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Cc:

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From: Davidson.M@ISG.ORC@NHQ

Subject: Same-Sex Couples in a Foreign Service Environment

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 1993 at 4:31:40 pm EDT

Attach: Certify: N

My contact at EAITC is considering requesting that department to undertake a survey of conditions in each post that may influence the acceptance of a posting by an employee who has a same-sex spouse. I am passing this for comments to OMP and members of our informal Same-Sex Support Committee (by a separate message).

While EAITC is not yet prepared to recognize same-sex relationships for FSD and other purposes it would seem appropriate to provide sufficient information on the local conditions to employees. The type of information that could be requested from each mission includes:

1) Details on the visa requirements for the same-sex partner - would they have to leave the country to obtain extensions?

2) What health care costs would accrue to the couple; are private health plans available?

3) What employment opportunities would there be for same-sex spouses; would they be eligible for work permits

4) What other information should be provided to same-sex spouses?

I don't believe it is intended that this survey would request information on local attitudes toward homosexuals since this information is frequently more available in the gay community itself.

The question I have been asked is whether I thought this survey should be conducted and the types of information that should be requested.

Any comments?