga offer was withdrawn and I was without any assignment for several weeks. In the meantime they gave me, they gave me a 16-week Spanish course at FSI.

Q: Mm-hmm.

VANCE: So I was actually in Washington for training from July of '63 through February of '64. This enabled my wife and our two-year-old daughter, to come to Washington. We got an apartment and we lived there until we went overseas.

Q: Now, where was FSI at this point?

VANCE: It was at Arlington Towers. Do you remember when it was in the basement of Arlington Towers?

Q: Yes (laughs).

VANCE: A USIA officer whose name was Joe Glazer who had actually done a lot of, a lot of cultural work with -- oh, Charlie "Bird" Parker. Do you remember "Bird" Parker?

Q: Yeah, yeah.

VANCE: Glazer composed the "Ballad of FSI," which was really funny.

Q: Oh, I love it. If you remember it you'll have to send it to us.

VANCE: I'll have to see if I can find it. I can remember one verse of it, and he said, "We got Tom Sarris' steakhouse across the street and Tom Sarris' flophouse right at your feet."

Q: (laughs)

VANCE: Do you remember, you remember the Tom Sarris restaurants?

Q: That's right. That's right down there where the Metro station is now.

VANCE: Yeah.

Q: Yep, yep. This training that you were in, now were you with other grantees?

VANCE: Yes. Most of it was with other grantees, except the language training was with other Foreign Service officers. But yes. There were about eight or nine new grantees that were there, and there were about five or six grantees who were coming back for some reorientation. And so it was nice to be able to talk to them about what they did.

Q: Ah, OK. Who were some of the new guys, do you remember?

VANCE: Yeah, Bill Lindsey, Nate Rosenfeld and Don Gale were three that went on to Foreign Service careers.

Q: And they, like you, had accepted this fellowship.

VANCE: Right, and like me they all had overseas experience.

Q: Oh really? In what way?

VANCE: Some of them had actually worked in bi-national centers as local hires.

Q: Mm.

VANCE: And others had been there -- I don't remember all the details, but yeah, as a matter of fact, one of my colleagues in the Foreign Service, his name is Ray Burson, he was actually teaching at the bi-national center in Turkey, I think, when he got his offer. So some of them had that kind of experience.

Q: Sounds like travelers who just stopped in one place and were able to get these jobs.

VANCE: That's right.

Q: That was the time. So OK, February '64 you complete the training and so you're off to --

VANCE: Our second child was born at George Washington University Hospital the day after Christmas 1963. So she's six-weeks-old when we go to Colombia. We have a six, a six-week-old and a two-year-old at that point.

Q: Well, at this point then how do you arrive at post?

VANCE: We flew from Washington to Miami and from Miami to Bogota, and we were met there by Chuck Green who was our bi-national center coordinator. He took us to the hotel. We had three or four days orientation in Bogotá where we met all the staff at USIS, Bogotá, and then we flew to Pereira, which was an nearest airport to Manizales.

Q: Now, at Manizales you were head of the operation. So as you said, this was an administrative --

VANCE: That's right. I was the director of the center. Manizales is in the heart of the Colombian coffee-growing country. It is the home of Juan Valdez, the famous icon of coffee commercials. I'm sure a tea totaling non-coffee drinking gringo was seen by the local populace as a rare bird, indeed.

Q: All right. And what did the center do?

VANCE: Well, the main source of economic support was teaching English as a second language.

Q: So you charged.

VANCE: Yes. There was a locally-elected board of directors of the center, so my line of authority was bifurcated. I had to report to this board of directors and to USIS Bogota. We also organized and did cultural events. We had an exhibit space; we had a library; we had a theater. And whenever a cultural presentation sponsored by the government came through we had to organized and sponsored it. The Cleveland Orchestra came in while we were there and played. And the Robert Shaw Chorale came to Manizales while we were there.

Q: Now, when did this whole bi-national center project start? I mean was this a Kennedy administration thing?

VANCE: Oh no. No, no. Bi-national centers went all the way back to the 1920s I think.

Q: Hm.

VANCE: If my -- if I remember right, the first bi-national center was organized in Buenos Aires in 1929. I'm not sure about the date, but -- and they were just local organizations which were sprung up by businessmen or, or other pro-American people who lived there who wanted more interchange between the two countries, the two cultures, and so they would start these bi-national centers with boards of directors. And then I don't know at what point USIA came into it, but it was long before Edward R. Murrow. I'm trying to think of when Hugh Ryan was the director of the bi-national center, but it would have probably been in the late '40s.

Q: Mm.

VANCE: So bi-national centers still exist, but the Foreign Service has very little to do with them. It is possible that the office in the State Department that coordinates information centers abroad may give some assistance in the form of books or other publications, but I am too far removed from it to know that.

Q: Well, it sounds like they were fairly autonomous at the time that you were involved too.

VANCE: Well yes. But, but the difference between barely existing and being profitable was the, assistance that USIA gave them. We would get grants for a lot of things. One of the things that we, one of the things that we did at Colombia was a program called bi-national center teaching fellows. The Bogotá BNC (to use the alphabet soup of the day) had a recruiter in the states who would recruit recent college graduates, or sometimes

college upper classmen, who would come to South America for a year and essentially teach on Peace Corps type salary for a year just to get experience. And I, I had probably seven or eight of those during my time in Colombia. USIA would give us a grant to pay for their transportation and other incidental expenses.

Q: What other sources of money did you have?

VANCE: Well, this is a good question because the, the center that I inherited was deeply in dangerously in debt when I got there. My predecessor was a very dynamic guy who was well known in the city, but he didn't know much about business administration. And so he, he talked the board of directors into signing a loan for what seemed like an awful lot of money to me, I don't remember how much it was. With this loan, he moved the center from an old rented hole in the wall into a rather charming colonial house, which the center bought and rebuilt. It was a nice place -- tastefully done and it was keeping the original architecture and the cultural aspects of it. The problem was a lack of capital to pay off the loan. So I was left with this huge debt. Fortunately, one of the board members, an American manager of a coffee exporting company, had some really good contact with an insurance company in Bogotá and we were able to spread this debt out so that it could be paid off in a period of time. And then, the U.S. government changed its policy on selling cars. Do you remember that?

Q: Right. You could import a car duty free.

VANCE: Right, you could import a car duty free then, sell it for whatever its retail value on the local market was and keep the profit. More than one FSO sent his kids to college with that benefit.

Q: Right, and that sales price was considerably above what you'd pay for it.

VANCE: Four or five times in Colombia.

Q: Right, since the same car would have had excessive taxes on it.

VANCE: Then in about 1966 the Department issued a regulation that officers had to either sell their goods for no profit or donate that profit to charity. Somebody got a ruling that a bi-national center was an eligible charity. I was able to talk two or three departing Foreign Service officers from Bogotá into selling their car to the center and then the center turned around and sold it on the open market for its market price. And that saved us. That was the stroke of good luck that was just amazing. I don't know if any of the other center were able to do that or not but I was. I believe we were able to pay off the mortgage on our building. If we didn't pay it off, we at least got into a manageable amount.

Another thing, another thing that I did to improve the financial situation of the center was to establish a bilingual secretarial course. The English classes that we taught were almost exclusively in the evening, because the students were people who worked or studied

during the day. But I with the help of my very able secretary and her very able sister, we organized a bilingual secretarial class.

Q: Hm.

VANCE: And these were high school graduates that were from mostly well to do families and, and we, we were -- and we taught them bilingual secretarial science. And that turned out to be also very good for the bottom line. So that was my, that was my success story in administrative bi-national centers.

Q: Well now, you were saying the bi-national center's primary offering was English language lessons, and now these secretarial --

VANCE: Right.

Q: -- lessons. And what other things did it do? It was a library?

VANCE: Yes, we had, we had a library, which was essentially a USIS library. It wasn't as well stocked as the libraries in information centers -- but it was patterned after them. Most of what we had in them was in English. We had two librarians who were bilingual Colombians. They managed the lending library and they had other activities in the library.

Q: Because in many countries you have -- certainly at the capital -- the American center.

VANCE: Right.

Q: Which is USIA run.

VANCE: Right, but in Bogotá the USIS library was in the BNC. There was no other American library in town.

Q: That's where the Cleveland Orchestra goes, that's where noted authors will come and lecture.

VANCE: Yes.

Q: But you've got a -- you're running a much different program than that.

VANCE: We didn't get all the attractions, but we got a few.

Q: So there was some USIA feed, if you will.

VANCE: Oh, there was a lot of USIA feed. USIA at the time had a bureau called the Information Center Service. ICS would send staff down to visit these libraries and train

the librarians. They would cull bookshelves and suggest things to get, and so, there were some similarities.

Q: Now, you're not collocated in a town with the consulate. You're just there by yourself.

VANCE: No, in Manizales there was no consulate. We were in the Cali consular district and we did have some interchange with the consulate, but not a lot.

Q: Did they --

VANCE: In Medellin, which was my second posting, there was a consulate, but we weren't collocated with it. And if a bi-national center director in a city where there's a consulate or an embassy, things are somewhat different than they are when there's not, because when there's no other American presence other than the bi-national center, its director is the American presence in that city. The BNC director gets asked questions if there's something going on and the press or public want to know what the American position on it they call the bi-national center director. For example, Robert Kennedy was assassinated while I was in Manizales. The newspaper called me and wanted my reaction and if there was any official statement on it So you'd get that kind of stuff that you wouldn't get in a place where there was a consulate or an embassy.

Q: On the other hand, you would also be fairly frequently invited to the local chamber of commerce dinners and meetings?

PACE: Right. I was invited to join the Rotary Club in Colombia. This was not as important in Colombia as it would be later on in my career.

I like to tell this incident, which demonstrates the breadth of contacts BNC directors have in cities where there is no consulate or embassy. Bill Wood was a good friend and an American Presbyterian missionary in Manizales. He ministered to a small congregation there. He was transferred to Cali and turned his congregation over to a Colombian minister. One day I got a frantic call from him. He said, "Our minister in Manizales is in jail, you've got to get him out." So I went down to the jail to find out what had happened. The minister had been at one time a prison guard. When a prisoner had tried to escape from prison, he had shot and killed him. Five years later the family of the prisoner that was shot brought charges against him and they put him in jail. I knew the former chief of police but didn't know that he'd been transferred and there was a new chief of police. Since I hadn't remade that acquaintance, I sent him a bottle of scotch and asked for an interview with him. And right shortly after my interview with him they let the young minister go. So I maintain that this may be the only time in the annals of U.S. diplomatic history where a Mormon got a Presbyterian out of jail with a bottle of scotch.

Q: (laughs) Well, it certainly shows the wide variety of circumstances that you met as a result of this --

PACE: Yes.

Q: -- assignment. Because you were -- what you're saying is you were looked on as the American representative.

PACE: Yeah, that's right.

Q: To that extent, what was the security situation like?

PACE: Well, everything in Colombia had a security problem. You could never leave your house in Colombia unguarded. So you always had a live-in maid there, for security if nothing else. The bi-national center kept a night watchman, somebody locally hired. We tried to keep in touch with the police, but they couldn't have somebody there all the time. They did patrol the area. Once when I was on home leave there was a little bomb put in the center, but it didn't do any serious damage. They never really found out who did it. They had their suspects but never could prove anything. All windows had bars on them. That was just the way it was. My parents and in-law read about violence in Colombia and were concerned about our going there. But we never had any serious problems. We had stuff stolen, but not anything very serious.

Q: What about Bogotazo?

PACE: The Bogotazo -- this was in 1948. The leader and candidate for president of the liberal party, Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, was assassinated. And the country fell into total chaos. People who were in Bogotá at the time told me that they couldn't even leave their house because it was so dangerous. There was a psychiatrist in Manizales who'd been in medical school in Bogotá at the time and he said the only way he survived is that they were living in an apartment right above a little store. The store was boarded up and they were able to take the floorboards up, go down through ceiling and get foodstuffs out of that store to survive. So for years following the Bogotazo Colombia suffered what was called La Violencia. It started out to be a political warfare between the Liberal and Conservative parties, but eventually it degenerated into sort of vigilantism. In 1956 Liberal Party leader Alberto Lleras Camargo and Laureano Gómez negotiated what came to be known as the National Front, whereby the parties would alternate the presidency. This was the political situation for the 6½ years I worked in Manizales and Medellin. It created a semblance of political order in the country and then at, at the end of that time things returned normal. This was, this before the drug cartels.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, you were saying there's eight bi-national centers in the country.

PACE: Uh-huh.

Q: I would presume that there'd be kind of an annual meeting up in Bogota of all you center leaders and --

PACE: Right. We would have at least annually a bi-national center directors conferences in Bogotá. Bogotá BNC director Milt Leavitt held the title of BNC coordinator during my early years in Colombia, because he was an FSO. But the *de facto* coordinator was Charles Green, who was a grantee, like all the other directors. When Green returned to academia Stuart Halpine succeeded him. Leavitt was transferred to Bangkok, and was replaced by a BNC grantee. During my last two years, the coordinator was Jake Dunman who was just out of JOT training. He succeeded me when I was transferred from Medellin to Tegucigalpa.

Coordinators would organize these conferences and we would discuss various problems. Orientation would also come from USIS --Information and Cultural sections, and we were briefed by political and economic officers. There was a labor information officer who was generally someone recruited from the AFL-CIO. Labor unions were a key target audience. Conferences would generally last three or four days and give us a chance to enjoy the capital city. In the mid sixties some of the larger BNCs had student affairs grantees (STAGs) whose primary purpose was to try to influence university students. These were the first to be cut when budgets got tight.

Q: And get some feedback on what everybody else was doing.

PACE: Right, And exchange ideas.

Q: But other than this, I suspect you had little contact with the embassy? Did you know the ambassador?

PACE: We had some contact with him. One ambassador -- Covey Oliver (an LBJ political appointee) came to Manizales while we were there. He went to the university. This was during the Dominican incursion And somebody said, asked him, "What would it take to get American troops into Colombia?"

And he said, "A phone call from me to the president."

You can imagine how that went over in the press.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: *(laughs)* I had to go make some explanations on that little *faux pas*. When I was in Medellin the ambassador was Jack Vaughan and he came to Medellin while we were there. He stopped by the bi-national center, but his tour was coordinated by the consulate. Vaughn had been director of the Peace Corps.

Q: Now, I have in my notes -- let's see. You're in Manizales from '64 to '68, so that's four years.

PACE: A bit longer than four years because I went in February and left Manizales in the summer. My ongoing assignment was San Pedro Sula, Honduras. I protested that on the

basis that it appeared to be a demotion. Fortunately for me, the director of, of the area office in Washington had been PAO in Bogota when I was in Manizales. So I had kind of an in with him. And I went to him and I said, "You know, I've been director of a small, bi-national center, I've been successful at it, I've been doing it for four years. Why are you sending me to a smaller one?" So he got on the phone with Elizabeth Hopkins and they changed it from Manizales to Medellin. So I did have two years in Medellin after that.

Q: OK, one thing you mentioned was that -- see where -- personnel wise --

PACE: Oh yes.

Q: -- your status was changed from a grantee --

PACE: Right.

Q: -- to Foreign Service staff. When was that?

PACE: That was when I was in Manizales. I think they did away with grantees altogether and gave all the, all the grantees who wanted to the opportunity to become Foreign Service staff officers. We had to jump through a couple of hoops, but it was pretty *pro forma*. The result was that got some kind of career status. It wasn't the same as a Foreign Service officer, but we got career status and we got red passports. We had had blue tourist passports as grantees.

Q: The official passport. Now, did this represent a change in the program or --

PACE: Essentially there was no change in the program, we did exactly the same thing as Foreign Service staff officers as we did as grantees.

Q: Right, but they're making you a little more permanent.

PACE: That's right.

Q: And by that they're also making the bi-national centers more permanent.

PACE: That's right. Although in the end the bi-national center directors pretty much disappeared in cost cutting measures.

Q: Oh goodie, we're saving money.

PACE: And while I was in Medellin they sent around panels to interview FSSOs who wanted to become what were then called FSIOs -- Foreign Service Information Officers. I took that panel in Bogotá and passed it, as did most, but not all, of the bi-national people passed. And those that didn't pass that panel were then out. They finished their tour and then they were out of the Foreign Service.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: And so my last year or so in Medellin I was an FSIO and then of course eventually we all became FSOs with black passports.

Q: Now, again, Manizales is four years.

PACE: Manizales is four years, I was in Medellin for two years.

Q: Right. And there's home leave -- you took home leave in '66 and returned to Colombia by ship.

PACE: Right.

Q: And there -- I think you were saying there were other BNC people there, or coming --

PACE: In '66, there weren't any bi-national center people on board ship, but the PAO Ed Murphy and his family were also on board. So we got to know him on the way down. That was in '66. And then in '68 we did it again, we took the ship again.

Q: OK, after home leave.

PACE: Right.

Q: Now, what's the relationship between the PAO, the public affairs officer, and the bi-national centers?

PACE: Well, the public affairs officer directed all aspects of USIS, and USIS treated bi-national centers much the way they treated information centers.

Q: Right, he was a senior USIA officer at post.

PACE: Even though I was a grantee they still did a personnel evaluation on me.

Q: Ah, an evaluation.

PACE: And that was done by the BNC coordinator and the CAO did the review. My last two years BNC coordinator was barely out of JOT training. So all of the, all the BNC directors outranked him and by far had more experience. So then they moved that so that the CAO wrote the evaluation and the PAO reviewed it.

Q: Mm-hmm. Well, we're coming up to the time that we've set for this conversation. It's been awfully interesting. Why don't we break it here and do Medellin next time around?

PACE: OK.

Q: This whole BNC is really interesting.

PACE: I'm glad you think so! A lot of people don't know about bi-national centers. And so I'm pleased with the chance to talk about them.

Q: Well, exactly. Let me turn this on. We're returning to our conversation with Vance Pace. It is the 19th of May. Vance, we were wrapping up your assignment to the bi-national center in Manizales. But I wanted to ask you something. Was there Peace Corps in the area that you were working in?

PACE: Yes, there were. Colombia was one of the prime areas of Peace Corps activities. I think Peace Corps Group #3 was in Colombia when we got there in 1964, so they were very early into Colombia. And they had a wide variety of programs. One of their main programs was community development. They had volunteers in agriculture and education. There were quite a few Peace Corps volunteers, both in Manizales and in Medellin.

Q: How many would you say?

PACE: I would say there were probably 15 or 20 volunteers in the, in the department of Caldas, which was Manizales and Pereira. Fewer in Medellin. At least I didn't know as many in Medellin. And there is a little bit of history here. I don't know whether you're interested in hearing it or not.

Q: Sure.

PACE: There was a contingent of Peace Corps volunteers in Pereira, which was the neighboring city to Manizales where the airport was. They got involved with one of the political parties. And so the, the, the governor of the, of the province asked to have them removed, which the Peace Corps did. And it was an item in the press and, and also among the volunteers who felt that they had been betrayed by their own leaders. The deputy director of the Peace Corps (Steve Dachi who later joined USIA's Foreign Service) and the political officer went to Pereira and had a meeting with Peace Corps directors. Have you ever heard of Lawrence Pezzullo?

Q: Yes.

PACE: Lawrence -- Larry Pezzullo was the political counselor at the time, and they went out to Pereira and talked to them. I don't know whether they knew this or not, but the Peace Corps recorded their meeting, and I heard, I heard the recording of it. It was quite interesting.

Q: Mm-hmm. And in our respective notes, you were talking about being assigned to San Pedro Sula, but worked it out that wasn't the thing to do. But your note says, "Interview with Walter Bastian."

PACE: Yes.

Q: At that -- was that at that point, or was it later?

PACE:, It was later. I was in Washington for consultation after my assignment in Manizales and I went to see the area director who was Robert Amerson, who had been a PAO in Bogota when I first got there.

Q: Right.

PACE: And Amerson was sympathetic to my request that I be assigned to a larger bi-national center, not a smaller one. And so, he I think intervened with Elizabeth Hopkins and got the assignment changed from San Pedro Sula to Medellin. But there was a long period of time before that opened up. So I spent about four months as I recall on home leave before I went down. Amerson suggested that I go see Bastian, who was in Washington at the time, getting ready to go and replace Ed Murphy as PAO in Bogota. I had an interview with him, which didn't go very well.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: I felt that Bastian's personal biases damaged my career. In fact sometimes I feel that Medellin was the nadir of my career and it was largely because Bastian really didn't like me.

Q: And where did religion play in this earlier conversation?

PACE: Yeah, that was one of the things where -- I think this may be a good place to just sort of talk about the, my religion in connection with my Foreign Service assignments, you know.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: You probably know that Mormons have this sort of health code, which we call the word of wisdom. And essentially it is that Mormons are not permitted to smoke or drink alcohol or tea or coffee. And so this was an adjustment for me, and I think it is for most Mormons, to go into a career where particularly alcohol is part of the job. And so, it took me a while to kind of get used to that, especially serving it in my home. But I eventually comfortable with it. When I had my interview with Mr. Bastian he called me in and he, he was in his office. As I recall his first words to me, they were something like, "You're not one of those god dam Mormon missionaries, are you?"

Q: Well, let's get into Medellin. You were saying that you had to wait in Washington until that job opened up.

PACE: Right.

Q: And so what did you do for that four months?

PACE: I took all the home leave and all the annual leave I had accrued and just waited until the job opened up, and then, and then we went to Colombia. again by ship. The ship docked in Buenaventura, which is the Pacific port for Colombia. I flew to Bogota, stayed there maybe a week, had a consultation with the embassy in Bogota, and then went to Medellin and replaced my assistant who was still actually there. We had a little bit of overlap. His name was Don Gale. Don had been in my original grantee group in 1963. He resigned from the Foreign Service at that time but remained in Medellin where he was publishing an English textbook, which he was planned to sell. His idea was to teach English on the radio, using his textbook for the course.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: The bi-national centers in Colombia had an arrangement with the bi-national center in Mexico City to use their textbooks for teaching English. And every bi-national center in Colombia used that Mexico City textbook, except Medellin. It used the text that Gale had written and published in Medellin and he used there. When I became director of the center I decided not to use that textbook anymore and went back to the Mexico City text. This caused friction between Gale and the bi-national center because we had a whole bunch of his textbooks which then were put out on the market. Also, he had -- as my predecessor in Manizales -- contracted to build essentially a new building on the premises of the old one, and this was another huge debt, which in the two years I was there was not able to resolve.

Q: Oh, so the center in Medellin was a brand new building?

PACE: It was essentially a brand new building. It was built as the same site as the old one. We did have some of our officers in the old building and our classes in the new one, which was a multi-story, concrete building.

Q: Mm. Now, you were saying you were interested in Medellin because it was a larger operation and whatnot. So how many people did you have working for you, and what was your budget?

PACE: We had a considerably larger staff. I had a director of courses, an American living in Medellin, two secretaries and a librarian. We had a lot more teachers. We had I would say maybe 25 teachers that were teaching there at the time.

Q: And what was the source of the teachers?

PACE: Local Americans, local Colombians who spoke English and taught English professionally in Medellin. Some of them taught at the university and some of them taught other places, but they also worked at the center. I did have a couple of teaching fellows. And interestingly, I had some American Jehovah Witness missionaries who were

there. They would teach Monday through Thursday days a week, but they wouldn't teach on Friday night because that was when their Sabbath began. They were good teachers.

Q: And again, you have your board --

PACE: Had a local board. There were some good-sized American companies in Medellin. One of them made cookware and another one (Peldar) had its corporate headquarters in Illinois, but they had a plant in Medellin. Price Waterhouse had an office there and it was one of the, one of their auditors was on the board. The board was made up of American business executives and Colombian businessmen.

Q: And again, what you're doing is English language exposure to American culture.

PACE: Right.

Q: That sort of thing.

PACE: The difference between my duties in Manizales and Medellin is that in Manizales there was a consulate. So, while I had been I was essentially the American presence in Manizales, that was not the case in Medellin. The Consul was Cabot Sedgwick, and there was a vice consul, Richard Milton. Plus they had local staff, including a local American secretary.

Q: Mm. OK. So you were part of a larger American presence.

PACE: That's right.

Q: Then you must have had even more frequent contact with the consul.

PACE: Oh yeah. Probably more than weekly, I would say twice or three times a week I would just drop over there and talk to one of them to sort of see what was going on. The ambassador at this time was Jack Hood Vaughan. Does that name ring a bell with you?

Q: No.

PACE: Jack Hood Vaughan had succeeded Kennedy's brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver, as director of the Peace Corps.

Q: Oh.

PACE: He had been director of the Peace Corps. And then when Nixon was elected -- if I'm remembering this right -- they replaced him as director of the Peace Corps, but made him ambassador to Colombia. He was -- the scuttlebutt was that he was technically a Republican so he got the offer based on that.

Q: Well, now he arrives in June of '69.

PACE: Right.

Q: And so that's about seven months after you arrive in November '68.

PACE: Right.

Q: Now, Apollo 11 lands on the moon July of '69.

PACE: Yes.

Q: That must have offered some opportunities to --

PACE: You know, I remember this vividly because it was from a point of view of public diplomacy one of the greatest things that ever happened during my career. It was a Sunday night and we had invited some other Americans in to watch the moon landing on TV. The landing happened probably around 11 p.m. as I recall. Everybody in town was watching it. It was one of those things that was just absolutely stunning. When we and our American guests walked into this restaurant in Medellin, the people there applauded us just because we were Americans..

Q: Now, the DCM (deputy chief of mission) is Robert Stevenson. Did you have an opportunity to interact with him or --

PACE: No. As a matter of fact, I don't even remember him.

Q: Ah-ha, OK. So you basically worked with the USIA side of the embassy --

PACE: Right, right.

Q: Bastian --

PACE: Although Vaughn did visit, and I remember an interaction with him. He was a *very* friendly person.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, you were saying that the new building that you had had quite a bit of debt.

PACE: Right.

Q: And --

PACE: And I don't remember all of the details of it, but it was being financed by a local bank and they were eager to get their money and I didn't, simply didn't have it. And so, when I -- this is what I recall happening, that the bi-national center coordinator in Bogota at the time was a young man named Jack Dunman. And Jake had moved into that place,

from junior officer training (JOT) training. He succeeded me as BNC director. Fortunately, he had excellent relationships with Bastian and the financial apparatuses of the USIS Bogota. And I think that USIS in Bogota bailed him out and giving the center a cash grant to finish pay off the loan. Or at least to get the balance to a manageable amount.

Q: But now you were saying this of course was the same period where Bastian was the PAO and you weren't working very well together.

PACE: That's right.

Q: What kinds of things came out of that relationship?

PACE: Well, he came out to, he came out to Manizales while I was there and I had established relationships with the local newspaper. Colombia essentially had a two party system. They called themselves the Liberal and Conservative parties, but they were essentially vertical in structure -- especially during this period of shared government. But the newspaper in Medellin was aligned with the Conservative Party. Newspapers in Colombia tend to align with parties more than they do in the States. When Bastian came to town I made arrangements to have him meet the editor of the paper. As I recall, he immediately started counting himself as a conservative and said, "Unlike my liberal friend here, Mr. Pace," which I thought undermined my credibility. The editor of the newspaper had no idea what my politics were. And then he reviewed my OER and wrote something like, "Mr. Pace is an active elder in his church, which takes away from his ability to do his job."

Q: Ouch.

PACE: Yeah. I eventually threatened a grievance on that and personnel just removed it. But there it was at least for one reading period. So it wasn't a very, it wasn't a very pleasant relationship and I was glad to get out of it.

Q: Mm-hmm. Let's see. Now, you were in Medellin from 'November '68 to what, summer transfer in '70?

PACE: Actually my transfer to Tegucigalpa was a direct transfer. I didn't have home leave in between. So I just went directly from Medellin to Tegucigalpa and stayed there until the following summer when I went on home leave. An interesting -- one interesting thing happened in my career in Medellin, which should probably go in the story, is that while I was in Medellin USIA totally did away with bi-national center people being Foreign Service staff officers. And so we were given the opportunity to take a panel to lateral in as FSOs.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: And I did that in, in, in Bogotá during that time. And it was really -- to me it was a very interesting experience that -- who made it and who didn't. Because I thought some fairly weak officers made it and some really good officers did not. So I transferred to the regular Foreign Service as an FSIO-5 at that time.

Q: So actually in the space of what, about five years, you've gone from a contractor --

PACE: Right.

Q: -- to a staff officer to a real officer.

PACE: *(laughs)* That's right.

Q: Well now, does this opportunity reflect USIA rethinking the bi-national center program and wanting more -- I would assume -- wanting more stable staff?

PACE: Yes. And this coincided with Elizabeth Hopkins' retirement.

Q: Oh, back in Washington?

PACE: Yeah, back in Washington. I think she retired. Whether this was the cause of her retirement or whether her retirement was the cause of this, I don't know.

Q: Well, one of the parallel events that fits in the chronology is that in 1968 you move from a Democratic administration to a Republican administration. Frank Shakespeare becomes head of USIA.

PACE: Right.

Q: And so in that transition obviously the new guys on the block may have new programs or want to reshape what's going on.

PACE: Yes.

Q: And it seems that you were successful.

PACE: I was success --

Q: You were one of the winners.

PACE: I was one of the winners. One of the losers' departure was USIA's loss. Gaylon Caldwell had served with distinction both in Washington and abroad. He organized a BNC directors conference for all of Latin America, which I attended, and I thought it was one of the most productive meetings I ever attended. He had PhD and had taught at a university before coming into the Foreign Service. So when he was selected out in this

exercise, I could hardly believe it. He landed on his feet as the Provost of the University of the Pacific. Are you familiar with it?

Q: Mm-hmm, it's in Northern California I think.

PACE: Right. It has bi-lingual program and they recruit students from Latin America. He became the provost there.

Q: (laughs) Now, let's go through the process of this conversion. You said, again, it was another panel that interviewed you?

PACE: It was, it was a panel, yes.

Q: And did they come down to Colombia?

PACE: They went to Colombia. They went all over the world. Different panels went different places.

Q: OK. Right.

PACE: But they went all over the world and interviewed all the candidates that applied. And there was -- my recollection, and I don't remember any names here, but my recollection is there were two USIA officers and a State officer on the panel.

Q: And what were the kinds of questions they asked or the environment that they created.

PACE: A lot of current events. And a lot of international relations stuff, probably not nearly as much economics as there is today in the panels, but probably a little of that too.

Q: Now, your experience up until now is administrating a bi-national center.

PACE: Yes, but that doesn't mean that I'm not politically interested. Remember, I was a political science major in college. I was able to answer their questions.

Q: Excellent. Now, I'm -- let me get straight here. Your next assignment is cultural affairs officer in Tegucigalpa.

PACE: Right.

Q: How did that assignment come up and did that come after you were reclassified?

PACE: Yes. That reclassification probably took place in 1971. Well, let's see. I've got my commission here on the wall.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: My commission is dated the 12th of October, 1970.

Q: October 1970.

PACE: Yeah. Yeah.

Q: So up to October 1970 you didn't know what you were going to do next?

PACE: Well, of course if I, if I hadn't passed the panel I would have been looking for a job on the outside.

Q: Right.

PACE: But --

Q: But I mean taking a job in November is off cycle.

PACE: Right.

Q: I'm surprised they didn't already have somebody selected for that.

PACE: Well, one of the things that was happening at the time was that USIA was going through a big reduction. And in Honduras the IO position was cut and the bi-national center position was cut. That was half the professional staff. So there were two officers left, and that's possibly the reason it was off cycle. The person who had been the PAO was transferred and the bi-national center director left. I think he was one of those that didn't make the cut. The IO, Ramon Garces, became PAO. And the CAO doubled center director in Tegucigalpa.

Q: So a lot of those duties were bundled --

PACE: Yes.

Q: -- for the remaining staff.

PACE: Right.

Q: So as cultural affairs officer you were involved in cultural exchanges, but you also ran the bi-national center for Tegucigalpa.

PACE: I can't really say that I ran it because there was a local assistant director there who was really good at it, and she essentially ran it. We consulted on a daily basis. I had an office in the BNC, but my main office was at USIS, which was just a block from the center. USIS was not collocated for the rest of the embassy in Tegucigalpa while I was there.

Q: Had their own separate building?

PACE: Yes, and it was across town. Tegucigalpa is virtually divided into two cites. One is Tegucigalpa and one is Comayagüela. A river runs between them. The embassy was in Tegucigalpa and USIS was in Comayagüela. We had to go across town to staff meetings at the embassy -- including daily country team meetings -- and have consultations with the State Department staff.

Q: Mm-hmm. So what were the kinds of cultural exchanges that you -- well, let me back up. How does one decide what kind of cultural exchanges would be beneficial in an environment like Honduras?

PACE: Right. USIS writes a country plan, which includes a number of International Visitor grants, Fulbright scholarships, cultural presentation, etc. As I recall University of Honduras in Tegucigalpa was the only institution of higher learning in the country, but there may have been either a branch or a separate university in San Pedro Sula. There was a consulate and bi-national center in San Pedro Sula, and as CAO I supervised the BNC and wrote the OER of the director, who was at that time a Foreign Service Officer. A moon rock was being displayed though Central America just as I arrived there. It required high security and an FSO to accompany it wherever it was displayed. The Department closed the consulate while I was there, much to the consternation of the Honduran government and business community on the north coast. That had been the center of trade during the years when the fruit companies were central to American-Honduran relations. As a matter of fact, Honduras was probably the prototype of a banana republic.

Q: Oh, mm-hmm. Now, the country program is made up a year in advance, so the one that you were first operating on must have been produced by your predecessor. So the first one you actually put together would have been in 1971.

PACE: Right.

Q: And in that part of Central America, what things did we understand would draw attention or carry a favorable American message.

PACE: Well, let me, let me just back up a little bit here. Internally, what was going on in Central America -- especially in Honduras -- was the aftermath of a war between Honduras and El Salvador. This was the so called "the soccer war" because it started after a soccer game in Mexico City between the teams of the two countries., but my view of it was that it was really a war caused by over population. Because El Salvador was a very tiny country. It was very tightly managed by what they call the "fourteen families." This was a small elite group of oligarchs that had control of this country for years. And so a lot of, there were a lot of Salvadorans who had emigrated to Honduras and they were kind of the artisan class in Honduras. And when this war broke out they all, they were almost all kicked out and went back to El Salvador. But then, the Salvadorans blamed the United

States for it, and the Hondurans did too. The scuttlebutt around the embassy was that only reason Honduras wasn't occupied was because the Salvadorans ran out of bullets before they got to Tegucigalpa. In fact, the Salvadorans did occupy the Tegucigalpa airport, as I recall.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: There was an armistice in effect when I got there, but there was still a lot of leftover bad feeling. I had been, I had been a member of Rotary, both in Manizales and in Medellin. Rotary in Colombia was mainly a group of businessmen who got together and ate and did good works. But in Honduras it was really something quite different. The foreign minister and a couple other ministers were Rotarians. The ambassador had been an ex officio member of Rotary. After the war they kicked him out. In my first interview with Ambassador Hugh Ryan, he saw my rotary pin and he said, "Hie yourself down to the Rotary Club, get yourself a membership. I want you in there." So that was a really pretty big deal in Honduras and made for some first class contact, both in the government as well as in the private sector.

Q: Well, now, wait a minute. Why did the ambassador not make the grade?

PACE: Well, he was an ex officio member because he's an ambassador, but the Hondurans were upset at the United States because we didn't come to their defense in the war. So they just said well -- they just changed the bylaws and said, "The ambassador's no longer an ex officio member of Rotary, I guess."

Q: OK.

PACE: I was able to do that, partly because two or three members the board of directors were in Rotary -- including the president who was a brother to the foreign minister. So that was my "in." Hewson Ryan had been a USIS officer and a bi-national center grantee. So he was very aware of our program.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: So that's an interesting part of --

Q: Yeah, that's the embassy under the direction of the ambassador using all his staff to get him to understand what's going on in the country.

PACE: So I was, I was a member of Rotary and *(laughs)* this -- probably put this off the record, but I had a really interesting experience in San Pedro Sula. I went, to the Rotary Club down there and we always -- whenever I traveled I would visit the Rotary Club in San Pedro Sula. And one day I was there and there was a, a member of the Rotary Club that -- he was kind of a loudmouth -- asked where I was from.

And I said, "I'm from Utah."

And this guy said, “Are you a Mormon?”

And I said, “Yes.”

And he said, “How many wives have you got?”

Q: (laughs)

PACE: And I said, “Well, I have enough that I’m not going to bother yours.”

Q: (laughs)

PACE: *(laughs)* That was the end of it.

Q: That’s a great response.

PACE: I must say, I didn't invent it, I’d heard it somewhere. *(laughs).*

Q: Now, speaking of other duties as assigned, I note you began to serve on the board of the American School in Tegucigalpa.

PACE: Right.

Q: How was the school organized and how did it serve -- how well did it serve the community?

PACE: Actually, I served on the board of directors of two American schools. The first one was in Medellin and then again in Tegucigalpa. Medellin was a natural selection, because I was the only officer at post with children in the school. The school had a relationship with the Clark County school district in Las Vegas, who at the time I was there provided the principal and at least one teacher. The Nevada school district sent administrators to Medellin to visit the school, and the Medellin sent representatives to Las Vegas. My wife accompanied an educator from Medellin on a visit.

Unfortunately, this exchange did not end well, because the principal got at cross purposes with some of the Americans on the board, and they sent him packing. I regretted this, because his wife was our daughter's kindergarten teacher, and she was excellent.

So it is a bit ironic that my Pearson Amendment assignment (see below) would be with the Clark County school district.

In Tegucigalpa the embassy wanted a representative on the board, and as I recall, I was asked to be that person. It was not an *ex oficio* position, but my election was assured. The Department had a much closer relationship with the Tegucigalpa school than it had in

Medellin. I do not recall any contact with State's office of overseas schools in Medellin, but there was considerable contact between the embassy and that office in Tegucigalpa.

Q: Right.

PACE: And as a matter of fact, the director of that office came to Honduras while I was there and we became friends because he was trying to figure out a way that they could have more American input into the curriculum and into the staffing. And it was a pretty tense situation for a lot of the time I was there.

Q: Because State Department-run schools in most of its posts and so this is a major program, isn't it?

PACE: The State Department gives grants to schools for certain things that it wants, such as counselors, librarians and materials in English..

Q: So these are schools that are in place that State Department provides grants to to bring them up to the standards that it would like for its --

PACE: That's right. So that the dependent children of the Americans who are there are, are getting an education that will let them get into college.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: The other American school where our children went was in Peru. And it was a totally different situation. The American school in Lima was first rate and our daughters really got a good education there.

Q: Well, part of that is probably size, isn't it? I mean how big would the school in Tegucigalpa be?

PACE: Yes. I would say eight or nine hundred.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, you're in the embassy this time rather than a regional post, if you will.

PACE: That's right.

Q: How did Ambassador Ryan run the post?

PACE: Well, he tried, he tried to stay out of USIA affairs because he knew more about them than either the PAO or I. Ryan was a former PAO, plus he had also been the area director for Latin American Area in USIA. I believe he felt he had to be very careful to stay out of our affairs, but he was also very cooperative. He would attend cultural events, including events at the bi-national center. He would speak at them. He was very cooperative in that regard.

Q: What were some of the cultural affairs highlights in the time that you were there?

PACE: The bi-national center had a lot of art exhibits. We would always have a reception to open these exhibits. Most of them were Honduran artists, but we also had some American artists. We also had some resident American artists who would exhibit there. And Ambassador and Mrs. Ryan would go to those and have something nice to say. The center also had a few musical presentations..

Q: Now, when you wrote your program for the year you sent it up to Washington, USIA. Were there things they crossed out or said Latin America doesn't get this? I guess what I'm asking is what is your relationship with Washington at this point?

PACE: I don't even remember whether was passed it through the embassy or not, but they went to the area office in Washington, and I don't recall them crossing out anything. One of the things that I do remember from the other end when I was in Washington was that the Central American desk officer was that they got pretty specific instructions on what to put in there from Washington. So to a large extent they were boilerplate.

Q: Looking at the International Visitor program, how did that work out? Who were the kinds of people that you were nominating?

PACE: Mainly journalists, government officials and academics.

Q: And did the journalists feel it was worth it when they got back?

PACE: Most of them did. Some of them were just off for a good time and they didn't complain, but we got reports on some of them that they didn't do much. Such is the nature of Central American journalism.

Q: Now, you were there for three years, from '70 to '73. Was that a two-year tour that was extended, or it was originally a three-year tour?

PACE: Well, like I said, I went on direct transfer.

Q: Right.

PACE: So the following summer I went on home leave and went back for two years after that.

Q: So that was a personnel regulation that --

PACE: Yeah, it was pretty well a personnel policy.

Q: Now, one of the interesting things I note in our chronology is that when you were acting PAO --

PACE: Yeah.

Q: -- somebody hijacks an airplane?

PACE: Yes, this is what I call my 15 minutes of fame in the Foreign Service. There was a guy named William Hahneman who got on an Eastern Airlines flight. I always thought in Wilkes-Barre, but I've gone back and did a little research and find out it was Lehigh, PA. This was right after the DB Cooperman famous skyjacking.

Q: Right in the Pacific Northwest.

PACE: In the Pacific Northwest. And he had them fly the plane from Pennsylvania to New Orleans, where they actually changed the planes. These were Boeing 727s which had exit ramps which lowered from the tail of the plane. In New Orleans he let all the passengers out. They parked the two 727s back-to-back, and the crew went out one and into the other one. I don't know why this was necessary, but it may have been that the first domestic flight did not have enough fuel to fly to Honduras. Anyway, the second flight took off and flew over Honduras. He bailed out with $300,000 over the jungles of Northern Honduras. He was there in hiding out for about a couple of weeks, with everybody looking for him. Since nobody knew his real name, he felt safe. But somehow somebody identified him and found out what his real name was. And once that was known, he figured with $300,000 in a backpack, his life wasn't worth much in Honduras. So he came to the embassy and turned himself in, asked to be repatriated. In order to get him repatriated the embassy had to get permission from the government of Honduras, because essentially the crime had taken place there. Ambassador Ryan called the president and the president had said OK. So they put him on the military attaché plane, flew him to San Pedro Sula where Eastern Airlines sent a plane down to get him. At that point the head of the ruling political party countermanded the president's order. Finally Ambassador Ryan got on the phone to the head of the army and got permission. That indicates what the real power structure was in Honduras. And within not too many months after that, that General Oswaldo Lopez Arellano staged a coup and took over the government.

Q: Mm-hmm. And what --

PACE: Anyway --

Q: What was your 15 minutes of fame out of all this?

PACE: My 15 minutes of fame was because I was acting PAO/IO and every American journalist covering the story was calling the embassy to, to find out where this guy was. He was in a room right next to the ambassador's office and the ambassador plunked me down in his office and he says, "Don't tell anybody where this guy is until we get him out of the country." So here I was telling all these reporters who were calling in that I didn't

know where he was, and in fact he was right next door with a couple of legal attaches who'd flown up from Managua to escort him back to the States.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: And then as soon as, as soon as the plane took off from San Pedro Sula there was no more interest in Honduras. So what I call my 15 minutes of fame was talking to all these reporters from all these newspapers in the States.

Q: Now in 1973 you move on to your next assignment. How did you work that?

PACE: Well, it was just a regular personnel action. Earlier I mentioned the connection between Medellin and Las Vegas. The Pearson Amendment was in effect in USIA and I presume at State too because it was part of the Foreign Service Act. It dictated that some officers would be assigned outside of Washington to state local governments or other local entities for a year's experience. Senator Pearson thought if you're going to represent the United States you have to know more about it than just what goes on in Washington. It turned out that an administrator -- Dennis Ortwein -- from the Clark County school district had been on an AID exchange program in Nigeria. The branch PAO -- I don't remember if it was Kano or Kaduna. He made friends with the branch PAO there, who went from there to Washington to work in personnel. They came up with this idea that it would be nice to send a USIA officer out to Las Vegas to work in that school district for a year I had decided when I left Tegucigalpa that I would like to have a stint in CU in the department. And the personnel officer said, "Well, I can probably arrange it, but wouldn't you like to have a Pearson Amendment assignment in Las Vegas?" And so I took it. I worked in the Clark County School district for an academic year.

Q: Let's step back for a little bit. Before you leave post, Ambassador Ryan leaves post --

PACE: Right.

Q: -- in May, and the new ambassador comes in, Phil Sanchez.

PACE: Right.

Q: Did you spend enough time with Sanchez to do a compare and contrast your two ambassadors?

PACE: Well, of course Ryan was a consummate career ambassador. His Spanish was very fluent. As a matter fact, he had a PhD from the University of Madrid and he was a consummate professional diplomat. Sanchez had been in local government in Fresno, California, and was a political appointee with ties to the Nixon administration. I was expecting somebody, somebody who didn't know anything. And, and in fact, he wasn't really that well acquainted with all of the ins and outs of inter-American relationships. But he was, he was a very pleasant fellow. He, he got along very well with the Hondurans. One of the things that we did while we were in Honduras was we adopted a

baby. Mrs. Sanchez was *very* interested in that. And she started a program -- unofficial of course, but with her, with her ties in that -- of finding homes in the United States for Honduran babies that were up for adoption. I don't think that lasted past their tenure there. But, but the Sanchez's were really very well liked.

Q: And they too paid attention to the American school that was there?

PACE: Yes, as a matter fact, one of my last duties was writing the ambassador's graduation speech at the American school in Tegucigalpa.

Q: And what did he say (laughs)?

PACE: I can't remember. I remember lifting a lot of stuff out of Hugh Ryan's speech the year before, which nobody remembered, but I don't remember what it was *(laughs).*

Q: OK, in '73 then you had this Pearson assignment.

PACE: Right.

Q: And it's one year out of the Foreign Service assigned to have more exposure to the United States.

PACE: Right.

Q: And it ended up that you were in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas.

PACE: Right.

Q: Because of this earlier connection.

PACE: Right.

Q: So what were some of the duties that you had there that brought you closer to the American people?

PACE: Well, one thing I did was I wrote press releases for the two newspapers, *The Last Vegas Sun* and *The Las Vegas Review-Journal. [The Review-Journal* became the subject of considerable news in 2015 when it was purchased by Republican activist billionaire Sheldon Adelson] . Both papers were interested in features about Las Vegas schools. When there was a program of note, I would take a photographer and visit the school where it was happening. I would do interviews with participants, take some pictures, and write a story. The papers generally picked it up.

The Clark County School district owned the public television station in Las Vegas at the time. And so every evening before they started their evening program somebody from the, from the school district's Office of Public Affairs would go out there and do a

school, a community newscast. My boss did most of them, but, but I also went out and did those once or twice a week most weeks I was there.

But The main thing that I did was I coordinated a quiz program, a quiz contest. It was patterned after the program *College Bowl.*

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: There were 12 high schools in Clark County at the time, and they would have academic tournaments. They would be taped on Thursday and, and, and broadcast on Sunday. And one of the local luminaries in the in Las Vegas commercial station was the moderator. I had, I had to come up with I would guess a thousand questions --.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: -- to ask these kids. The superintendent sent out a, a memo to everybody in the office saying, "Help 'em out, send questions in." And some people did, but I think certainly I wrote more than half of them. In addition to the tournaments on television, we also did some at the schools. At the end of the tournament the first place school competed against its counterpart in the Orange County School district. The two school districts rotated venues, and the year I was there the inter-district game was played in Orange County. So I got to, got to go to Anaheim with these kids and do that. It was a really interesting experience. And, and given my really bitter experience with USIS Colombia, I started looking to see if there was anything that I might do in public education. I had taught school before I went in the Foreign Service and --

Q: Yeah.

PACE: -- while I was in Anaheim I interviewed with them for a job being their director of public relations. But they didn't hire me and I'm really glad it didn't work out, because I then went on to have a pretty successful career.

Q: Now, in this year sabbatical in Las Vegas, you must have had opportunities to just pack the family up in the car and again drive around and see, see the United States.

PACE: Yeah, we did that. But, but Las Vegas is not that far from Salt Lake City.

Q: That's right.

PACE: And so we came home for Christmas, we came home for Thanksgiving, we got home for Easter. We had a lot of opportunities to get together with our family, and that was good too. Both of our daughters went to school in, in Las Vegas for that year.

Q: You were -- along those lines, you were telling me when -- oh, now let's go to your next assignment.

PACE: OK.

Q: Not, that it's important but Henry Kissinger becomes secretary of state in September '73.

PACE: Uh-huh.

Q: In the middle of your -- at the start of your assignment actually. How do you go about getting your next assignment?

PACE: I was offered a desk officer job in the Latin American area office and I grabbed it because it was really a good job. The area director was a, a woman by the name of Dorothy Dillon. And Dorothy had had very little Foreign Service experience. Most of her experience had been in Washington. But she had been CAO in Guatemala and CAO in Manila. I think that was the extent of her Foreign Service experience. She had a PhD in Latin American studies and, and was really a smart woman, but she didn't have a lot of overseas experience. I'm sure it was she who arranged for me to have the job, based on my experience in Tegucigalpa. I became the desk officer for Central America.

Q: And --

PACE: And then later --

Q: And did you see this job on a list and -- or somebody gave you a heads up that it was going to be open?

PACE: You know, I don't remember. I must have applied for it, but, but I think that the personnel officer called me and he said, "How would you like to work in Latin America as the desk officer for Central America?" And I said yes.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: But this time I don't remember going through a whole process like I did, for example, when I went to, when I went to Suva.

Q: OK. Now, I have the impression that when you left Las Vegas you drove to Washington.

PACE: That's right. As a matter of fact, I did more than that. We drove, we drove from Las Vegas to San Francisco where my sister was living and we spent a few days with her. Then we drove to Portland where my other sister was living and spent a few days with her. And then we drove to Utah and we had month of annual leave. Then we drove to Washington D.C. by way of Oneonta, New York where my wife's brother lived. And we got to Washington on a very famous day, the day that Richard Nixon resigned.

Q: Mmm, August 9th.

PACE: August 9th. I *(laughs)*, I, I have a political toothache story, which you may not want to put in here but I'll put it in anyway. While we were in Utah I had, I needed a filling and I went to a dentist who didn't know what he was doing and the filling he gave me abscessed. And we were -- and it was really painful. We were driving down from New York to Washington and that tooth hurt so bad I said I wanted to die, and turned on the radio and the radio said, "Richard Nixon will resign tomorrow," and I said, "I'm going to live."

Q: (laughs)

PACE: I knew it was going to happen, we were staying in a, we were staying in an apartment hotel in Alexandria looking for a house to buy, and I went down that morning to get a copy of The Post and they were all gone. Everybody wanted a copy of The Post that day.

Q: Now, this is your first assignment in Washington.

PACE: Yes. I'd been overseas or in, in Las Vegas for 10 years.

Q: Yeah.

PACE: I think that's kind of unusual. But careers are often made in Washington D.C. That was the case for me. It was very helpful to my career to be there.

Q: OK, can -- let's get a sense of the office that you're working in. It's -- the area director's Dorothy Dillon and it's -- so you're the Central American officer in the Latin America Area Office.

PACE: That's right.

Q: So is that in a bureau? I'm thinking in --

PACE: It wasn't in a bureau. USIA didn't have bureaus. But it was, it was the same as a bureau. So, so I would, I would, for example, every week I would go to the State Department Central America staff meeting. The, the, the State Department had what they called a country director. And they had a country director for Central America. And so I would go to his staff meetings. I can't say I contributed much but I believe it was beneficial for USIA to have a presence. Dan Clare was the country director for Central America, and he was kind to me. We later became friends, when he worked in the political office in Lima. The area office of the desk officers were the liaison between Washington and the field. So it was a dynamic place to be because we would, we sent out the instructions for the country, for the country plans, we determined the budgets for the countries, and we, we had -- it was the closest thing to being overseas in Washington.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: I traveled to Central America a couple of times during that time.

Q: So, so guys at the posts are really looking to you --

PACE: Right.

Q: -- to push their programs or, or get a hearing --

PACE: Exactly.

Q: -- whatever they, they need.

PACE: Right. And the area director also looked to us to sort of let them know what her views were and she thought ought to happen in the field.

Q: Now, one of your main jobs is to liaise with all the Washington agencies that are going to impact on your program. And you said you went to the State --

PACE: Staff meetings.

Q: Staff meetings, thanks (laughs). But was there an opportunity to hit some of the other agencies, the Pentagon or -- there's mainly State.

PACE: Not much with the Pentagon. My recollection is that AID also sent somebody to that meeting. But that was pretty much all we had to do with them, was --

Q: So your world was a State, USAID, USIA nexus.

PACE: Yes,

Q: Now, you prompted me to ask about Miss Dillon and the BNC in Guatemala.

PACE: Right. Dorothy had been the CAO in Guatemala and was very close to it. There was a terrible earthquake in Guatemala, which almost -- it didn't level the BNC, but it did extensive damage to it. The way they constructed things there there was -- they didn't -- there wasn't a lot of steel used. And anyway, the bi-national center was in dire straits. And she had a real fond place in her heart for that center. So she sent me down there to find out what they needed to, to get that center back on its feet. And so I went down there and I met with the PAO, I met with the CAO, I met with the BNC director, and I met with the board. And they put up a proposal for a very large grant of, of USIA money to rebuild it, which she found for them. The center as far as I know prospered after that. Dorothy was replaced during my tenure there and her, her personnel evaluation was written by the deputy director of the agency, who really zinged her. And part of the thing that he zinged her with was for giving this money to that bi-national center. So she grieved her, she grieved her rating and, and I can -- and, and asked me to testify on her

behalf at the grievance hearing, which was done at the department , chaired by a man named Porter who was the principal partner in a really big law firm Arnold and Porter.

Q: Yeah.

PACE: Have you heard of it?

Q: Yes.

PACE: So anyway, he chaired the panel. Essentially what she was suing for was a promotion. They called me and asked me a bunch of questions about that bi-national center and the grant and stuff like that, so that was one of the interesting things that I had. The result of the grievance was she wasn't given a promotion, but she wasn't selected out for time and class. She was given one more year in grade, and since she was not promoted the next year she retired.

Q: Now, were you in that office, that Central America office this whole assignment?

PACE: No. No. I was there for two years, and my third year I was a desk officer for the Andean countries, which were Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: So, so that was my third year there. And I traveled to those countries, too. That was a much bigger desk and I was not, for some reason not invited to the, the staff meetings at State Department when I was there. They didn't invite me so I didn't go.

Q: (laughs) Well, let me ask you then, when you were in the Central America office, what country -- does that cover all the Central America --

PACE: Central America and Panama, which technically is not part of Central America for historical reasons.

Q: OK.

PACE: That was, that was a country desk and then each one of those, each one of those countries had a separate desk officer, but, but the whole area was like a, like a country office for, you know, like because they were small countries they didn't have one for each country.

Q: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. But later the Andean desk did.

PACE: Yeah, the Andean countries did. They were organized differently.

Q: Now, you were saying you were able to make some trips out of Washington to the field.

PACE: Right.

Q: Nicaragua must have been one of those trips.

PACE: Well, yes. When I was in Central America I would make trips to all of the, all of the countries. So let me back up to my Nicaragua trip. Did I put something in there about it in my notes?

Q: Yes.

PACE: The dictator of Nicaragua was Anastasio Somoza. And the Osmoses had been in charge of Nicaragua ever since World War II. Franklin D. Roosevelt is quoted as having said -- this is Somoza's father. He says, "He's an SOB, but he's our SOB."

Q: (laughs)

PACE: "So we'll keep him." And so the Osmoses had been the, the dictators of Nicaragua for generations. So I went to Managua and the PAO took me around and introduced me to the editor of La Prensa.

Q: Chamorro.

PACE: Yeah. Pedro Chamorro. And Chamorro was a leftist, and La Prensa was a leftist newspaper critical of Somoza. The conventional wisdom at the time was that Somoza tolerated it and even needed it because he, he could say to the world, "Look, we have freedom of the press," when in fact the press had no real power, because he controlled the army and he controlled the police and he controlled the economy. But Chamorro said to me, "Somebody's going to overthrow Somoza sometime. And it's going to be anti-American. You go back to Washington. You tell 'em to be patient with whomever that is. We are essentially within the American sphere of influence," and so on. So within, I don't know, six or eight months after that happened Chamorro was assassinated and, that was the trigger that sparked the Sandinista revolution that eventually overthrew him. Somoza wound up in Paraguay where he also was assassinated. So that was a almost prescient kind of thing that happened to me while I was on the Central American desk.

Q: Now, one of the -- there's a number of very interesting events that come while you were here in Washington. In 1975, Saigon falls.

PACE: Right.

Q: The Vietnam thing comes to an end. Did that particularly impact on your work?

PACE: Certainly not as much as it would have had I been in another area. I don't remember the end of the war having any great impact on USIA in Latin America. We

were, of course, aware of events from news reports and cables we received, but as far as programming, I don't recall a great impact.

Q: The next year then is the American centennial -- bicentennial.

PACE: Bicentennial.

Q: Year. That must have been a big year for USIA.

PACE: Well, it was. There were all kinds of USIA programs going on overseas and, and the tall ships and all that. I don't remember all the details, but there were a lot of USIA activities in the field at that time.

Q: Now, also in '76 Letelier was assassinated in Washington.

PACE: Yes, that, that had a much larger impact on us because Letelier had been the ambassador to Washington and his wife taught Spanish at FSI (Foreign Service Institute) I believe.

Q: Mm.

PACE: And I can remember people saying, "Well, why would Chile want to do this? Why would Pinochet want to assassinate him? All it's going to do is cause problems for him." But of course it turned out that his intelligence service were the ones that orchestrated the whole thing. I wasn't the desk officer for Chile, but that was a much more significant event that took place while I was there.

Q: And how did USIA respond do that? I mean did they change any of their programming, or?

PACE: As best I can recall, USIA's response was, "This is a totally a Chilean matter. We have nothing to do with the assassination." It certainly chilled relations between us and Pinochet. But USIA's position was, "We didn't have anything to do with this assassination, and our law enforcement people are looking into it."

Q: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. A little bit of inside baseball here. You mentioned that you helped spearhead USIA FSOs --

PACE: Right

Q: -- to move from the American Foreign Service Association, that labor union --

PACE: Right.

Q: -- to AFGE, American --

PACE: There was, there was --

Q: Wait a minute, what does AFGE stand for? I've forgotten.

PACE: American Federation of Government Employees.

Q: Of Government Employees, OK.

PACE: And its affiliated with the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations). There was a very widespread view in USIA at the time that AFSA only represented State officers, and not officers from other agencies. So I and several other people -- a desk officer in the European area, and, and the AFGE represented the Civil Service. We obtained enough signatures to get an election. The majority of USIA Foreign Service officers voted to change their bargaining agent from AFSA to AFGE. And that and that held sway until about 1990. By that time, I had been to Peru and to Fiji and was back in Washington working in the East Asia Area Office. By then the pendulum has swung quite a bit. I came away it with the belief that AFGE was only representing the Civil Service and not the Foreign Service. The crowning blow for me was when the president of USIA AFGE, wanted me to try and intervene with the State Department to not permit Foreign Service officers to be tested for AIDS as part of their medical clearance. And I said, "Come on. If somebody's got AIDS, that's part of their medical history and somebody needs to know about it." So I then got back on board with AFSA and worked very hard to get USIA back in AFSA. I was the USIA vice president for AFSA. The election didn't take place during my time, but it did during my successor, Bud Hensgen, who replaced me as the USIA representative to AFSA. AFSA won that election and became USIA's bargaining agent again.

Q: OK. I'm a little confused. You were, at one point you were the USIA vice president on the AFSA board?

PACE: I was

Q: OK, when was that?

PACE: It was probably 1988, something like that.

Q: Yeah, we can look that up, research that, and get it right in the transcript.

PACE: OK. OK.

Q: Let me see what else did I want to catch. Just to finish up your tour. It coincides with another American election in November '76 and in January '77. The Carter administration starts.

PACE: Right.

Q: Now, when you're in Washington at the time of -- when a new administration comes on, at least on the State side, there's a lot of running around writing transition papers and/or briefing the incoming people on what you've been doing and whatnot. Did you -- your office in USIA go through that experience?

PACE: Not my office. I don't know whether the area director or, or his deputy did, but I don't remember any input into that at all.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: We might go back and say that there were some changes in the front office, in the Latin American Area Office at the time. Dorothy Dillon moved on. She had a deputy whose name was Richard Key and he really hoped to succeed her as the area director, but he did. They brought in Bob Chatten who had been PAO at Colombia. And Chatten became the area director and he brought in his own deputy whose name is Olason, Vick Olason. You may have read his obituary recently. It's been in the, it was in the AFSA Foreign Service Journal.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: So that was a change in the front office and unlike Dorothy Chatton had had a lot of experience as a PAO in, in several countries and was much more plugged in to overall field operations, especially on the information side.

Q: Well, my understanding too is John Reinhardt becomes --

PACE: John Reinhardt was the area director -- I'm sorry, not the area director, he was the agency director.

Q: That's right, he was the agency director that came in with the new administration. And if I've got it right he was the first career FSIO.

PACE: That's right.

Q: So during the Carter period I think what you're saying is the whole organization became much more professional or, or people with field experience got some of the major jobs.

PACE: And the name of the agency was changed. Do you remember that?

Q: Oh yes, I do (laughs).

PACE: It became the --

Q: ICA.

PACE: People said was CIA spelled sideways.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: And USIS became USICA, U-S-I-C-A. And ugh. Not very many people thought that was a very good idea.

Q: Absolutely, and I don't know who pushed it. I was working in the Middle East at that time. And the Arab linguists were bitterly complaining because you cannot use the word agency in Arabic without inferring intelligence.

PACE: Right, right.

Q: And so when it's the Information Agency that, that covered it. But ICA made it sound like the CIA.

PACE: Right.

Q: And they hated it.

PACE: Yeah, everybody did. I, and I really think that was probably Reinhardt's doing. He, you know, somebody, somebody decided that this idea of information doesn't really see what we do and they thought communication did and, and of course in embassy parlance the communicator was the guy that sat up in the, in the --

Q: And sent out the cables.

PACE: And sent out telegrams.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

PACE: So *(laughs)*, so anyway, when, when, when Reagan was elected four years later his, his, his, his, his agency director said -- his, his motto was, "Let USIA be USIA," which was a kind of a takeoff on let Poland be Poland.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm.

PACE: So that just lasted for really the Carter administration and then it went back.

Q: OK. I see we're coming up to a change in another -- your next assignment.

PACE: Right.

Q: But that looks so exciting I'd rather save that for the next time frame.

PACE: OK.

Q: Because if we get into it now we'll have to cut off.

PACE: OK.

Q: So I appreciate what we've done up until now. We're ending in about June of 1977 and we'll pick up your assignment in the embassy in Peru.

PACE: OK. Let's see. Would you like --

Q: OK. Today is the 29th of May. We're returning to our conversation with Vance Pace. Vance, last time we broke off in 1977. You were -- you were on the desk --

PACE: That's right.

Q: -- and doing Andean countries now. And tell me again which those countries were.

PACE: Andean countries for USIA at that time were Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

Q: And was there much difference in the way USIA Washington looked at those? Or was the program so --

PACE: From the State Department?

Q: Well, State Department and USIA.

PACE: Well, the, the -- each of those countries I think had a country desk officer at State and we, we, we had four countries in a single desk. So after, after I'd had quite a bit of contact with the State Department in Central America, when I became the desk officer for the Andean countries I had much less consultations with State over that. So we did have a bit of a different relationship with the department at that -- at least I did at that time.

Q: You're saying your contact with State dropped off? You didn't go to the meetings, or --

PACE: It did. I was not invited to any of those meetings at the department, so that was different. It was somewhat disappointing to me really.

Q: Hm. That was just these offices in State? Because you'd gone to the Caribbean.

PACE: I'd gone to the Central American Desk --

Q: Central American.

PACE: Yeah, and I found those both interesting and often felt that I had something to contribute. But that pretty well ceased when I became the desk officer for the Andean countries.

Q: As your work on the Andean countries, in 1977 the Carter administration starts up. So there's the election in November and there's generally a transition team that comes into every federal department.

PACE: Right.

Q: Did your work involve writing papers for the USIA transition team?

PACE: No, not mine. I suspect that the person that would do that in USIA for Latin America would have been the policy officer.

Q: Ah-ha.

PACE: The way area officers were, were organized, there was a director and a deputy director and a policy officer and an executive officer. That was kind of the front office of the agency. Then there were desk officers and a couple of other officers who liaised with other areas of USIA, like, like somebody, somebody would be in charge of the cultural programs, would liaise with them, and probably with CU.

Q: And what would be your relationship to the policy officer?

PACE: Well, the policy officer was area wide and he would sometimes ask us for things to do, but mostly, most of our direction came from the director.

Q: OK, so this -- because at the start of each administration, or the transition to the administration.

PACE: Right. However, the policy officer, during that time was Alan Hansen. And Alan, Al as we called him, went to Lima as the PAO about maybe a year before. During my annual trip to the area I talked to Al and told him that I was interested in applying for the executive officer in Lima. He was pleased that I was interested, and I suspect greased the skids.

Q: Excellent, excellent. Now, let's reprise very quickly what your duties as desk officer in the Andean country would involve.

PACE: The desk officer is the advocate for those countries in the Washington bureaucracy and is the, liaison between his posts and the agency. So on budget, on policy, on country plans, advise the public affairs officers at the post. He would then represent the post to Washington regarding those matters

Q: Moving on to the new administration, the new director of USIA for the Carter administration is John Reinhardt.

PACE: John Reinhardt, that's right.

Q: Was a career --

PACE: That's right.

Q: -- FSIO --

PACE: I think the only one ever in the agency.

Q: (laughs) Let me ask this. At this time, what was the thought in USIA that a career officer have been named to the top slot, that --

PACE: It was originally met with just great optimism.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: And to have a Foreign Service officer at the helm of the agency. I think as time went by that kind of cooled off. And I think the reason for it was, was that as a career Foreign Service officer Mr. Reinhardt didn't have the same kind of clout in the White House or in the administration that political appointees had had, because political appointees were generally much closer to the president.

Q: Now, did -- now, in 1978 USIA was reorganized.

PACE: That's right. And, and, and CU (the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) moved from State to USIA.

Q: Was that seen as something Reinhardt was pushing or that he lost on?

PACE: The conventional wisdom at the time was that Reinhardt had pulled of a *coup.* I believe he had been head of CU. And if I'm not mistaken CU stayed in the agency for the rest of its life. The name of the agency was changed from the U.S. Information Agency was changed from the U.S. Information Agency to the International Communication Agency, and CU became part of it. But when it went back to being USIA, CU still stayed with USIA. So that was seen as a positive thing. But budgets were cut during those four years, and I think that a lot of agency officers felt that our entrée into the operation of government in the White House and other federal agencies, or other executive departments was not as great.

Q: OK. Let's move on then. Your next assignment is the embassy in Peru.

PACE: Right. Let me just say one thing that happened in, in Peru before I got there. And that, that was of particular interest I think to Peru. One of the, one of the things, one of the primary foreign policy issues in the Carter administration was human rights.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: Rosalynn Carter made a trip to Latin America shortly after Jimmy Carter was inaugurated and, and one of the places where she stopped was Peru. Her trip didn't get very good press and I, and I think that her message was, was received rather coolly by most of the countries. But in Peru it was received well. There had been a change of government before she got there and the new, the new president, who, who was a general was receptive to her message about human rights and returning Peru to civilian government. And so that was probably the bright spot on her trip. Another thing that I heard happened was that when she was in Ecuador she was very well taken care of by the DCM whose name was Ed Corr. In any case, Corr succeeded Harry Shlaudeman as ambassador.

Q: Now, the trip that you're talking about, is this the May 1977 trip, Rosalynn Carter visits Peru?

PACE: Yeah.

Q: Warmly received by Morales Bermúdez.

PACE: Right.

Q: Who promises human rights reforms in elections.

PACE: Right, right.

Q: And that happened before you got there. So --

PACE: That happened before I got there.

Q: That set the stage for the administration in that area.

PACE: Right, right.

Q: Now, getting back --

PACE: I don't know whether this is a good time to talk about this, but when the change actually took place I believe she went back and represented the government at Belaúnde Terry's inauguration. I'm not sure about that.

Q: Yes. On our list here, in 1980, July 27, 1980, she heads a delegation to the inauguration of President Terry, who had been overthrown and then reelected.

PACE: Right, that's right.

Q: OK, that's -- getting back to the machinations of your career here. Now, you talked about during an orientation trip to these countries, but how else did you get this job?

PACE: Well, the job came open and I just applied through the regular channels.

Q: OK.

PACE: But with the positive view of the PAO and the area office director it was pretty much a sure thing.

Q: OK, now was this a two-year assignment?

PACE: Basically, it was a, it was a two and two. So I could have probably moved on after two years, but I decided to stay for four.

Q: OK. So you are assigned to the executive office in Lima. Now, what -- well, let's say how did you get to Lima from Washington?

PACE: Well, it was an interesting trip. I took some annual leave at home in Utah and with my oldest daughter flew from Salt Lake City to Mexico and thence to Panama and Lima. The rest of my family took a different route. My wife and two children flew through Tegucigalpa (where our adopted son was born). They visited friends at the embassy and other personal friends we had made in Honduras. We met up in Panama and flew to Lima together.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, what was your understanding of what your job would be as you arrived?

PACE: Well, I knew, I knew that it would be administration: budget, personnel, especially personnel on the Foreign Service National staff, liaison with the embassy administrative officer. I was on the commissary board and, and basically did the administration of the, of the post. It had -- as I recall -- about eight American officers and about 15 FSNs.

Q: Now, you have this long history in bi-national centers. Were there bi-national centers in Peru too?

PACE: There were six or seven bi-national centers in Peru by this time. All except the one in Arequipa were administered by locally hired directors and boards of directors. The Lima BNC was large and prosperous. Al Hansen was supportive of BNCs, and he was able to help the one in Lima get property for a branch in one of its prosperous commercial area some distance from the center of town. Kyra Eberle was the FSO assigned to the bi-national center in Arequipa. She was instrumental in a major remodel

project and considerable growth in both English enrollment and cultural activities. There was one in Trujillo and several other provincial cities, which were totally local operations. But, USIS or USICA, which it was called at the time, gave them grants to help them with certain programs.

Q: Not in this section, I don't think. So Hansen wrote a book when he retired.

PACE: Yeah, I think it was called *Nine Lives* and recounted his career in nine foreign service posts.

Q: (laughs).. Now, you were saying in your notes that relations, bilateral relations, U.S. and Peru, had been rocky and then the government changed and was more friendly to the U.S.

PACE: That's right.

Q: And, made the bi-national center more welcome and --

PACE: Yes.

Q: -- would you say helped it expand?

PACE: Well, the bi-national center in Lima expanded. They opened, they opened a branch operation in one of the barrios. And that was, that was very successful. It was, it was a pretty -- it was a pretty successful operation. And in Arequipa, Kyra Eberle got a sizeable grant from USIA to redo that bi-national center in there. Arequipa in many ways was the most attractive city in Peru. When I got to Lima the bi-national centers were under the direction of the cultural affairs officer whose name was Frank Florey. Frank had also been a bi-national center director in several countries. And then when Frank left, coordination of the centers shifted from the cultural affairs office to the executive office and I and my assistant, Max Nicolini, spent quite a bit of time visiting bi-national centers and, and, and doing some both administrative and cultural coordination with them. Nicolini also had experience working with bi-national centers.

Q: Now, you would have had an opportunity to visit each and every one?

PACE: I'm not sure I visited every one, but I certainly visited most of them.

Q: Are they within driving distance of Lima, or does one --

PACE: No. It's very hard to get around Peru by road, so some of them I flew to. I almost always flew to Arequipa and Trujillo. You could drive to Trujillo, so on a couple of occasions I drove. Huancayo was way up in the Andes and I, I drove up there a couple times.

Q: So --

PACE: Chiclayo and Piura in the north of Peru had small centers. I think I visited them one time. Most of our communication with the centers was by mail, or when the local director would come to Lima, we would see them in our office or have a social event for them.

Q: So the bi-national centers live off the English teaching.

PACE: Right.

Q: Among other things.

PACE: Right.

Q: So it was a fairly profitable period for the centers. Now, let's see. So the PAO, Allen Hansen, is the head of the USIA, or USICA shop.

PACE: Right.

Q: How -- let's see -- the ambassador was Harry Shlaudeman. What was he like to work with?

PACE: Well, he was, he was a, he was a very smart guy. He was an ex-marine and a graduate of Stanford. And he was sworn in just before I went there. I was still working on the desk when he was sworn in. And I recall going to his swearing in and he said something like "My son has just graduated from Harvard. Harvard is the Stanford of the east."

Q: (laughs)

PACE: He was very proud of his Stanford roots.

Q: Was he a California boy?

PACE: Yes, he was.

Q: OK.

PACE: And, and, and he was, he was, he was a, he was a career ambassador, but he was pretty, he was pretty tied to, to Republican politics I think. He had been ambassador to Venezuela prior to Peru. He went on to become ambassador to Brazil, and when things got really hot in Nicaragua, they sent him there to Nicaragua to try to keep the lid on stuff.

Q: Mm. So what was his work style?

PACE: He was political. He came out of the political cone. And he was analytical and pretty hardnosed. He was not nearly as interested in USIS programming was his successor, Ed Corr.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: And USIS, or USICA at the time physically in two buildings. The PAO and the CAO had offices in the chancery.. The information office and the executive office was in a building about a block and a half away. Someone in the chancery proposed moving the PAO and CAO out and to the building where the rest of USIS was housed. Al Hansen fought that tooth and nail to stay in the chancery. He figured that if he didn't have an office there he would have no input whatsoever to what went on in the embassy. He won that battle, but it was a battle.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm. Other than that, how did the ambassador handle the staff?
PACE: He left most of the administration up to his DCM. When I arrived in Peru, the DCM was Lyle Lane. Every inch the diplomat, Lane left shortly after my arrival to head up the American Interest section in Havana. He was succeeded by Ernest Preeg.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, you were saying that you were on the commissary board.

PACE: Right.

Q: Now, I want you to describe what the commissary is and why it exists.

PACE: OK. An embassy commissary is a place where Foreign Service personnel can buy groceries, alcohol, and tobacco which are generally very expensive or unavailable in the country. The commissary stocked frozen foods, turkey and even some other meats. These would be shipped in from the States. American personnel there bought a membership to join the commissary and then by buying their food there, the commissary was able to hire a manager and pay its expenses. Food items were more expensive than in the States, but a lot cheaper and better than in, than in the host country. This was especially true for, for liquor, which was supposedly there for representational purposes and of course people who drank had that there for themselves as well.

Q: Now, who constitutes the board?

PACE: The chairman of the board was the administrative officer of the embassy. Each of the agencies had a representative on the board and, and State probably had a couple of others. There were about six or seven members of the board. They had a locally hired American who ran the operations of it. He would do the ordering and it would go through the embassy admin office to suppliers in the States who would then send stuff down generally by plane.

Q: Mm-hmm. So were there other facilities for the American diplomatic community?

PACE: To buy stuff, you mean?

Q: Activities. Baseball team, swimming pool --

PACE: There was no swimming pool. I think there was a pool at the residence, but I don't recall it. I think they had a, I think they had a softball team, but I'm not sure about that. There were some embassy activities and I think, I think these probably increased when Ambassador Corr got there.

Q: Now, Lima's at a high altitude, isn't it?

PACE: No. Lima's on the coast.

Q: Oh, OK.

PACE: Lima is at sea level. It's not right on the coast. The, the, the port for Lima is called Callao but it was about 20 minutes away from Lima. And that's where the airport was. But Lima was just inland but still on the coast and essentially at sea level.

Q: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

PACE: There are a lot of mountainous cities in Peru and Peru a large indigenous population but the -- Arequipa is over 7,000 feet. Cusco is at 12,000 feet and Huancayo and Puno (on Lake Titicaca) even higher. Traveling east from Lima, you rise quickly in the Andes, but Lima itself is about sea level.

Q: Would you classify Lima as a medium sized embassy? Small embassy?

PACE: I would say a medium sized embassy. It had a fairly large AID mission with a director and deputy director. There were one or two military attaches and a fairly large mil group. Consular Section had a consul and two or three vice consuls, and the administrative consisted of an admin counselor, general services officer, and a BNF officer, and a personnel officer, plus several foreign service national employees.

Q: Now, one of your main officers would be the admin counselor Donald Sheib.

PACE: He was there when I arrived, but was replaced about half way through my tour.

Q: What was he like to work with?

PACE: Don was easy to get along with. He was a problem solver. Edward Paukert succeeded him. I found him a bit more rigid and stickler for regulations. For example, one of the communicators was swimming in the ocean and, and drowned. His wife, who was a Latina, immediately lost her privileges. The embassy quit paying school fees for her children and her rent.

Q: Mm.

PACE: And the way the, the way the regulations were written -- and I believe -- I'm pretty sure that this was the impetus for changing the regulation. I can remember well the change in regulation which were re-written to stipulate that the dependent of a deceased Foreign Service officer will continue to have benefit for 30 days after that officer dies *(laughs).*

Q: Yes, OK. One of the things that was a major event in that part of the world at that time was the Panama Canal treaty.

PACE: Right.

Q: And then in June of '78 President Carter travels to Panama to sign the treaty.

PACE: Right.

Q: I think you got involved in some of those preparations.

PACE: I actually went to Panama to help with the visit. Panama PAO Steve Dachi requested my services, I had known him, both in Washington and in Colombia, where he had been deputy director of the Peace Corps. I flew to Panama and was in charge of the transportation of the visiting press. I arranged with for the press to be in the motorcade from the airport and for the motor. That was an interesting event. I actually went to Panama twice for, for a presidential visit. The second one was Mondale and I went to that as well.

Q: The Mondale trip was in 1980 -- '80?

PACE: Actually, it was in October of 1979. This was the beginning of the joint administration of the Canal Zone. The American flag came down and huge Panamanian flag was raised. By that time, the treaty was unpopular, which is probably why Mondale and not Carter went to the ceremonies.

Q: Wait a minute, I've got it down here somewhere. So anyway, on the Panama thing, did you have to work with the White House staff or the embassy had things pretty much --

PACE: Well, I remember being at the airport and on the, on the tarmac when the plane came in. So I had clearance for that and, and, and remember the Secret Service meeting there.

Q: (coughs) Excuse me! So this was -- well, you must have arrived before the major party.

PACE: Yes, right.

Q: So that you practiced and you had the number of cars and whatnot.

PACE: There was an advance team And we worked with them.

Q: And so, how did you find that whole adventure, getting swept into a presidential visit?

PACE: Well, to me it was very interesting. I don't know which visit it was, but, but Judy Woodruff was covering it for NBC and she needed some kind of a power pack that she was using for her broadcast and became discharged. And so I had to take a power pack to a stated dinner she was covering. That kind of stuff.

Q: Helping in every which way.

PACE: Yeah.

Q: That was a major event for you and --

PACE: Yes

Q: '79 was also a very big year, not necessarily for you but everything blew up in Iran.

PACE: Right.

Q: In 1979, ending with the seizure of the embassy. Did things like that -- I mean you're a half a world away.

PACE: Right.

Q: Do things like that impact?

PACE: I remember the event and watching it closely in the press, but I don't remember even taking even any more serious security precautions going on in Lima over it.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm. Well now, by '79/'80, you're into the second tour.

PACE: Right.

Q: So did you extend, or you said it was a two-by-two to begin with?

PACE: Well, it was a, it was a two-and-two to begin with. And as I recall, almost everybody did the second two years.

Q: Now, in Foreign Service speak when we say two-and-two that means it's broken up by an extended home leave.

PACE: Right, so you go for two years, then you go on home leave, then you go back for two more.

Q: So what did you do on this home leave?

PACE: You know, I don't remember. I'm sure I came here to Utah and, and we spent some time here, but I don't, I don't, I don't remember any particular consultations in Washington or, or anything like that. I do remember going to Washington for some computer training a year later, at the time the new PAO in orientation before going to Limn..

Q: Yes, that was June of '80, mm-hmm.

PACE: Uh-huh. And that was when I met Bill Lenderking who had been assigned to Lima but hadn't had the post yet.

Q: Ah-ha. In fact, you met a few other people who are in the process of coming to Lima.

PACE: Right. There were, there were several. CAO Carol Meirs replaced Frank Florey about that time. Information Officer Jerry Waters had been in Lima for several years when I got there and was succeeded by Jodie Marek. Marek and I became very close. Our offices were in the same building and we lived close together and had children the same age.

Q: OK.

PACE: I recall three JOTs during my time in Peru. ICA called them PATs (Public Affairs Trainees). The first was Dale Silva, who moved to Rio from Lima. During an R&R trip to Brazil in 1979, Dale put us up in her apartment. Mike Morgan came later and he was followed by Steve Seche, who went on to prominence as ambassador in the Middle East.

Q: That's a change.

PACE: Yeah.

Q: Here in 1980 was the event that you had alluded to earlier. July 27 Rosalyn Carter heads a delegation to the inauguration of Francisco Belaúnde Terry. Now, that means that there's been an election earlier in the year.

PACE: Right.

Q: Does USIA run the special programs when the local country's about to have an election?

PACE: Essentially, USIA's job at that time was to support the election, but remain neutral in the campaign. The U.S. supported returning the government civilian authority. There probably would be stuff press releases, but I don't know that anybody made any speeches to that effect. But I'm sure the Political Section would support the election.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, let me ask this. When we were talking about the Far East, USIA had a magazine that they printed in the Philippines. Was there a South America, Latin American equivalent to that publishing program?

PACE: No, there wasn't. There wasn't magazine. They did pamphlets and the Voice of America had a very popular morning show called "Buenos Dias, America," which is "Good Morning, America." It was news and music and got fairly wide circulation throughout the hemisphere. It was broadcast on shortwave and also taped, with the tapes going to radio stations.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, when Mrs. Carter comes out there's obviously an advance team, the whole schmear. That must have put every section in the embassy on notice and with new assignments to be supportive. How big was their delegation to start with?

PACE: You know, the only thing I can remember is that she spoke to the embassy staff at the embassy residence and, and I actually remember her saying how President Carter thought about the hostages in Tehran every day, that that was really on his mind. She was very well treated by Belaúnde. The conventional wisdom was that she had been very instrumental in convincing his military predecessor to have elections. And she was very close to him and, and as a matter fact I think that when they -- when they signed the Panama Canal treaties in Washington and Belaúnde went to Washington, she went out of her way to meet and greet him.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm.

PACE: So that was a close relationship. Belaúnde was, was an old man. He'd been president before he'd been in and out of office for a long time by this time.

Q: Mm-hmm. So she was very well received locally.

PACE: She was well received, yes.

Q: And she stopped by the embassy.

PACE: Right, right.

Q: And shortly thereafter we have this notice that Cuban refugees stormed a Braniff airliner and wanted to go to Miami. That was an airliner in Peru, you mean.

PACE: Right. There was a contingent of, of Cuban refugees in Lima, and they weren't well treated there. So they stormed a Braniff plane and occupied the plane and said that

they wanted to be flown to Miami on this plane. It wasn't successful, but put the embassy on lockdown. Negotiations and consultations with the Peruvian government finally got the Cubans off the plane and that was the end of it. I think that the Peruvian government made some, made some concessions that they would find some better housing for them in Peru, but what they really wanted to do was to fly to Miami.

Q: And why was the embassy in lockdown or so involved? I mean the airport's 20 minutes away.

PACE: Because they were afraid that there might be also an attempt to take over the embassy.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm.

PACE: I can remember going to staff meetings with Shlaudeman. He was really hardnosed about it. He didn't want to give them any concessions at all.

Q: And of course since it was an American airplane we were talking to the Peruvians very closely, coordinating with them very closely.

PACE: And I think we were also coordination with Braniff Airlines as well.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, about the -- Ambassador Shlaudeman departs in October 20 of that year and Ed Corr arrives three weeks later.

PACE: Right.

Q: So how early did we know that Ambassador Corr was coming down?

PACE: I don't, I don't remember the exact date, but I think that his hearings were pretty pro forma. I don't think he had any problem getting confirmed. I had first met Ed Corr when he was on assignment to the Peace Corps in Colombia while I was in Manizales.

Q: Oh goodness.

PACE: He was a regional director of the Peace Corps in Cali. And that's where I first met him.

Q: Oh, regional director. He wasn't a Peace Corps volunteer.

PACE*:* No. He was a State FSO on assignment with the Peace Corps.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: I also had the met him when I was in Washington, although I can't remember the circumstance. He was always nice to me personally.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: There's one thing that I'd forgotten to put in this chronology. I'm not sure of the exact date of this, but I think it took place in the interregnum when Ernie Preeg was the chargé. During the Eisenhower administration Mormon apostle Ezra Taft Benson served as secretary of agriculture. After that he went back to being an apostle in the church. In that position he came to Lima on a church visit.

Q: Hm!

PACE: I don't know how Mr. Preeg knew about it, but he found out about it and insisted on going out to the airport to meet Apostle Benson's plane, and the embassy hosted a lunch for him when I was there. And my view was that this was all unnecessary because at that point Apostle Benson had nothing to do with the government.

Q: Well, one doesn't often get ex-Cabinet officers.

PACE: Yeah.

Q: You were saying, you were drawing a distinction between Ambassador Corr and Ambassador Shlaudeman, let's follow that line for a little bit. What changed when Ambassador Corr arrived?

PACE: By the time Ambassador Corr gets there we have a new PAO as well. Bill Lenderking was public affairs officer. Al Hansen had gone to Pakistan as the deputy PAO and Lenderking was in place. Lenderking was also quite different as a PAO than Al Hansen had been. And so relations between the embassy and USIA, or USICA, warmed up a great deal. Corr was much more interested in the press. He was much more interested in the culture and cultural affairs, so the profile of USICA went up quite a bit during his ambassadorship.

Q: Mm-hmm. Yeah, because Lenderking arrives in September and Corr arrives in November, so.

PACE: Right.

Q: And you were saying the DCM that came in, Gerald Lamberty, also set a different tone.

PACE: Very much more open, friendlier,

Q: Now, these atmospheric things makes the work all that more pleasant.

PACE: Right.

Q: But were there any sort of policy changes in what you did or what you emphasized?

PACE: Not that policy changes took place, but that our activities picked up. Whatever change in policy might have taken place would have probably taken place as a result of the election of 1980. By that time I was pretty well on my way out.

Q: Right. Now, let's go to that election, November 4, 1980. This -- USIS uses this opportunity to highlight the American election scene. What did you do there in Lima for this election?

PACE: We had a, we had a huge reception at one of the major hotels. We posted the election results on a big board and USIA -- USICA -- was in charge of this. Lenderking had some really definitive ideas about how to organize it and the setting up of the physical facility fell to me. We erected big board that counted the electoral vote, the popular vote in each state. And we invited the, the Peruvian authorities to it and some Americans. It was a big event.

Q: Mm-hmm. Are you there?

PACE: I'm here.

Q: Ah, OK. Well, that's it. A new administration starts in '81.

PACE: Right.

Q: And Charles Wick becomes the director of USIA.

PACE: Charles Wick becomes the director of USIA. And one of his big pushes was to get the name of the agency changed back to USIA, which he was able to do. There's one more event that happened in Lima just before I, just before I left, which involved Ambassador Corr, and that was the visit to Peru of the Mormon president of the church whose name was Spencer W. Kimball. When, when, when Kimball became president of the church he essentially hired a former Nixon Cabinet member to be his ambassador at large. His name was David Kennedy. Does that name ring a bell with you?

Q: Mm-hmm, yeah.

PACE: David Kennedy was a banker in Chicago. He was Nixon's secretary treasury I think and then he became an ambassador at large. At that time Ed Corr was the head of the Political Section in Bangkok. There had been two Mormon missionaries in Bangkok who very stupidly took pictures of each other sitting on a Buddha and then took them to a local photo shop to be developed. When they went to pick up their photos the police were at the photo shop and they went to in jail. They sat in jail for a long time. So while Kennedy was Nixon's ambassador at large he made a trip to Thailand. He had some ostensible reason for going. But Ed Corr told me the real reason he went out there was to try and get those Mormon missionaries out of jail. Corr told him he couldn't do it, He

said, “I had done everything I could do to get them out of jail and he wasn't going to do any better than I did.” And he didn't, but that was Corr’s first introduction to Kennedy. So when President Kimball came to Peru . . .

Q: Yeah, it’s May ’81.

PACE: Kennedy came with him. Ambassador Corr thought that Kennedy still had clout in the Reagan administration. Belaúnde had a vision for a trans-Andean highway that would incorporate Brazil and South American Atlantic economies with those of the Andes -- particularly Peru. And he wanted to promote that with Kennedy. So he invited Kennedy to his office and proposed this. I was invited to sit in. I was sort of the Mormon liaison between the Mormon church and the embassy, I guess *(laughs).* So I sat in on that interview. As far as I know nothing ever came of the initiative. Later Ambassador Corr opened up his residence that night to a very lovely dinner where he invited the American Mormons in the embassy and a few other Americans in the community to dinner. It was a nice event and spoke to me of the kind of person Ed Corr was. That was my last recollection of Ambassador Corr in Peru before I moved on.

Q: Now, actually Corr was only in Peru from November ’80 to October ’81.

PACE: Right. In fact, in fact the, the election of Reagan pretty well sealed his fate as ambassador to Peru I’m sure. Because he was very largely seen as a Carter appointee.

Q: Even though he was career Foreign Service.

PACE: Exactly. I don't know where he went after that, I can’t remember.

Q: Well, coming into 1980 you fulfilled your four years, how do you go about finding your next assignment?

PACE: By this time personnel procedures were well established. Open assignments were listed. Officers could apply for positions in three different areas. The agency was eager to get people outside their area of expertise and into a different area. They wanted them to have broader experience. So I applied for I think 10 or 12 positions. I don’t remember all of them, but I applied to a couple in the Middle East, maybe one or two in Europe, and one of them was PAO in Suva, Fiji, and that was the one I got. It was probably my fourth or fifth choice.

Q: Mm-hmm. So you arrived in Suva, Fiji in July 1981. What was -- well, how does one get to Fiji in those days?

PACE: We flew. I had home leave between assignments. While I was on home leave my oldest daughter got married and we attended her wedding in Utah, and she remained in Utah. Our second daughter, who had just graduated high school in Lima begins her college career at Brigham Young University. We had consultations in Washington, mainly with the East Asia Area Office. I met with them, met with the South Pacific desk

officer and met the area director (Cliff Forster) for the first time. After home leave in Utah we flew from, from Salt Lake to San Francisco and then onto Honolulu, where I also had some more consultations. USIA had somebody resident in Honolulu at the time and she made me several appointments. We had appointments at the East-West Center in Honolulu and we visited the, the Polynesian Cultural Center. Have you ever been there?

Q: Yes.

PACE: The Center has typical villages representing several of the island nations in the South Pacific and a program at night. We were in Honolulu for three or four days, and then we flew from there to Fiji. The international airport of Fiji is called Nadi, on the western side of the island of Viti Levu. The capital of Suva is on the eastern side. Viti Levu is a volcanic island about the size the big island of Hawaii. So we flew into Nadi and then took a small plane across the island into Suva where, the East Asia part of my career.

Q: Let me go back. You said your daughter graduated high school in Lima, which means you're -- you've had a lot of -- or you had that experience in those overseas schools that the State Department supports.

PACE: Both our daughters graduated high school in Lima.

Q: How would you rate that school?

PACE: Excellent. As a matter fact, the students who graduated from high school in Lima who took the SAT and the ACT tests fared better on the average than students in Montgomery and Fairfax Counties. We learned that while we were there. So my girls had good schooling. Many years later, well into my retirement years, I responded to an article in Foreign Service Journal from an officer in Lima who was home schooling children there. I said in my letter that we had been pleased with the education our children had had in the Franklin D. Roosevelt school in Lima.

Q: Now, was this an international school or American only or --

PACE: No, it was an international school. There were some Peruvians there. Mainly businessmen. But unlike Honduras, where my children had gone earlier, this school was really top notch as far as academics is concerned and they did not -- they were not interested in turning it into a Peruvian school. They wanted it to be an American school. Our son started school in Peru and went on to finish second grade there.

Q: Now, State Department pays tuition for each of its people in these international schools, right?

PACE: Yes.

Q: And somebody from the embassy's on the school board?

PACE: Right. I believe it was the administrative counselor. It was mainly American businesses and, and tuition was expensive. I recall it was $5,000-$6,000 dollars a year, which at that time was a lot of money in 1980. This was another difference between Peru and Honduras. In Honduras the tuition was relatively much cheaper, and education was less professional.

Q: Are you saying you get what you pay for?

PACE: *(laughs)* Yeah. And I have problems with education in Utah, which is that it has the lowest per capita spreading for education in the country.

Q: Mm. Let's go back to Fiji. We've landed there. How big a mission is it? Who's the ambassador? What's the atmospherics?

PACE: Yeah, it's a very small mission. There's an ambassador, a DCM, a consular officer. The DCM is the political officer. There's an admin officer. The SINCPAC, the Pacific branch of the military, had a naval officer and a PAO. AID had a director and depute. Virtually all of AID's activities in the, in Fiji were Non Government Organizations -- NGOs which got AID grants. There was also a Peace Corps Director and volunteers.

Q: So AID didn't have people itself who were economists or whatnot.

PACE: No.

Q: They were a contracting agency now to NGOs.

PACE: Yes. Bill Bodde, who was the ambassador when I got there had had a lot of experience at the South Pacific Commission. He had dealt with Pacific Islanders on the Micronesian treaties that were ongoing at the time. So he knew a lot about the South Pacific and the people in the islands. The embassy was a regional embassy with responsibilities for Tonga, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati -- all small island nations in the South Pacific. Also, there was a regional university there called University of South Pacific. Its main campus was in Suva, but they had satellite campuses among the smaller island states. So from that point of view it was a really interesting place to be as a public affairs officer.

Q: And what -- in this environment what would the USIA program consist of?

PACE: I had two very competent assistants, one for information and one for culture. They were plugged into the cultural institutions, such as museums and the university and the media. There were two newspapers, a regional radio station and a couple of sort of news-like magazines published there. Emelita Wendt, my media assistant knew all those people. She was actually a Samoan, but had grown up in Fiji, and, and my cultural assistant, Ateca Williams, was a Fijian and knew more about Fijian culture than virtually

anyone in Suva. She was married a Welsh professor at the University of the South Pacific, and her brother-in-law was the preeminent economist in Fiji. He was in the Cabinet. So I had very well connected staff and we did a lot of press placement and cultural exchange. We sent grantees to the States and American academics came through.

The big political question in the South Pacific was ship visits. The South Pacific was supposed to be nuclear-free zone, but all these ships of course were carrying nuclear weapons, everybody knew it. There was a tacit arrangement of "don't ask-don't tell." The government of Fiji didn't ask and we don't tell. Ship visits were a big PR success. People come on board and they got people to do tours of the ship. So there was a lot of public affairs going on in quite a few areas of the country.

Q: What kind of cultural programs did -- might you have brought in?

PACE: We had, we had a couple of professors at University of South Pacific. The one I remember the best was, he was a journalist named Ralph Barney. He taught journalism at the Suva campus and by audio satellite to the remote campuses. There was a obsolete communication satellite that had long outlasted its expected life expectancy, but it was adequate to transmit voice. It was used to transmit audio communications to the different campuses in the University of South Pacific. We had professors in other areas, but I don't remember them as well as I do Barney, with whom I still communicate once in awhile. We also sent professors to the States. We sent journalists to the States. So we had a pretty extensive exchanges program in Fiji.

Q: Now, we've talked in overlooking your career of bi-national centers. Was there one in Fiji?

PACE: No.

Q: OK.

PACE: Fiji had been a British colony so the official language was English. That said, most of the vernacular communication took place either in Fijian or Hindustani. About 50% of the population of Fiji is East Indian.

Q: Mm-hmm. Now, you arrive, Ambassador Bodde is there. He leaves shortly after you arrive so I presume you don't have any sense of the morale of the mission.

PACE: Well, I think Bodde was quite well liked and respected. His successor was a political appointee. His name was Fred Eckert, who I think was the first and only political ambassador ever in Fiji. This, I think, is an indication of how low down the totem pole political ambassadorships reached during the Reagan administration. Fred Eckert was a true believer. He had been Reagan delegate, in 1976 when Reagan did not get the nomination and had worked diligently on Reagan's campaign for a long time. He was a businessman from Rochester who also tended to write political articles in conservative-leaning publications.

Q: Did that impact on his relationship with the staff of the embassy?

PACE: Yes. It was a complete change from his predecessor. He fortunately had a very good DCM, Russ Surber, who shared some of his political views, but also was very loyal to him and, and tended to buffer his harshness. Surber and Eckert have remain good friends.

Q: Now, you're using the word harsh. How was Eckert -- was he dismissive of the career Foreign Service and the people there?

PACE: I thought he was. He also was suspicious off stuff that went on in the embassy. There were, there were a number of sort of events that happened that were hard on the staff.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: Let me say, however, that he was close to the White House and the Prime Minister of Fiji recognized this. Eckert was able to get the prime minister a state visit in Washington, which Bodde had tried and tried and tried to get and was never able to. So Eckert became close to the prime minister and that led to improved relations with the top of the Fiji government.

Q: But other than that, other than working with the top, were relations in general fairly decent?

PACE: Yes, I think that they were. An election, took place while we were there. Politics in Fiji were somewhat racial although both parties had Indians and Fijians people in them. The majority Alliance Party was basically a Fijian party with a small Indian contingent, and the National Federation Party was basically an Indian party with a small Fijian contingent. They had parliamentary elections in 1982. It was a nasty, hard-fought election. The Alliance party won and Prime Minister Ratu Mara remained in power. The really big players in Fiji were Australia and New Zealand. They had much larger presences there than we did and they put a lot more money into the Fijian economy than we did. There was a program called "Four Corners." It was sort of like an Australian "60 Minutes." It did a program on, on Fijian elections which mentioned the cannibalism Fiji's history. It was meant to be critical of Ratu Mara and his party, but it backfired and galvanized the Fijian vote and the Alliance Party won. It later came out that the Russians had funneled some money into the opposition NFP. That revelation helped cement US-Fiji relations.

Q: You were talking earlier that -- that was the election of about '82 I think it was.

PACE: Right.

Q: You were talking about the nuclear issue in the area.

PACE: Right

Q: And in 1984 New Zealand Labor Party came to power.

PACE: That's right.

Q: And they stepped forward on that.

PACE: That's exactly right.

Q: And not only said they ban nuclear power ships or ships that might have had weapons, but the Reagan administration kicked them out of the alliance. Did that impact on Fiji?

PACE: Actually, in some ways it enhanced Fiji's, stature because without New Zealand to send those ships in I think more ships came into Fiji where they continued to not ask.

Q: (laughs) OK.

PACE: Besides which, by this time Ambassador Eckert and Prime Minister Mara were pretty close.

Q: Now, what other sort of atmospherics were involved in the relationship as you saw it from the public affairs quotient of the embassy? I mean things pretty much tooted along this four years or there were --

PACE: When I went to Fiji I expected to stay two years. Because it was a hardship post. At the end of those two years I looked at options that were open to me and I couldn't see anything that I thought would be any better than staying, so I stayed for a second term tour there.

Q: Mm, mm-hmm. If it's a hardship tour -- let's see. You have one child with you.

PACE: Right.

Q: The other people. How were recreational facilities and morale in that sense?

PACE: Well, pretty good. Fiji had a, had a, a nice swimming pool. It was a tourist spot -- especially for Australia-New Zealand -- but a lot of people came for the beaches. The western side of the island catered to were cruises, and there were golf courses and good hotels..

Q: Now, Fiji was actually not one of the frontline islands during World War II.

PACE: No. It was the staging area.

Q: So -- it was the staging area, right. So did any of that atmospherics extend to the time you were there?

PACE: There were, there were Americans there and Fijians really had warm relationships to the United States.

Q: Mm-hmm. Were there any consular issues?

PACE: Yeah.

Q: That the embassy got involved in?

PACE: Well, the main consular issue was visas. Tonga was in the consular district and Tongans were notorious for being visa violators.

Q: Mm.

PACE: So they had to be carefully screened. I would say that there are probably more Tongans in New Zealand than there are in Tonga.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: And, and there's a huge subculture of Pacific Islanders here in Utah and, and a lot of them are Tongans, Tongans and Samoans mainly. But these are people who have migrated. And, and BYU (Brigham Young University) - Hawaii -- do you know about that?

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: They have an awful lot of South Pacific islanders there, and I would say quite a few of them go there and study and they never go back.

Q: Uh-huh.

PACE: Maybe more do than don't, but not many. So that's the consular issue, it's visa violators.

Q: Now, in May of 1984 Ambassador Eckert departs the post.

PACE: Right. He returns to Rochester and runs for Congress.

Q: Hm!

PACE: And he actually wins that election, but two years later he's defeated. So he then becomes a lobbyist and his biggest clients are Fiji and Tonga and Samoa.

Q: Mm-hmm. Hm.

PACE: His successor was C Edward Dillery, whom you know. It was just a huge catharsis for the staff when he got there *(laughs).*

Q: Well now, Eckert leaves in May and Dillery doesn't arrive until November, so sounds --

PACE: Right, so we have a chargé during that time. When Eckert left his non-career secretary left with him. She had been his secretary in Rochester. And so, my wife became the secretary to the chargé during that time, and for several months after Dillery gets there until his secretary arrives my wife is the ambassador's secretary, so I had that contact with the front office.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: Ambassador Dillery had spent some time in East Asia. He'd been to Vietnam. He was very well liked and his wife was too. DCM Surber's and my tour ran the same four years, so we left about the same time. We have remained friends in retirement.

Q: Well, that -- oh, one last thing I have in my notes is that in July '85 Secretary Shultz visits Fiji. Would you have left by then?

PACE: Yes. July of '85. Yes, I left in June.

Q: Ah, OK.

PACE: I had a short overlap with my successor there.

Q: Mm-hmm.

PACE: But I don't -- I don't have any recollection of Shultz's planned visit there. But it must have been planned.

Q: Right, and probably part of a much larger meeting or so.

PACE: Yeah.

Q: Well, we're right up against your next assignment and I recommend that we take a break and pick it up at the next time.

PACE: OK, good.

Q: OK, turn this off. Good afternoon. Today is June the 4th and we're returning to our conversation with Vance Pace. Vance, last time when we left you were in Fiji and you're

coming back to Washington after being in the field many years. How did you get this Washington assignment?

PACE: OK, well let me just back up a little bit. I returned from Fiji on my fiftieth birthday. My fiftieth birthday was my last day in Fiji and in fact had a very nice going away party for me. Nancy and I drove to Nadi and flew to Honolulu overnight. And when I arrived in Honolulu it was my fiftieth birthday all over again.

Q: Of course, the international dateline.

PACE: My wife said I was a hundred.

Q: (laughs)

PACE: But while I was PAO in Suva there were two area directors during the time that I was there. Cliff Forster was area director when I started my tour. He retired about half way through my tour and was replaced by his deputy, Rob Nevitt. They both visited Fiji while I was PAO, and from my perspective they were very successful visits. When my tour in Fiji was over, Nevitt offered me the job of the executive officer in the East Asia Area Office. There are four area-wide positions in the front office: the director, deputy director, policy officer, and executive officer.

Q: Well, excellent. Because it does follow up on your expertise now. Now, let's start off looking at office organization. Who was the director at the time you took over in the summer cycle of '85?

PACE: The director of the agency?

Q: No, director of that office.

PACE: His name was Robert Nevitt. As I mentioned earlier, he had been the director there for a couple years. And my former PAO in Lima, Bill Lenderking, was his deputy. That worked out very nicely for me because I had had a close relationship with him in Lima. And we picked up with on that immediately. Bill had been working in the Office of Public Affairs at the State Department before he came back to USIA. He came over to USIA about the same time that I did.

Q: And who was the policy officer when you were there?

PACE: The policy officer was John Fredenburg, who was in Honolulu most of the time I was in Fiji.

PACE: And then there were the desk officers and a coordinator for cultural affairs. China had its own desk officer, Japan had its own desk officer, Korea had its own desk officer, Southeast Asia had a desk officer, and the South Pacific had a desk officer. I believe the

desk officer for China also covered our post in Taiwan, which, as you know, was a special arrangement.

Q: Some of those sound like what we would call functional bureaus, functional offices. Now the East Asia Bureau, I assume, is the regional bureau and deals with Tokyo, Beijing, Bangkok.

PACE: Yes, it's called East Asia and the Pacific and it handled from China and Japan on the North to Burma, Burma was as far west as it went, and it had Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia. As I recall, there were 21 posts.

Q: You're coming in as the executive officer, as the premier admin guy, meaning you're the money guy.

PACE: Yes, that was the most important, I guess it was seen as the most important function. There were other administrative duties like liaison with the Office of Personnel, and I became quite well-acquainted with the personnel officer for East Asia in the Office of Personnel. And to a lesser extent with the administrative part of the other functional bureaus but mainly those people dealt with their counterparts in the office.

Q: Now, did this require you to do any liaison with the overseas posts?

PACE: A lot. As a matter of fact, I traveled to every country in Southeast Asia and several more than once. I would have generally one or two trips a year and sometimes these trips were in conjunction with public affairs officers' conferences which were held in different countries overseas or in Hawaii. So I did travel because largely for budgetary reasons, the allocation of funds to operate these posts was in the area office, I can't say it was mine, it was the area director's but certainly I had a lot of input into that.

Q: *And what were you bringing to these conferences?*

PACE: In most cases there had to be program and budgetary priorities made because nobody got everything they wanted. Posts would submit a list of priorities and they got the top ones and not the bottom ones, generally, as far as money was concerned. I would say that the biggest part of every overseas posts' budget was the budget to pay for local employees. So when there would come budgetary cuts, sometimes they would have to reduce their staff in order to make it and have something left over for other programs. The cultural exchange budget generally came out of State and so the post would be given so leader grants or so many Fulbrights and other academic exchanges. Grants for political, media and others in our target audiences would come from USIA budgets.

Q: How was the budget in general? We're talking, you came to this office in 1985, so it is dropping off year by year… or… steady?

PACE: In 1986, the last two years of the Reagan Administration, and President Reagan had a close personal friend in the Director of USIA, I probably referred to this in an

earlier interview, but Charles Wick, who was President Reagan's Director of USIA, I think virtually for the entire time he was the President, was a very forceful guy. And one of his great advantages was that he was able to get quite a bit more money for USIA than his predecessor had been able to. He put a lot of that money into film, because that is what he had done in Hollywood. One of the things he had done in Hollywood before he came to Washington was filmmaking, and also credited his media experience with winning the 1980 election. He made a lot of his money as owner of a lot of nursing homes but he dabbled in pictures and actually produced a couple. That carried that over. If we had use of the media, particularly the audio-visual media, we can really tell America's story to the world and make little Americans out of everybody overseas and so he was very successful in getting money from Congress to beef up the agency budget. That started to drop off though in 1986. You will recall that the election of 1986 was pretty devastating to the Republicans in Congress and Democrats reasserted themselves. They began to take a harder look at what USIA, and everything everybody else was doing.

Q: Now, you were in this office at the time of the transition to the new administration, the Bush administration and in the State Department, this is the time for teaching the new administration what had been going on, and the writing of transition papers and what not. Did that apply to you or were you or your office doing those kinds of transition papers?

PACE: You mean transition papers between the administrations?

Q: Right, between Reagan and Bush.

PACE: I wasn't involved in writing papers on it. The only thing I was involved in was the budget implications of it. And this was a general reduction. I wrote here that we were involved in two budget reduction exercises and it began to pinch our posts so I was involved in those kind of decision-making but not in policy decision exercises.

Q: And you were saying that the budget was constructed in such a way that as it decreased, not only were programs slimmed down, but also personnel, so the budget had to cover everything. Now, the posts overseas don't like their money cut, and I guess what I want to ask is, were there any posts overseas in which the ambassador or the PAO really came in and said, "You guys are killing us here."

PACE: Well, I had this experience when I was PAO in Suva. The area director came to town and I had two really top-notch assistants, one for culture and one for media, and they were probably, if they weren't the highest-ranking foreign service nationals (FSNs) in the embassy, they were close to it. And it was because they had such terrific of that part of their job, and Cliff Forster, on his way to the airport, said, "I just couldn't bring myself to say this while I was at the embassy, but you are going to have to cut, not the positions, but cut the rank of these two people. And, of course, I was devastated by that. Ambassador Dillery went to bat for us. He told the Agency that if USIA wants to cut the rank of these positions, I'm willing to have them as part of my staff. Washington backed

down on that one. So, yeah, it depended a little bit on how interested the ambassador was in the operation and what they were willing to do too.

Q: One of the things I understand that impacts on all these budgets is currency exchange. A local national in Tokyo is incredibly more expensive in terms of currency exchange than the senior guy in Bangkok. I assume this comes in to your calculations. You know, if you fire two guys in Tokyo, you can have six guys in Southeast Asia.

PACE: You know, that's right. As a matter of fact, this very thing came up in my career while I was the chief of the overseas support division in the office of administration. I went to London to help them establish a new way of doing what we called the going rate, and the administrative officer in the embassy in London came up with this idea for establishing salaries for FSNs which she called the market basket approach to it – how much a local employee gets is how much they can buy at the grocery store with their salary. It didn't fly but it was at least a takeoff for discussion because in London, you had FSNs that were making more than their American bosses because of the local economy. So that was a very big factor and the same thing was true, as you point out, in East Asia.

In China, you probably know this about China, we didn't have any FSNs. All of the local staff were employees of the Chinese government, right?

Q: Right.

PACE: And frankly, I don't remember how we reimbursed the government for those people. Do you know that?

Q: They were all hired out of Diplomatic Security Bureau (DSB) and so I'm not sure they were paid individually. I was on the policy side, so I wasn't on the money side.

PACE: I don't remember how that worked either but China was just different than anybody else that regard.

Q: It was a particularly unique problem. Friends in other embassies would say that they'd had somebody assigned to them and by the time they got that individual up and understanding the issues and understanding English, why he'd be sent off to another embassy. Anyway… State still had the cultural part of the mission. Does that mean they were paying for it too? I mean, was it out of their budget?

PACE: Say that again.

Q: Well, you were saying that State had the cultural side…

PACE: State didn't have the cultural side but the Bureau of Education and Cultural Exchange, which was called CU. CU didn't handle all of the exchanges, but they handled all the academic exchanges, so the Fulbright program, I don't remember all of them, but at least the Fulbright program was funded by State.

Q: Okay, so that means, they had they had a State budget for that that didn't impact on your budget?

PACE: What they did is that they would transfer that money into our budget so that we could pay those expenses at post.

Q: Sounds like there would be an opportunity for a check to go on walkabout? The post saying wait a minute, where's our money…

PACE: Yeah, I remember we had one Fulbright professor in Fiji who was there in communications and he was on a sabbatical. We also sent some professors to the States.

Q: Now, State Department has the overseas payment offices like RAMC in Bangkok. Did you work with them?

PACE: You know, I don't remember working them in Washington. I knew that they had those regional places and I'm not quite sure exactly how that worked on an operational scale. I probably did know at one time and I can't remember.

Q: Well, you know you have this job in the East Asia bureau from 1985-1989, again four years. Was that a two-year assignment with an extension or was it four years when you started?

PACE: Well, I didn't know in the beginning how long the term would be. They generally didn't let anybody stay longer than four years. I wanted to stay. In 1989, I wasn't ready to go overseas again but they wouldn't let me stay in East Asia bureau. I found of my 10 years in Washington, eight of them were spent in area offices and I just found them to be the most interesting parts of the agency because they were closest to the overseas posts. So, in 1989, the position of the division chief in the Office of Administration opened up and it was a good job. There were a lot of applicants for it, so I felt lucky to get it.

Q: Okay. Now, that was a job you picked up and transferred to in 1989. Do USIA jobs like State jobs at that time have a bidding procedure? You know, the list comes out of vacancies, you say "I'll bid on that one." So the next job you pick up is again USIA in Washington. You're division chief of the overseas support division.

PACE: Let me just back up a little bit on East Asia. Because there were some changes in the front office of East Asia while I was there. Rob Nevitt was the area director when I got there but in 1986 he left and eventually became the PAO in Tokyo and Bill Lenderking left and became PAO in Pakistan. So we had a whole turnover in that front office except for myself. Nevitt was succeeded by Hal Morton who had been PAO in Manila and Lenderking was succeeded by Wes Stewart who had been PAO in Canberra. Bill Barnes became policy officer. So that part of the office changed and I was the only one that stayed. I stayed for two more years after that. Morton and Stewart had Latin American experience and I had Latin American experience so I had connection to them in

a prior existence. Hal Morton had been executive officer in Bogota during my tours in Colombia, and while I was working at the Central American desk, Stewart was PAO in Costa Rica. So it was fortuitous that I had this previous experience with them.

Q: Okay, excellent.

PACE: Morton moved to the bureau of administration the same time I did. I think Stewart stayed another year in the East Asia office.

Q: Now, the new office that you went to in the summer of 1989, the Office of Administration, let's start with that. How was that organized? Who was the office director?

PACE: Well, bureau director was a political appointee; he had been an executive of the Ford Motor Company, Henry Hockeimer. His deputy had been a former PAO in Tokyo and he and Morton switched jobs about the time I moved to administration.
Q: What were the branches under you? Those were probably functional…

PACE: One branch comprised roving administrative officers who were called post management assistance officers. They spent most of their time traveling to posts that had no executive officers, helping them with their administrative reports and plans. Another branch comprised interior designers and architects. As best I recall two architects and three interior designers made up this branch. Their function was to do plans and designs or USIS offices overseas and for cultural centers. The third branch handled the purchases and shipment of automobiles for posts. These were bought from a supplier in the States and shipped abroad. Some were bought from overseas suppliers because they required right-hand drive in countries like Fiji and Australia/New Zealand.

Finally, there was a fourth branch which was charged audio-visual equipment and this was the branch that I abolished. Mobile units would take 16 millimeter projectors wherever they could and project USIA-produced or acquired films. They were specially built by Victor-Kalart for USIA and were constructed to withstand the rough and tumble treatment they got in mobile units. There was an office that purchased and maintained these, as well as electronic equipment when they became the standard audio-visual machines. When videocassette recorders came in, the 16 mm projectors became obsolete. The new equipment didn't need that specialized purchasing and maintenance. I decided that USIA didn't need this branch anymore, so I abolished it. I wasn't very popular with the employees that had staffed it, but I was able to find jobs for them in other parts of the Agency. So that was the four branches that I supervised.

Q: Now, this is the start of a new administration, the Bush administration. Was there any atmospheric changes?

PACE: Right. When President Bush came in, Wick was no longer interested in the job nor was Bush interested in him. And so he appointed Bruce Gelb agency director. Gelb was the son of the founder of Clairol and became CEO of Bristol Meyers-Squibb. Many

of the pros in considered him a disaster at USIA and he left to become ambassador to Belgium at the time I retired from the agency. So things changed a great deal in USIA with the Bush administration.

Q: And in what direction were these changes?

PACE: Well, first of all, Gelb had no idea what USIA was about. So, budgets got tighter. There were lots of reductions and people were generally pretty unhappy and largely demoralized at the agency at that time. Budget cuts meant abolishing posts overseas and offices in Washington.

Q: Now, you were saying earlier that purchase of cars for the embassy motor pool for USIA officers fell in your bailiwick. The embassy motor pool is very jealously guarded. Did any particular issues come out of that responsibility?

PACE: One of the issues that came up was the use of official cars for personal use. Ostensibly, the only person in the embassy who could really have a car all the time was the ambassador. But for security reasons, and other reasons, some officers, particularly PAOs would have a driver and the driver would pick them up and take them home or sometimes they would drive themselves so that became an issue. But, how many cars USIS had a given post was largely determined by the size of the post and what was needed to get people where they needed to go and delivering press releases and stuff like that. USIS had its own cars and controlled the use of the cars apart from State motor pool although I guess they were all housed together. I believe the Agency for International Development (AID) had the same arrangement.

Q: Could any motor pool driver drive anybody's car? Or was there dedicated USIA drivers?

PACE: There were generally dedicated USIA drivers. Did that answer that part of the question for you?

Q: I think so, yeah.

PACE: Okay, the next thing I have is this thing about diplomatic mail. Do you remember that?

Q: Yes. You were saying that about in 1991, State…

PACE: It may have been a little earlier than that.

Q: But yes, this is an illustration of how the different agencies worked together and share resources…

PACE: I've got something written down. Let me just read it. It says one of the few problems that developed with my job in the management bureau was the question of

diplomatic mail. This had always been handled by the Department of State who billed other agencies for their share of the cost. But somebody in State's management bureau decided State could no longer do this and USIA and AID were forced to look for some other way to get diplomatic mail to their officers in the field. I went to innumerable meetings with the State Department protesting at every juncture the futility of this decision. Eileen Binns, my supervisor, and I visited postal office facilities in Washington D.C. and Dulles Airport and finally came up with some kind of a plan. Protests throughout USIA's top management proved futile. But a high-profile member of the agency advisory board who had political connections in the White House made a trip to one of the large embassies, and when he found out what was being done, he wrote back a strong cable stating the obvious – this was a dumb and unnecessary duplication of work. That was the end of it and the guy at State who had this brilliant idea quietly retired.

Q: This impacted on your personal mail or USIA official correspondence with its officers?

PACE: I think it was personal mail. I don't think it affected mail going out from the agency to its posts. You will remember the Department of State/USIA Washington D.C. 20520 – that address was no longer available for personal use for USIA and AID.

Q: Now, you were saying that when you were the executive officer in the Bureau of Administration (A) you did a fair amount of traveling. Did you do an equal amount of traveling as division chief of the overseas support division?

PACE: I did much less traveling but I did do some traveling. One of my staff came up with a computer program for doing annual budgets (called going rates). We contracted through USIS Delhi for someone in India to write this software program. He traveled around to a lot of places and I traveled with him a couple of times to Europe. We went to Bonn, The Hague, London and Copenhagen. I went to Moscow that time about that time, ostensibly to introduce this new software. But my visit coincided with that of Secretary Baker, so ended up watching the office while the staff at the embassy attended to Secretary Baker's trip.

Q: They were off covering the Secretary and you were the guy who held down the fort…

PACE: That's right.

Q: While you're involved in Admin and what not, in this timeframe, you had the whole business of Iraq invades Kuwait and then Desert Storm following early 1991. Does any of that impact on your programs? You know, sudden need to send money over here.

PACE: You know, I don't remember. Obviously, with these hot-button issues, Near Eastern Affairs (NEA) probably got increases in their budget that affected other offices at the agency. I don't remember.

Q: Now, as we come to 1991, you retire.

PACE: Right. I was faced with kind of a personal problem. My son at the time was a Mormon missionary in Indiana. He was finishing his two-year stint and returning home. Normally, he would have gone off to college, but he had special problems that did not permit this, and I didn't really have any way of handling that from overseas because he needed support and so I decided to retire at an early age. I was 56 and I turned down two really good jobs to do it. You'll recall I told you that Rob Nevitt was now PAO in Tokyo and he offered me the job of executive officer there. Also the PAO in Manila was going to Brasilia as PAO and he asked me if I would consider going to Brasilia but…

Q: You were well and favorably considered.

PACE: Well, I thought so.

Q: It's a compliment.

PACE: I've often thought about how my life would have been different if I'd stayed in that time but you can't second guess history I guess.

Q: It just didn't work out. Now, we have you in retirement. Are you going to move back to Utah?

PACE: In 1979, our oldest daughter came back to Utah to go to Weber State College in my home town of Ogden. Because we had always planned to retire there and at that time were economically able to, we found a house off-campus near the college. It had a basement apartment. She lived in that apartment and we rented the upstairs. So when we retired, we had this house in Ogden to move into

Q: Well, excellent. Now sometimes people get called back in retirement.

PACE: I did.

Q: And what were you offered?

PACE: In 1992, a year after I retired, I got a call from USIA's Office of Personnel. The personnel officer at that time was a former colleague. He had been my desk officer when I was PAO in Suva and then he was also on the South Pacific desk when I became executive officer. Now, he was the personnel officer for East Asia in USIA and the agency was looking into establishing a post in Mongolia. You will probably remember that we had an ambassador to Mongolia during part of the Cold War but he never took up residence in Ulaanbaatar. He was resident in Washington and then with the breakup of the Soviet Union, Mongolia began to develop an a foreign policy independent of Russia, and so we opened an embassy in Ulaanbaatar but there was no USIS post there and the assistant director of USIA wanted to know if it was feasible to do that. My assigned task was to survey the situation and write a report about whether we should do that. On the

way out, I stopped in Hong Kong, and the consul general in Hong Kong, whose name was Williams, you don't know him?

Q: Yeah, Dick Williams?

PACE: Dick Williams. He was the consul general in Hong Kong and he had been the ambassador to Mongolia but resident in Washington so I had a nice briefing from him about it. The current ambassador in Ulaanbaatar was Joseph Edward Lake. He was resident in the chancery and all the other embassy were in the end of one of these Soviet-style apartment buildings which we called "Faulty Towers."

Q: So pretty basic living in Ulaanbaatar.

PACE: Yes, but certainly livable. I didn't want to go out there alone so I asked if my wife could accompany me. USIA said she could if I would pay her way. I agreed. The State Department was helpful in getting her the appropriate tourist passport and visa she needed. So she went out on a blue passport and I went out on a diplomatic passport and she no sooner got there, she talked to Ambassador Lake and asked, "Is there any possibility that I could work," and he said, "Yes, starting tomorrow you're the administrative officer at the embassy." They had medically evacuated the embassy administrative officer and so she became the administrative officer. She probably did a lot more work there than I did. But I did go around and make contacts with the appropriate media and cultural people and came back and wrote a report recommending that they establish a post there, which they did.
Q: When you looked at the environment, there were things that could and should be done.

PACE: Right. There was enough infrastructure to develop it and besides that, USIA was establishing posts in all of these former Soviet republics and the only reason Mongolia had been a Soviet republic was because the Soviets wanted another vote in the United Nations. So, in fact, there was really no difference between that and those former Soviet republics. It was evident that they should put a post there.

Q: What was the living like?

PACE: Well, it was interesting because food was hard to come by there. Embassy staff were allowed to have a shipment of food along with their personal effects. Because we were on TDY, they allowed us to buy a two-month supply and send it through the pouch. But it turned out that so many people were medically evacuated out of there, and they had food they had sent out. They sold it officers at post, so we were never short on what to eat. In addition fresh food and vegetables and certain perishable foods were available from China. The embassy in Beijing would send a courier out every two or three weeks by train with a classified pouch. He/she would also take this food from Beijing, so that's sort of how we got along. I don't think anybody went hungry.

Q: What kind of living arrangements? I mean, you are there temporarily?

PACE: Well, we had an embassy apartment in "Faulty Towers." , I don't know if you've ever seen them, but Ulaanbaatar was just full of Stalinist apartment buildings. They are buildings that were about nine or 10 stories high. Each building had 200 or 300 apartments. The embassy had one end of one of these apartment buildings. The embassy staff lived there and there was an elevator shaft and on each floor there were two apartments. We had an apartment there. The general services office of State Department sent out and to take measurements. With the assistance from my wife the team contracted for a lot of work to bring these apartments up to western standards. They weren't that bad but they left something to be desired. They were easier to live in in the summer, when we were there. They would be difficult to heat in the winter. We had a kitchen and two bedrooms. We had a washer and dryer, so it wasn't bad.

Q: What did the people do to entertain themselves?

PACE: Well, there was a lot of in-house entertainment where the embassy staff would get together. There was limited of representation done. I can remember having dinner with the minister of education, for example. Also, there were some really interesting places to see so on weekends. Staff could borrow an embassy jeep and go out and see part of the countryside. We went to a monastery that had been sort of bombed out of existence in 1923 right after the revolution in Mongolia. Some people went out to the Gobi Desert and so there was some of that. There were some really interesting to see in Ulaanbaatar.

Q: In the short time you were there, did you have any opinion about the quality of the local staff?

PACE: Our local staff was very good. I had an assistant who spoke good English and was very competent. His father had been in the ministry of agriculture in the old Soviet Union so he spoke good English. My wife's chief assistant spoke excellent English and her father had been a diplomat in Havana so she spoke good Spanish and she had a degree from the University of Havana. As a matter of fact, Mongolia has a very high literacy rate and one of the things that we noticed as we went around to the various offices that we dealt with, every office had a guard, and invariably that guard would be reading a book. So it was a really, really interesting place.

Q: Well, it sounds great. Also, in retirement there in Utah, you've gotten together with some of your colleagues, and sort of have an informal cabal.

PACE: Yes, we have an informal cabal which I coordinate. We have about 20 people who get together once a month to eat lunch or dinner. Mainly we just talk but once in a while we'll go get a speaker. One of our members has a son who is ambassador to Yemen (Matthew Tueller) and he's been with us a couple of times and sort of given us a talk on what's going on in that part of the world which is very interesting.

Q: Speaking of people reading. AFSA is putting out an advertisement… Speaking of good books, AFSA has just announced they are putting out a history of AFSA.

PACE: Oh yes, I saw that. I got an email on that.

Q: Well, Vance, this has been absolutely fabulous. I really appreciate the time you've given us on this.

PACE: Okay. If anything else occurs to you and you want any kind of update, just give me a call. I'm certainly happy to do it.

Q: Excellent.

End of interview