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

MARGARET WOODWARD

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INTERVIEW

[Note: This interview was not edited by Mrs. Woodward.]

WOODWARD: I was born in Washington. I've lived in the same house for 87 years. I would think this would be more interesting for the Woman's Democratic Club, whereas my professional things will be more interesting for ADST or DACOR.

Q: So you lived in the same house. On Hall Place?

WOODWARD: I was born in one house and then, 30 years later, I bought the other house next door in order to be near my mother, but to have my own place. Before you start recording, or are you recording?

Q: I'm recording, but that's all right.

WOODWARD: It seems to me that the two most interesting things for my interviewers would be the fact that I had broadcast from Holland during the War...

Q: Oh, absolutely!

WOODWARD: ...and got away on a British coal barge, actually. My husband was a correspondent for the *London News Chronicle*, and we were in Amsterdam. We were

supposed to go to Berlin, but war broke out so we went to Amsterdam instead. Getting out was a problem. No problem for me because I had an American passport, but we had to leave because he would have been a prisoner of war as Holland fell.

And then the other thing I think it interesting is the fact that I worked with Eleanor Dulles on the Berlin desk for aid to Berlin when Berlin was cut off.

Q: During the airlift.

WOODWARD: No. before the airlift. It was help to all of West Berlin in connection with the Marshall Plan. So I would think those were the two most interesting things, but they weren't the hardest ones.

Q: Well, let's go to the most interesting one: broadcasting in Holland for NBC. And you broadcast the invasion in 1940?

WOODWARD: Well, I couldn't get through. The wires were down, so I finally... I had a broadcast all set up. I had to clear only the military censor. But I couldn't get through. So after I'd gotten on this coal barge and got to Harwich, the same day that the queen of Holland got to Harwich...

Q: Which then was Wilhelmina.

WOODWARD: That was Wilhelmina. And it was May the fourth. The invasion was May the tenth. I went to NBC in London and said, I have a script. Would you like it? I couldn't get it on in Holland. They said, Well, we're really waiting for the Maginot Line, what was happening there. They said, If we can't get through to France, we'll take yours. And they did take mine, and I was very thrilled because Ed Murrow did that broadcast and complimented me on it.

Q: I was just going to say, there weren't that many women in broadcasting.

WOODWARD: The reason I got it was a sheer fluke. Ed Murrow had hired Mary Marvin Breckinridge...

Q: Who I know very well.

WOODWARD: And NBC had to have somebody, and I was in Holland. My husband was a newspaper correspondent, so I had access. So I went one morning -- I was doing nothing and I was very bored -- to the American embassy and said, Look, can I pick up any kind of a job? That same morning they had somebody come up from Basel, looking to get a woman correspondent because CBS had a woman correspondent. So they took a voice test, and my voice does project well.

Q: And you also have a nice throaty voice, which is important.

WOODWARD: So I got the job.

Q: Wonderful!

WOODWARD: I got 25 dollars a broadcast! [Laughter]

Q: Oh, how wonderful! How long did you do that before the invasion?

WOODWARD: Until two days before. Well, until May the eighth or ninth.

Q: And you started in...?

WOODWARD: It was about January or February. It was only a period of about six months. Then I got back here. I'd lost all my clothes in Holland. I went into NBC here, but there was nothing for me. They offered me a 10-minute broadcast once a week at ten o'clock in the morning, or something like that; so that I decided no, I'd better go back to the Labor Department, which I did. But it was a sheer accident.

Q: Do you remember any of the specific broadcasts that you did?

WOODWARD: The one that I remember the best is one where I went to a small group of six people who were guarding a windmill, which was really a gun emplacement. I remember two things about it. One, the first men there, who were quite isolated, brought me the first plover's egg of the season. They said, One of these goes to the queen, and they gave me a plover's egg. The other thing I remember...

Q: Where was that windmill?

WOODWARD: I'm not even sure. I don't remember.

Q: But near Amsterdam.

WOODWARD: No, it was near... I don't remember. But no, no, it was toward the German frontier. Because I remember asking one of the men, Well, suppose the Germans fly over the water emplacements and take them from the rear. And he said, "My job is to guard this windmill, this gun emplacement." So, you could see this was a question he didn't really want to answer.

I was at the German frontier -- at least I was down at the broadcasting station -- the night before the invasion. The soldiers had been on leave, and they'd canceled the leave and then they'd reinstated it, and it looked perfectly normal. Couples were strolling along. I got back at about two o'clock and about four o'clock my husband was awakened by a call from his stringer, saying that the invasion is on.

The other thing I remember is, that morning I was going somewhere -- I can't remember where -- and I got on a bus. I thought I was talking Dutch, but my Dutch was very poor,

and I had actually lapsed into German, because my German is good. A very nice elderly gentleman came and tapped me on the shoulder and said, Mademoiselle, you are either English or American. We don't want to hear German this morning! [Laughter] Speak English, please.

Then, it was a question of getting down to the Hook of Holland, where the coal barge had come up from Rotterdam and discharged all of its coal and was waiting for instructions from the British consulate. I was bedecked with jewels because there was a woman, who later died in a concentration camp, who had put all her money into diamonds, and I had on a diamond watch, a diamond bracelet. And she said, Take these to my sister, which I did. She lived long enough to find that I had gotten them to her sister.

Q: Did you actually wear them?

WOODWARD: Oh, I wore them.

Q: So they looked like yours.

WOODWARD: Yes. And nobody questioned me. All they were interested in was, I had a dual passport. I had my passport and my husband's passport. They were only interested in whether I had a British passport. Nobody was looking at anything, because just behind the coal barge there was a destroyer with the queen of Holland and the entire staff on board. Of course, they offloaded them in Harwich before they offloaded us. My husband said, These people down at the docks didn't come to meet us! [Laughter]

Q: No, as much as you'd like to think they might! [Laughter]

WOODWARD: Anyway, I would say that from an interview's point that's probably the most dramatic thing I've ever done.

Q: Oh, absolutely. So then, you went to England on the coal barge. Is that right?

WOODWARD: Yes. And we crept around the coast. We were supposed to go shooting across, but they found out that the coast... There were mines, of course. It's the first time in my life that I've gotten deliberately drunk. I figured, if I'm going down...

Q: [Laughter] I don't want to feel it! Well, then, did Wilhelmina...?

WOODWARD: Wilhelmina stayed in London, and I guess Julianna, who was then the crown princess, went to Canada.

Q: That's right. That's right.

WOODWARD: Queen Wilhelmina was on the British destroyer, of course, but the Sadler's Wells Ballet was on the barge.

Q: Because they had been performing?

WOODWARD: They'd been performing in Amsterdam. There was a kind of a group of people, mixed couples, and some British aviators who had been shot down for violating Dutch neutrality and were being released and told to go home and do it again.

Q: Did you see Rotterdam after it was bombed?

WOODWARD: No, I never saw it at all. We had lived in Rotterdam for a couple of months before we were in Amsterdam, but I have not been back to Rotterdam. I would like to go now and see the new Rotterdam.

Q: Well, and it is indeed. My husband was at the consulate there for five years.

WOODWARD: So you know it well.

Q: So I know it well. You're bringing back a lot of memories.

WOODWARD: Yes, of Holland. I'm sure.

Q: Well, goodness, we could talk forever on that, couldn't we? But your husband was British?

WOODWARD: Both of his parents were American, but when it came time to opt, he opted British. His younger brother opted American, enlisted with the Canadian Air Force, and was killed on his first flight over Ireland.

Q: Oh, what a shame. But why did your husband opt for British?

WOODWARD: He'd been to British schools. He had been born in England.

Q: Oh, they had lived in England.

WOODWARD: They had lived in England. He went to British schools. He seemed to feel more British. He felt more British than he did American, whereas this brother felt the other way.

So that's why he was in London with the *London News Chronicle*. He was supposed to go to Berlin. He had been in Rome. We got married just before the War. We originally met in Geneva. We were supposed to go to Berlin, but, of course, the British had to leave Berlin. I remember, every morning David would call Sigrid Schultz, who was one of the broadcasters who we knew from Berlin, to get the news from Berlin in order to phone it to London from Holland. He was more interested in naval affairs than anything else. He's written a whole series of books, including one on the "Bismarck."

Q: So, you came home in 1940. Went on the coal barge to England and then came home.

WOODWARD: Then I came home on the "President Roosevelt" and did one final broadcast from the "President Roosevelt."

Q: Do you happen to have any of your broadcasts?

WOODWARD: Yes, I do. Yes.

Q: Because I would like to include those with your transcript.

WOODWARD: I have a couple of those broadcasts. I can't remember which ones I have.

Q: Because I have a few of Marvin's. [Ed note: ADST does not have copies of the transcripts.]

WOODWARD: She was much better than I was, really, because she got the job. I got the job because they needed somebody. [Laughter]

Q: Instead of starting in Washington in 1940, let's back up to Washington. You were born here.

WOODWARD: I was born in Garfield Hospital, which no longer exists, on February 23, 1910. I was brought up by my mother. I don't remember my father. I was brought up by my mother and an aunt, who was a schoolteacher at Western High School, where she taught for 50 years, and which is now the Duke Ellington School. I lived on Hall Place, when I'm here, all of my life. I've decided to stay there rather than go to the Ingleside retirement home, which I was considering.

Q: Absolutely! [Laughter] My husband said he is not leaving his house!

WOODWARD: Where do you live?

Q: We live just a few blocks from here, at 16th and S. We live vertically instead of horizontally in a narrow town house.

WOODWARD: A very good friend of mine from Goucher College - Beatrice Aitchison, whom you may know...

Q: *No*, *I don't*.

WOODWARD: The reason I thought you might know her, she's very busy at IONA. She was busy at IONA House, and she knew... Because of the Breckinridge association, I mean, it's all intertwined, IONA House. And I thought you might have bought the same house she... How long have you lived there?

O: We bought the house in 1977. The woman who had lived there, was a Miss Griffin, or

Griffith. Her father had been the minister of the Episcopal Church on Chevy Chase Circle. But that was in 1916 and 1920. That was a long time ago.

And then you went to Goucher, and you were Phi Beta Kappa.

WOODWARD: It's all in here: my entire life! [Laughter] That's later, I became a first lieutenant in the Army when I went back to London for the Board of Economic Warfare. Now this is my Phi Beta Kappa.

Q: "Margaret Rupli, 25th of February, '31." How marvelous.

And then you went back to London as... Oh, you had the rank of second lieutenant in case you were captured.

WOODWARD: That's right.

Q: Right! As a prisoner of war. Oh, yes, yes! "Identity of non-combatant." And your field was French, so you went to the University of Paris.

WOODWARD: I went to Goucher, and then in order to go to Paris, I had to shift from being a history major, which I wanted to be, to being a French major, because I wanted the year in France. Then I graduated from Goucher.

The first job was in Geneva with the Carnegie Endowment, this one.

Q: I have it here, 1932. Before that, though, you said something the other day which absolutely intrigued me. You said you had graduated from Goucher and you were very young, and someone brought you to this club [Woman's National Democratic Club].

WOODWARD: The woman I worked for in Geneva, who was with the National Council for Prevention of War, at a later time, after I came back from Geneva -- that was two or three years later -- she kept in touch with me, and she brought me to the club and I decided, that's not for me, lots of old women there. [Laughter]

Q: And here we are! But that's intriguing, 1934. We had been in this building only seven years.

WOODWARD: And the person I worked for was Laura Puffer Morgan, and she was a very devoted member of the club.

Q: So you just came that one time as her guest.

WOODWARD: I just came that one time.

Q: But you obviously remembered it because you joined when you retired. [Laughter] Wonderful.

You went with the Delaware Foreign Study Group for your junior year abroad at the Sorbonne, and then did you come back or did you go directly to Geneva?

WOODWARD: No, I came back to finish my senior year at Goucher and then I had two job possibilities. One was to teach French at a Quaker school for boys in Pennsylvania. which was connected with Swarthmore. It was the boys' school near Swarthmore. The other was to spend... And they both paid 100 dollars a month.

Q: Well, that was a good salary in those days, for a woman!

WOODWARD: And the other was to go to Geneva, working halftime, in the morning, for the National Council of Prevention of War, and the other half for the Carnegie Endowment. I worked for both of those. And I took a course at the Institute of International Studies, which was the school for higher studies. There I was a student of Jacob Viner's, who got me the job at the Labor Department with Isador Lubin, who was then later my professor. I was so enthusiastic about him, I later went back to the University of Chicago and really learned some economics.

Q: And what did you do in those jobs?

WOODWARD: In the first job in the Labor Department I was a secretary, first to, well, most of the time to Ford Hinrichs, who was a chief economist.

Q: Now, are we in Geneva or in Washington?

WOODWARD: We've come back to Washington. In Geneva I typed, I translated, I did everything. A factotum. I was 22 and life was glorious and you could go skiing the whole weekend for about a dollar! [Laughter]

Q: Today you would be an administrative assistant.

WOODWARD: As a matter of fact, once I got to work for Hinrichs, I started as a secretary, but became an administrative assistant. I did that for two years.

Q: Now we're in Washington.

WOODWARD: Now we're back to Washington. Did that for two years. Then went to the University of Chicago from '37 to '39.

Q: You went down south and...

WOODWARD: Oh, that was just a one-time trip. It was a textile study.

Q: And what did you do? Were you studying the textiles or...

WOODWARD: It was getting wages and hours of textile workers.

Q: Yes, and they were grossly underpaid.

WOODWARD: Yes, they were.

Q: But did we still have children working in the mills at that time?

WOODWARD: That wasn't the purpose of the study. The purpose of the study was connected with Japanese cotton imports and what our workers were paid and that sort of thing. The study was nationwide. Cotton textiles. Nationwide. But most of the mills were in the South and I chose to go south, wanted to see the South. I was in South Carolina, near Blowing Rock (North Carolina), actually. I remember. That was just one small part of the job.

Q: Yes, and then a consumer cooperative study in Wisconsin.

WOODWARD: Oh, that was another study, an urban study of consumer purchases.

Q: That was around 1930. It must have been during the Depression.

WOODWARD: Then I was in New York. I was assigned to New York. Urban study of consumer purchases. That was a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project, and it involved... At age 26 I had supervision over about 50 people who were 50 and 60 and out of a job, and some of them were... One guy kept borrowing five dollars from me all the time, although I knew it was drugs. He did pay them back except the last five dollars.

Q: That's interesting. He knew he wasn't going to see you again, so... [Laughter]

WOODWARD: And it was a question of instructing these field agents to go out and question people on what their income was and how they spent it. It was a study of consumer purchases. All these statistics that were gathered were used to determine wage increases. Well, the cost of living.

Q: It must have been pretty basic, I mean, food and rent and clothes and not much else.

WOODWARD: How people spent their money. And it was hard to get into the houses because people didn't like to be interviewed.

Q: Was that pride because they didn't have any money? Or just suspicious of government?

WOODWARD: Suspicious, I think. This agent would come up to their door. We had credentials. I would be suspicious now, and I think they were suspicious then. It was all in New York.

Q: Right in the city?

WOODWARD: I think there was a group in Staten Island. I remember, I had one guy who was a Hungarian and he said, I've been in the Hungarian army. I have walked miles, but never like Staten Island! [Laughter] He said, The houses aren't numbered [correctly]. Number 3 is next to number 200.

Q: Why was that? [Laughter]

WOODWARD: He said it was very primitive over there.

Q: Then you were an assistant to Ford Hinrichs as translator for American, foreign, and labor delegates at the International Textile Conference in 1937. Back to textiles again. "And to supply delegates with fiscal information."

WOODWARD: Yes.

Q: So you did do a little bit more with textiles.

WOODWARD: It was at the Japanese embassy on Massachusetts Avenue, and we had a big reception there. The Japanese competition on textiles was the whole point of it.

Q: Was that a NAFTA-like situation? You were looking at the import of cheap textiles, and what to do about it? I mean, the Japanese must have been paying a fraction of what our low wages were in the South.

WOODWARD: I was just a very humble field agent.

Q: Doing as told. Right? [Laughter] Well, then you went to the University of Chicago.

WOODWARD: For two years of graduate study in economics.

Q: And you said that's where you really learned economics.

WOODWARD: That's where I really learned about economics.

Q: We go from there to Amsterdam. Now, how did you get... Chicago was '37 to '39, and then Amsterdam was 1939.

WOODWARD: That's right.

Q: You must have gone to England.

WOODWARD: I went to England, where I was married.

Q: Oh, so you went to England to get married.

WOODWARD: To get married.

Q: I see. Where had you met your husband?

WOODWARD: I had met my husband in Geneva.

Q: All right. Well, that was several years before.

WOODWARD: It took me a long time to decide.

Q: It did, didn't it? He waited patiently. Well, I can see why. He was a wise man. And then when he was with the London News Chronicle you were a bride.

WOODWARD: I was just a bride. I was bored, and that's when I got a job. I went to the American embassy and a very nice guy by the name of Bonnet said, Oh, well, this man is up from Basel. He's looking for a woman correspondent because CBS had just hired Mary Marvin.

Q: Well, you were in the right place at the right time, at the same time you went to look for something to do, so it wasn't all that happenstance. And then you came home to the War Production Board.

WOODWARD: I came home and was looking for a job. Then I went to England. David went to Africa, following along with Montgomery and Rommel.

Q: The North African campaign.

WOODWARD: I came back to the United States. During that period I was at the War Production Board here. Then I went back to England with the Board of Economic Warfare, which was attached to the embassy, but was not a part of the embassy itself. And there I did a job that was really quite interesting. The Swedes and the Swiss and the Portuguese -- the Swedes and the Swiss were the ones I dealt with -- were exporting ball bearings to Germany. Our leverage on them was to cut off any wheat supplies when they sent the ball bearings. The German leverage on them was to call off coal supplies when they didn't get the ball bearings. So it was a three-way...

Q: Talk about being between a rock and a hard place!

WOODWARD: Yes, but the Swiss were having a difficult time because they needed both the wheat that we would send and the coal that the Germans were sending. Most of the time it was done at a desk on an adding machine in London. I did get one trip to Bern just toward the end of the war. Paris had been liberated, and there was a mission that went to Bern for a week to discuss this whole business of what was the smallest amount of ball bearings they could send and still get our wheat. [Laughter]

Q: What an interesting, really interesting life you had.

WOODWARD: It was interesting, yes.

Q: Now, your husband had gotten back.

WOODWARD: Had I divorced him then? I got divorced, but I can't remember just when. Oh, I wasn't divorced yet.

Q: Because you must have gone back to England to be with him after the North African campaign.

WOODWARD: I was with him in England for a while, and then he took off again, to the continent; and I was alone in London with the economic warfare job. I was not there for the Battle of Britain, but I was there for the V-1s and the V-2s. He was living quite comfortably in Belgium. [Laughter] And staying in touch with a former girlfriend.

Q: Oh, all right! All right.

WOODWARD: So my marriage lasted exactly from the beginning of the war to the end of the war. We were together, I would say, half of the time.

Q: It doesn't sound like your ordinary...

WOODWARD: No, it wasn't very useful.

Q: But wartime marriages, some of them, tended to be that way.

WOODWARD: I guess they did.

Q: [Referring to curriculum vitae] The "economic warfare division, American embassy, London..."

WOODWARD: Yes, that was when he was, most of the time, away.

Q: Well, it sounded to me that you really wanted something to do and needed something to do and you couldn't traipse after him. Exactly like it is with the young women today. You either resign yourself to being a trailing spouse and not have your own career or...

WOODWARD: Well, there was no question. Newspaper correspondents didn't take their wives along with them. Because he was in Belgium for a long part of the time, but also in other places. He followed the British army around. In fact, he went in on a glider. This was interesting. The day before the invasion, I knew it was coming because two days before D-Day...

Q: Oh, you're talking about the Normandy invasion.

WOODWARD: The Normandy invasion. We were living in an apartment in London at the Nell Gwyn luxury flats.

Q: Lovely! [Laughter]

WOODWARD: He was taken away two days. By that time he was working for the *Manchester Guardian*. He was taken away two days, about June the fourth. I was told not to admit that he was not there. So I knew D-Day was coming.

Q: So he covered the Normandy invasion.

WOODWARD: He covered the Normandy invasion with the British army and flew in on a glider. He came back with a small shrapnel wound two days later. The man next to him was killed.

Q: On the glider, or just...?

WOODWARD: No, by friendly fire. And David got a spattering of the thing in his wrist. Then, as I say, our marriage lasted...

Q: But where did he glide? Onto the beach? After the beachhead had been established?

WOODWARD: First you had the troops going in. Then they had the newspaper correspondents coming in on the glider. He was on that glider. He'd hardly been on a plane before! [Laughter]

Q: Who'd been on a glider before in those days, anyway?

WOODWARD: He'd almost never been on a plane before. That was his adventure.

Q: But you knew he was at Normandy.

WOODWARD: Yes, as a matter of fact, two days later he came back. He had to go to a British nursing home to get these bits of shrapnel removed. I have another file, which is his file, and pictures of him and so forth, but I didn't bother to bring those in because I figured I was the one being interviewed. [Laughter]

Q: No, no, we're not talking about him. We're talking about you. However, that aspect of his life certainly had some impact on yours! As a matter of fact, when I look at the pictures of the invasion, the photos, the reruns on TV, I wonder how they ever could have done it. Do you feel that way?

WOODWARD: I feel that way when I look. But you see, at the time they didn't show us those pictures. In London we didn't see those pictures.

Q: No, it was Vietnam that brought war into our living rooms.

WOODWARD: Yes. In London I was busy doing my statistical job. London papers would say... Every time there was a victory, we'd hear about it, but we didn't get the gory details, until the end of the war, when we did get the gory details on the prisoners of war and the concentration camps.

Q: I wonder if that lack of D-Day in our living rooms had anything to do with World War II being our last popular war. I would think so.

WOODWARD: I don't know. It's never as bad when you're in a situation as when you read about it.

Q: I guess. I guess.

WOODWARD: You don't realize how bad a situation is when you're in it.

Q: Now, let me read about your economic warfare division. "Assigned to the embassy to work on economic warfare matters related to Switzerland." That's the coal and the wheat situation, right?

WOODWARD: Yes.

Q: "And Anglo-American-Swiss negotiations." In Bern, it says, at the end of the war.

WOODWARD: After I'd gotten divorced I was looking for a job, so I managed again to get drafted into the State Department. Then we get to my State Department experience, which is another piece of paper.

Q: Now, let's talk about that for a while, because that part, you see, will be of interest to ADST.

WOODWARD: Everybody was looking for a job, and I managed -- I can't remember just how -- oh, I think I had known Bill Stone in either Geneva or London, and he referred me to the public liaison division, which was looking for people. So I got drafted into that. No question of Foreign Service at that point. I was just a State Department employee in public liaison. And I think it says what I did in public liaison.

Q: "Information work and writing of background summaries on European economic reconstruction."

WOODWARD: Yes.

Q: And you were making \$5,900 a year. That was a lot of money in that day!

WOODWARD: That was a lot of money, yes.

Q: Yes, because when my husband started as a Foreign Service officer in 1956, his salary was under \$5,000. I think he got a raise between the time he was appointed and the time he got to Washington, because you couldn't even live on that in Washington in those days, with two small children.

WOODWARD: I was fortunate because I lived in the same house.

Q: Yes, and you just kept that all along. That was wise. That was very wise.

WOODWARD: I still have the two houses, living in one and renting the other one out.

Q: Fine.

WOODWARD: Yes, it's done very well.

Q: I know one of your neighbors. I guess she's still there, Shelley Getchell.

WOODWARD: Oh, yes, I know Shelley.

Q: I interviewed her for the Foreign Service.

WOODWARD: As a matter of fact, it's interesting, because at one time, in 1952, I bought the house that Shelley Getchell is in. I had it from 1952 to 1960, and I bought it for \$13,000 and I sold it for \$16,000, and I thought I was making a mint! [Laughter] And that same house that Shelley is still in is worth, I don't know, \$350,000 or something like that.

Q: Yes, and maybe more, at least. Well, "Europe starts to rebuild."

WOODWARD: I've got that bulletin. I still have that.

Q: That must have been the Marshall Plan.

WOODWARD: No, that was before the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan, I don't think, was until '47. But Europe was pulling itself together. This was UNRRA days, really.

Q: I see, because then you go on to refugees and displaced persons.

WOODWARD: I wrote a report on refugees and displaced persons, which is how I got the next job. That comes with George Warren, who's the great man on refugees and displaced persons.

Q: It says "Plan for foreign relief in 1947."

WOODWARD: I wrote a report on refugees, and I kept interviewing him to get the

information, and then there came a vacancy in the office, so I got that job.

Q: You obviously went from job to job with high recommendations from the people you'd been working with. Here we are: "Refugees and Displaced Persons, 1947-49." Now, did you stay in Washington all that time?

WOODWARD: Yes, I was in Washington. Oh, I did one trip to the refugee camps and I came back on one of those liberty ships with a bunch of refugees. It was just a visit to the camp.

Q: Which camp? Where was it?

WOODWARD: It was outside of Hamburg. I don't remember exactly. It was one of the refugee camps. I wasn't in the camp. I was staying at a military installation and visiting the camps. Then I took a boat with refugees back from Hamburg to Halifax, and it was a very rough trip. Some of these poor refugees hadn't had anything to eat and so they were gorging themselves and, of course, they all got sick. I remember listening in German to two elderly Germans saying, After all we've lived through, we're going down in the North Atlantic! [Laughter] Well, I leaned out of the window and in German I said to them, You're not going down in the North Atlantic. You just wish you could! [Laughter]

You know, children don't get seasick. Mothers were all seasick. So I was taking two kids down to the dining room to see that they got fed, bringing them back, and taking another two kids. It was an adventure for that reason. It took about a week.

I remember one poor old guy. He had been an engineer in Germany, and he was taking a job in Canada as a coal miner because that's what he could get a job as. The refugees on that ship did their own work, and I asked him, Is there anything I can do for you? And he said, The only thing I'd like is money for a stamp to write my wife. And I suspect he did very well in Canada. I have a feeling that he and his children are Canadian citizens and doing very well, because he was a very bright man.

Q: And he was willing to do what he had to do.

WOODWARD: Anything he had to do, and he just wanted money for a stamp.

Q: And these were...

WOODWARD: The Canadians were taking coal miners, nurses, domestics. They were all low level jobs that the people had to take in order to get into Canada.

Q: Who were these refugees?

WOODWARD: These were all mostly Jewish refugees.

Q: That's what I thought, who had somehow managed to escape or had not gone to

camps.

WOODWARD: The concentration camps became displaced persons camps.

Q: Oh, I see.

WOODWARD: And they were processed through by the various Jewish organizations and I just happened to be on a boat that went to Canada. But most of my work was in Washington.

The job that I was really proudest of is that I got some White Russian refugees. I had to do a lot of paperwork which involved getting MacArthur's signature to get White Russian refugees who were caught in China, to get them through Japan and back to Germany. I had to get a clearance from every department. I was going with my telegrams from desk to desk, trying to get this thing cleared. Nobody was interested in... There was about half a dozen of them.

I think you're very noble to do this job. It's a hard job!

Q: It's not hard, because to talk to someone like you is just a real pleasure. I was a little young for World War II, and when I did the Foreign Service oral history I found the most interesting women were your generation. Like you, some of them went abroad as civilians, but with the little document claiming they were to be treated as second lieutenants if they were taken prisoner of war. I think it's wonderful that you still have that little ID card! And I talked to Marvin quite a bit about the broadcasting. She replaced William Shirer in Berlin because he wanted to go, I believe, to Switzerland... I think his wife...

WOODWARD: Marvin did some marvelous... I remember a broadcast that she did when she went to Sweden and asked a Swedish Nazi, who had been very active, what he would do if Sweden was invaded, and he said, "Just cross my arms and sit there." I remember Marvin telling me that.

Q: "Refugees and displaced persons." "German economic affairs from '49 to '55."

WOODWARD: There we get to the Marshall Plan.

Q: All right. I will just let you talk about that because I really can't profess any knowledge of German economic affairs except that the country must have been in ruins.

WOODWARD: "Military censor."

Q: Right.

WOODWARD: "No supervisors."

Q: That was not on tape, so let's put it on tape again. Your job in Holland was outstanding in the respect that you had no supervisors.

WOODWARD: I had no supervisors. All I had to do was to clear the Dutch military, and I know that at one time somebody came along, an American who wanted to get America into the war (America was still neutral at that time), and he said, I'll give you \$5,000 -- you'll immediately be fired, of course -- if you'll just get on and do a dramatic appeal to get America into the war.

Q: [Laughter] \$5,000 wasn't enough! [Laughter]

WOODWARD: I said, No, it wasn't worth it.

Q: But what kind of things...

WOODWARD: Let's see. This is my George Warren refugee experience here. And then we get to... I guess that's the last thing I wrote out, was George Warren. "Public liaison and George Warren." "My work touches upon all aspects of United States policy concerning repatriation and resettlement and legal protection of refugees and displaced persons." I seem to have more information on refugees and displaced persons than anything else.

Q: I would think that would have been an emotional thing to work with, all those people who had been so deprived during the war.

WOODWARD: Yes, it was.

Q: Getting back to those young FSOs who were Kreis Resident Officers (KROs), in charge of municipalities in Germany. I just wonder if your German economic affairs had touched on any of their work.

WOODWARD: Mine was purely paperwork.

Q: In the Department.

WOODWARD: In the Department. It was the German bureau, but the economic section. It was a statistical job related to figures on how much aid Germany needed. The job came in two sections. The first time I was working with Germany as a whole and economic aid to Germany and figures on German exports, German imports. Then the second half of the job I was working with Eleanor Dulles as her assistant. Here's the bit that I got from Eleanor.

Q: I'm going to read your commendation from Eleanor Dulles. "Miss Margaret R. Woodward of the Office of German Affairs prepared a comprehensive and, at the same time, compact report on the Berlin recovery program, which was printed in the State Department <u>Bulletin</u> of April 1954. This report brings together for the first time all the

major aspects of the recovery program, which has been supported from United States dollars funds and which has constituted the cooperative undertaking of HICOG and the German authorities. Mrs. Woodward is to be commended for the presentation of this report, which represents a careful review of original sources and a balanced interpretive statement as to the significance of the program. I suggest that this commendation be made a part of Mrs. Woodward's personnel file."

Did that lead to a promotion?

WOODWARD: No.

Q: It didn't.

WOODWARD: It was too bad. She thought I was a good assistant, but she and I didn't mesh personally.

These are a couple more things from the Department of State. I don't know whether you want them.

Q: Oh, yes. I'm just going to read this, and this is from Charles Saltzman, assistant secretary for Occupied Areas, "I wish you to know of my very real appreciation of your assistance while I have been in the Department of State and of the consistently good work you have done for my office and for the department. I particularly appreciate the loyalty and untiring efforts with which you have cheerfully and faithfully carried out my requests and the long hours which you have contributed to the accomplishment of our mission. I wish you every success and happiness in your future work."

And that mission was...

WOODWARD: That was the Marshall Plan.

Q: Oh, and here we have Mr. Crockett on the occasion of your retirement from the Foreign Service. "I wish to express the deep appreciation of the Department of State for your more than 24 years of service to your country. During your career with the government you have served with the Department of State in Washington and in a number of economic positions and with the Foreign Service in Ottawa as an economic officer. Your record indicates a highly competent and professional performance in carrying out your various assignments. You must have a deep sense of satisfaction knowing that you have made a valuable contribution to the work of the Department of State. I express the wishes of all your friends in the department and the Foreign Service in hoping that the years ahead will be rewarding and filled with happiness." That's very nice. Very nice.

Did you, like some of the people of your generation whom I have interviewed... Well, you didn't have glass ceilings in those days. But did you feel that you were hampered in your career in any way by being a woman?

WOODWARD: No, I can't say I felt discriminated against. The only time I really felt discriminated against was when I was being interviewed to become a Foreign Service officer. They asked me -- they always have a trick question to see if you're going to lose your temper or not -- and the trick question I got was, Mrs. Woodward, you say that you worked in Geneva. What do you feel about the Swiss women not voting? And I said, Well, you know, it just happens in this morning's paper there was an article about that. [Laughter] And a lot of the farm women don't want to vote. They influence their husbands in voting. And I had a feeling that that was a female kind of question, why don't the Swiss women vote. They were trying somehow to see whether I got irritated. I didn't. [Laughter]

Q: Weren't you fortunate that you'd read the paper that morning?

WOODWARD: That was luck. Again, an awful lot of this is luck.

Q: It's not luck. It may be luck, but you were there on the spot with your eyes open, so that's also taking advantage of an opportunity.

You were going to talk to me about the German economic affairs, or maybe you don't want to.

WOODWARD: I don't think there's much more to tell you. I worked with the Marshall Plan. It was a statistical job.

Q: I'm think of statistics. You didn't have computers in those days.

WOODWARD: We had adding machines.

Q: But I have visions of mounds and mounds of figures and things and no computer to...

WOODWARD: I remember one time, in London, when I was trying to compute tons of coal that the Germans were sending to Switzerland, and I was working on an adding machine which converted from twelve shillings to the pound instead of the decimal system; and the figures just didn't seem right [laughter]! And then I discovered instead of working on the decimal system and tons of coal, I was working on pounds, shillings, and pence. [Laughter] You win a few and you lose a few.

I was more or less forced into the Foreign Service.

Q: Oh, really? Were you Wristonized?

WOODWARD: Oh, I was a Wristonee, yes.

Q: Oh, all right. Exactly, because, you see, my husband came into the Department when you were in the German economic affairs. He came in '56. And we knew people who

were being forced to go abroad or resign.

WOODWARD: Yes, but I was perfectly happy in Washington. I think the German bureau had to cut down -- and therefore, I was Wristonized. Since I speak German and French, the first job... I asked for a small, French-speaking post. I was thinking of something like Bordeaux or Rouen, something like that. I got Ottawa. And you don't speak French in Ottawa! [Laughter]

There, I was assigned to reporting on oil and gas exports, petroleum exports from Canada to the United States; and it was very discouraging because my dispatches had to go by slow mail, and every time it got really interesting, the *New York Times* scooped me! [Laughter]

Q: Especially for a former broadcast journalist, that must have been maddening! [Laughter]

WOODWARD: It was so discouraging. I would send these reports in, and finally, one time, when I was here on leave, I went into the Department of the Interior, which received some of these reports, and I said, Look, do you really like these reports (because I was trying to get myself out of it), and the man said, Yes, it's good because you do send us extra copies of the Canadian leaflets. [Laughter]

Q: Thanks a lot!

WOODWARD: My analysis wasn't worthwhile because they got it all in the Canadian reports. It was a discouraging job from that point of view. I don't think it added up to anything.

Oh, I forgot the last job I did! Oh, yes, trade agreements.

Q: Trade agreements is there.

WOODWARD: After two years in Ottawa I came back, and I was working on trade agreements with Latin America. Now, that is almost impossible theoretically, let along really [laughter], because all these South American countries need to export and they want to export. We want them to import. And it was just very hard. They didn't have any money to buy with. We wanted to sell them automobiles. This was 1961 and '62, I think. It's hard to do trade agreements with Latin America, let's put it that way.

Q: Unless you're working on goods coming this way. Oh, what was Kennedy's program?

WOODWARD: Oh, I know what you mean. I don't remember the name.

Q: But he did have a Latin American initiative - Alliance for Progress. Were you part of that?

WOODWARD: No, no. I retired in '62. Kennedy had just come in, in '61. But I wasn't a part of that.

Q: Did you just decide to retire because your life wasn't going anywhere as an FSO?

WOODWARD: It wasn't going anywhere, and I had a boss who, well, he really didn't like women. That's the only time I would say that I got... I mean, even his wife left him finally. [Laughter]

Q: I think that says it all. [Laughter]

WOODWARD: He simply didn't like women. Also, I could see that I was never going to get a promotion. Never! And so I finally went to him and I said, "Henry, I'm leaving." He said, "Oh, you're not leaving!" And I said, "Yes, I'm leaving. Goodbye." I saw the efficiency report he wrote for me. He went over it with me. I said, "You made my decision for me." I was dissatisfied anyway, and when I got that report, I thought, No, there's no point to this. So I took my final paycheck, and I bought a ticket around the world.

Q: Oh, good for you! [Laughter]

WOODWARD: And I spent one month in Burma with somebody I'd met in Ottawa, and one month in Korea. And in Korea... I had worked with Samuel Berger at the War Manpower Commission. I don't know whether the War Manpower Commission ever got into my cv or not. This was trying to find workers for the War.

Q: Yes, War Manpower Commission.

WOODWARD: Anyway, I had known Sam Berger there, and he was ambassador to Korea at that time; and he said, "Meg, don't just sit around the army post." And I said, "Well, what do you suggest?" He said, "If you want to volunteer as an English teacher down in Taegu, which is a political hotbed, I'll set you up with a stove and you can spend the month of January, which is cold, just teaching them English." And so he instructed the USIA man to give me a stove, and I taught English to an interesting group of people. Some of them were English teachers. Some of them were professors of philosophy. Students. All Koreans. I lived with the Presbyterian missionaries because I had tried one hotel in Taegu and I knew I was going to get sick because it was so unsanitary. Finally, I lived at the Presbyterian compound and I gave them money for their hospital. I explained that I was not a Presbyterian, but they would take me to orphanages, places where they were helping prostitutes, and they would introduce me always by saying, "Well, she's not a Presbyterian, but she's with us in spirit." [Laughter]

And I spent the whole month teaching English. My students at the end did something very nice. It was very hard to get sugar at that point. They took me to a tea room, gave me some silver chopsticks and a silver spoon. They kept giving me sugar for my tea. It was more sugar than anybody could possibly want to eat. But it was a nice experience.

I remember one young man who came up to me, and he said he wanted to marry a particular girl. In Korea you can't marry people who have the same last name as you. If you're a Lee, you can't marry a Lee.

Q: That must cut out an awful lot of people!

WOODWARD: It does. And he was in love with a woman. He said to me, "What do I do? My father wants me to marry this woman. I want to marry that woman." And I thought to myself, I can't get into this! [Laughter] So I said, "Well, I can tell you how we do it in the United States, but I can't tell you how you should do it in Korea." I don't know what finally happened. But I had some interesting students. One student explained to me at great length why Jacqueline Kennedy was more important than the queen of England. And I said, "Why?" She said, "Because the queen of England has to listen to her ministers. Jackie Kennedy can talk to him in bed." [Laughter]

Q: When he was there! [Laughter] And so you had the month in Korea, and then where did you go?

WOODWARD: Then I just became a tourist, and I went to Hong Kong, Thailand. I'd never seen California. Stopped in California on the way home. I'd been in Europe lots of times, but finally got acquainted with the United States. And after that I did a little volunteer work for the church, fundraising.

Q: Which church?

WOODWARD: All Soul's Unitarian at 16th and Harvard.

Q: Oh, yes.

WOODWARD: And I did some fundraising for them.

Q: In the days of Dr. Davies?

WOODWARD: No, Dr. Davies had died. It was Duncan Howlett who was there then. And worked with denominational affairs. Volunteer work. I worked fairly hard, and that was it.

Q: And then you joined the [Woman's National Democratic] Club.

WOODWARD: The records must show. I think it was about 1970.

Q: Did you ever really get involved in things here?

WOODWARD: No.

Q: There are those who want to belong because it's democratic, and there are those who want to run it.

WOODWARD: I've been a rider here. I haven't done any work here. When Lily Mary David was running her economic seminars I went to those quite regularly. But other than that, not much. Lots of people have tried to get me involved. [Laughter]

Q: I know. Well, it seems to me that maybe you had done your share before.

WOODWARD: Well, I'm pleading age now.

Q: Well, I won't believe it. [Laughter] Now that I have all of this information, if you really wanted to, we could go back and talk in detail; but I would be very tempted to send your transcript to the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, to our oral history program, and let Stuart Kennedy talk to you in detail about your economic and State Department experience.

WOODWARD: I just don't think my State Department experience is really very...

Q: Well, I think it is because...

WOODWARD: I think the other things are more interesting. I think what I did before the State Department was more interesting.

Q: Well, then, maybe I should read a little bit more on what you did and then come back and talk about those again sometime?

WOODWARD: Well, let's see. What did I leave out?

Q: I don't think you've left anything out, chronologically. The two years' leave of absence, you said, were to take care of your mother.

WOODWARD: And, oh, I dabbled in real estate a little bit. The first house I ever bought was a house that might be the house the Ben Bradlees bought in Georgetown. I bought it in 1940, and the reason I bought it, I borrowed the money from my mother and I bought it because I had the idea that I was going to get David to come to the United States. It didn't work. He's British, and he just wasn't about to come to the United States. So I bought that house for \$13,000 on Dumbarton Street. I sold it for \$20,000.

Q: You did well!

WOODWARD: Well, I had it from 1940 to 1961. In reading Katherine Graham's book and Bradlee's book, he describes a small house that he bought where the newspaper men lived, and this is why I bought it, because I thought I'd get David to come over. He describes the house that he bought and it sounds exactly like 2911 Dumbarton Avenue. He never gave the address, but I bought that house. Then I sold that house and bought a

little house on Tunlaw Road, which the Bitondos now own. And I sold that and I bought the one that Shelley Getchell has. I sold that one and bought the one three doors from me, which I sold again, after two years, because I had bad difficult tenants. At one point I owned four houses at the same time. Now I'm down to two. Down to my last two houses.

Q: Well, but that's all you need, isn't it, really, at this point?

WOODWARD: I was about to go to Ingleside [retirement home] and then, at the last minute -- I had a deposit down on it -- and strangely enough, what happened was rather dramatic. The apartment that I took at Ingleside, when I gave it up I said, Who took that apartment? They said, Oh, an Ambassador Brown. I picked up the paper the next morning. Ambassador Brown died. Dean Brown. He must have died either the day he moved into the apartment or the day before.

Q: It's lucky you didn't move into it.

WOODWARD: That's what I said. I said it was an omen. [Laughter] It was lucky I didn't move in. It probably was such a strain moving, because I was finding it very hard emptying out my house because I had stuff that belonged to my grandmother even. You see, I'm a Washingtonian, and I had my grandmother's Bible in German, where she went to what is now the church down on 22nd Street, the United Church of Christ, I think, on 22nd Street. It was a Lutheran church at one time.

Q: Yes, I can picture the Pilgrim Presbyterian church on 23rd, but 22nd? Let's see...

WOODWARD: Yes, it's a church there. It was the old Concordia, called Concordia Church.

Q: Oh, down near George Washington!

WOODWARD: Yes.

Q: Oh, yes, I know exactly where it is.

WOODWARD: And then, I had my grandmother's little Bible, a little purple velvet Bible in German. You can't just throw those away. And I have a big Bible from Switzerland that had a whole bunch of... My grandfather, when he came over, he became an American citizen in 1856. It was his second marriage. And he ran what was a combination pub and a bar on 7th Street, which is right near the Convention Center. Apparently, my grandmother said to him, John Jacob, why don't you buy some of that property on F Street? That's going to be a good area. And he said, Oh, no! The area that's going to develop is on the other side of the Capitol! [Laughter]

Q: He should have listened to your grandmother. [Laughter]

WOODWARD: That's right. Anyway, the building, which is still there and it's now

Rupert's... It's a restaurant called Rupert's. It's a little brick building, and my grandparents lived above the store and ran what was, as I say, somewhat of a restaurant, somewhat of a Swiss café.

Q: Do you remember that?

WOODWARD: I don't remember that. I didn't know my grandparents at all.

I had thought of someday writing a story, a book, called "Hall Place," and working in my mother's story and some other fascinating stories, because one of my neighbors was one of the White House architects and his story would have been an interesting one. There are a lot of stories on Hall Place. It would have been a sort of a, well, like Thornton Wilder's stories.

Q: "Our Town."

WOODWARD: I've been too lazy to do it.

Q: It's never too late!

WOODWARD: It's a lot of work.

Q: I feel the same way, and I'm a bit younger than you are. I don't want to take on a long, multi-year project.

WOODWARD: What were your husband's posts?

Q: Rotterdam, Freetown, Rabat, Curaçao, Rotterdam again, and then Washington, and then Brazil, Washington and Trinidad. Well, he was an economic officer, but he was a generalist. He didn't want to focus on one area of the world.

WOODWARD: But you've been around.

Q: We've been around.

WOODWARD: He's retired now?

Q: Yes, he's been retired since 1985, and he's been working with the curator of numismatics at the Smithsonian. He just published an article on the Russian coin collection of an outstanding Polish count, Emeryk Hutten-Czapski, who assembled a valuable Russian coin collection. The Smithsonian has Russian coins that the Hermitage doesn't have in Leningrad, St. Petersburg now. St. Petersburg has some coins that The Smithsonian doesn't have. But Guido has been working with this very extensive and valuable coin collection since 1986.

WOODWARD: That's interesting. My husband's father was an American and was a very

wealthy man until 1917. He was wealthy because of Russian bauxite, so that David, until he was seven years old, was a very wealthy little boy. After seven years old, they didn't have money to send him to college, and he obviously was college material, and this is how he became a newspaperman. With the Revolution, the Communists took over and expropriated all... His grandfather, I guess it is, in the New York records is listed as "capitalist." [Laughter]

Q: Wonderful! I also interviewed a woman years ago who was related to the Roosevelts, and she listed her father's profession as "dilettante." [Laughter]

WOODWARD: I guess he owned bauxite mines and they were all taken away.

Q: Then he left.

WOODWARD: Well, he was a professor at Columbia... This is David's father. He was a professor of Russian at Columbia University, but he also owned bauxite mines. I think he was a banker as well. But anybody's history is interesting. It doesn't matter whose history. Any history is interesting.

My maternal grandfather, I always wondered what he did during the Civil War because he was living in Washington, he was running a pub. This was his second marriage. He had two or three children, three or four children by his first marriage; three children by the second marriage, which included my aunt, my mother, and an uncle. And I thought to myself, He wouldn't have been... I mean, he was here, obviously. But I suppose he wouldn't have been drafted in the war because he had all these children. But I always wonder. I haven't heard anything about what he did. He became an American citizen in 1856. So in 1860 he would have been around somewhere. I never heard anything.

Q: Couldn't you still, in the Civil War...?

WOODWARD: Buy out. May have bought himself out. I never heard about anything and I'd like to know. How did John Jacob Rupli spend the Civil War?

Q: Maybe he spent it just running his pub and doing very well with all of the troops here in Washington, especially in that [7th Street] area at that time.

WOODWARD: One of his descendants to whom I'm distantly related, a cousin twice removed or something, my grandfather would have been her great grandfather. I said to her, Emily, what did John Jacob do during the war? Well, she didn't know either. I said, I always thought that he was very poor. She said, "He wasn't poor. His will went through orphan's court because one of his sons died before he did and left two children." The thing went through orphan's court and all the money went to lawyers.

Q: Even in those days.

WOODWARD: Even in those days, yes. So I looked up his will. I went down to the DC

Superior Court and got his will. It was a very amazing will. I cannot imagine anybody writing a will like this. The will said if anybody went back to Europe and married over there they would be cut out of the will instantly. [Laughter] Well, he was a passionate American, obviously. Again, I guess this was before Ellis Island. You couldn't get any records. 1856.

Q: I think my maternal grandmother's family came over about that same time, and perhaps he came the same way. They came with resources and immediately went to the Midwest and bought...

WOODWARD: Now, what year would that have been?

Q: It was the 19th century. I don't know the year. But about that time.

WOODWARD: Where were they from?

Q: Bavaria.

WOODWARD: Lots of Germans came because of the revolutions of 1848.

Q: Okay, that was the reason.

WOODWARD: The revolutions of 1848, a lot of people came over because they were so disgusted with what was going on in Germany.

Q: Well, that was probably why he came.

WOODWARD: All of the people in Illinois, an awful lot of wealthy Germans went to Illinois. They went to Texas.

Q: My mother's family went to Illinois and bought a lot of land.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Profession: Foreign Service Officer, Dept. of State

Status: Retired, Divorced (David Woodward, deceased)

Place/Date of birth: Washington, DC, February 23, 1910

Maiden Name: Margaret Rupli

Schools: Goucher College, Towson, MD, 1931; Sorbonne, University of Paris, Diplôme 1929; University of Chicago, graduate work in economics, 1937-39.

Date/Place of Marriage: London, UK, September 1939

Positions held, Paid and Volunteer:

PAID - Carnegie Endowment, Geneva, Switzerland, 1932-34; U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC, 1934-37; NBC, Amsterdam, 1939-40; U.S. Board of Economic Warfare, London, UK, 1943-45; U.S. Department of State, Ottawa, Canada, 1958-61, and Washington, DC.

VOLUNTEER - All Souls Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard Sts., DC, 1961-70

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

End of interview