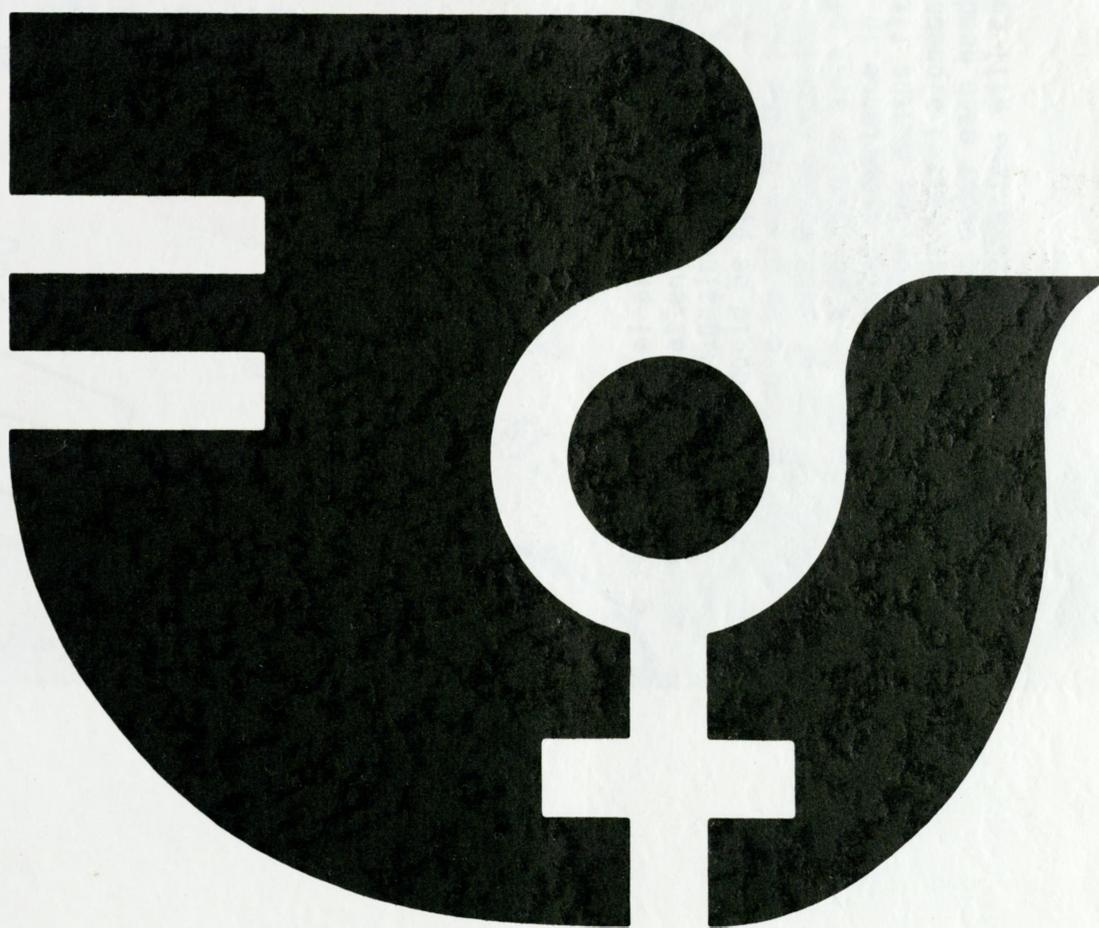
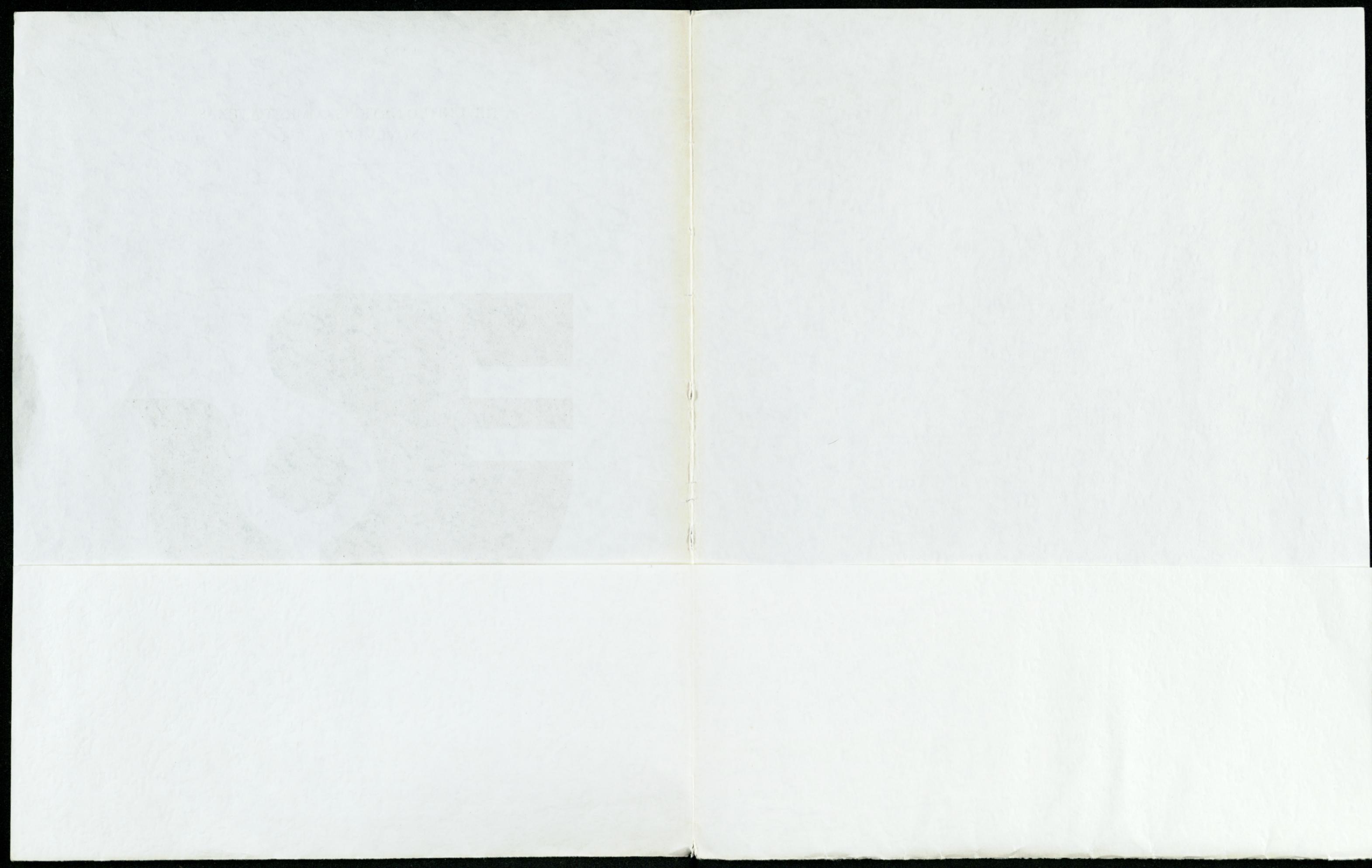


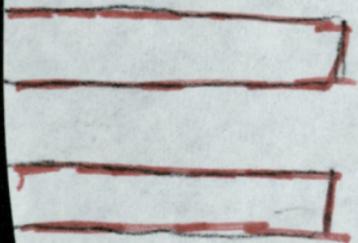
THE UNITED NATIONS COMES TO TEXAS
NOVEMBER 9, 1974



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
1975

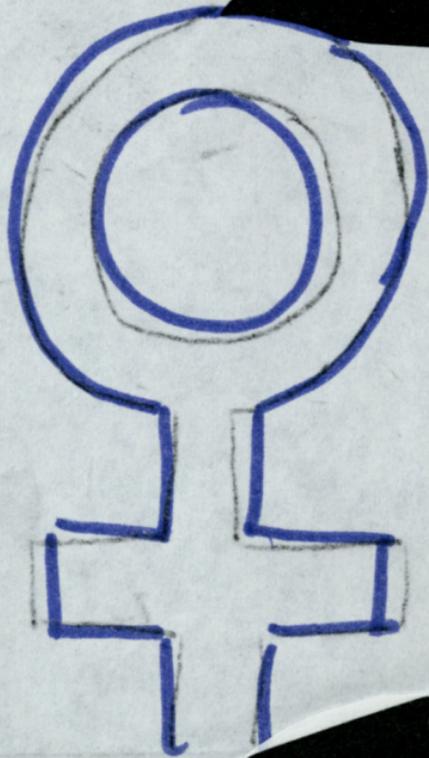


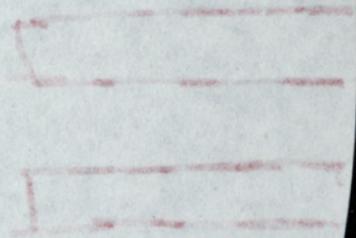
Bay Area N.O.W.



Marjorie

Randal





MAJOR
RANDB

You Too Can Participate In International Women's Year 1975

IWY 1975 requires global thinking. A multitude of initiatives are needed to further advance the status of women. Participation of men as well as women will be necessary to bring about re-evaluation and change of traditional attitudes and roles that hinder full attainment by women of their human, as well as social and political rights.

You and your organization can support IWY 1975 in the world, in the nation and in your community.

- Encourage proclamations by Governors and Mayors. Cooperate with other groups in publicizing special IWY events.
- Encourage media to observe IWY by carrying public service statements, programs and articles. Insist on standards which will enhance the image of women in all advertising and shows.
- Promote distribution to schools, labor unions, businesses and other institutions of the *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*, and related instruments. (See Guide to Resources)
- Plan film shows and exhibits in libraries featuring women's contributions to their countries and their problems in achieving equal rights.
- Provide local hospitality to women leaders from abroad who are working on programs sponsored by the U.S. Government or private groups. For information, contact COSERV, 1630 Crescent Place N.W., Washington, D.C.
- Sponsor women experts for UN-assisted projects in developing countries. Send funds payable to the Special Voluntary Fund of the UN Volunteer Program, c/o The Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York, 10017.
- Give fellowship aid to women students from developing countries. If your organization has a fellowship program, raise money for it; or contribute earmarked funds to your local university, or write to the Institute of International Education, 809 UN Plaza, New York, 10017.
- Participate in the programs of your international affiliate; or suggest new programs for IWY 1975.
- Cooperate with UNA-USA Chapters throughout the U.S. to carry out substantive community-wide programs on IWY-related topics.
- Coordinate activities with organizations listed on back of this flyer; use recommended resources for discussions about IWY.

A Presidential Proclamation

calls "upon the Congress and the people of the United States, interested groups and organizations, officials of the Federal Government and State and local governments, educational institutions, and all others who can be of help, to begin now to provide for the observance of International Women's Year with practical and constructive measures for the advancement of the status of women . . ."

A recently enacted amendment to the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act states that U.S. aid "shall be administered so as to give particular attention to programs, projects and activities which tend to integrate women into national economies of foreign countries, thus improving their status and assisting the total development effort."

- Let the Agency for International Development (AID), which administers this Act, know your concern that it follow this directive.
- Communicate your views to your Congressional Representatives and State legislators on other legislative issues influencing the status of women in the U.S. and the world.
- Urge appointment of qualified women to posts of responsibility at the UN, as U.S. delegates to international conferences, and in the U.S.

Make a contribution to the *Fund for International Women's Year*. Money will be used to support a variety of IWY activities, including the International Women's Year Conference in June 1975, Bogota, Colombia. Make checks payable to the Fund for IWY, c/o the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Tax-deductible donations of over \$100, earmarked for the Fund for International Women's Year, may be made to UNA-USA, 345 East 46th Street, New York, New York 10017.

Don't stop with 1975. The remainder of the 70s and the decade of the 80s lie ahead. There is much to be accomplished before women and men are equal partners.

Don't Forget The Women In Your Own Community

Business, labor unions, institutions and voluntary organizations are increasingly aware of the need to eliminate discriminatory practices against women and to encourage their advancement. Some checkpoints (✓) to monitor:

- ✓ Do businesses and institutions hire women at all levels? Do they adhere to the principle of equal pay for equal work? Are working conditions, benefits and opportunities equal?
- ✓ Do political clubs and other associations encourage women to participate fully in their activities?
- ✓ Are elementary and secondary schools providing educational equity for girls? Are efforts being made to reduce sex stereotyping in curriculum and curriculum materials? Do physical education and sports programs provide equal opportunities for girls?
- ✓ Do colleges and universities discriminate against women in their admission policies? Are women accepted in all branches of higher learning, i.e. law, medicine, engineering, etc.?
- ✓ Are libraries and schools adequately supplied with appropriate educational materials without stereotyped images of men and women?
- ✓ Do media use program materials prejudicial to women? Do they carry talks, forums or articles showing women in all walks of life?
- ✓ Do facilities exist for counseling women on their legal rights and how they can be enforced?
- ✓ Has your State passed the Equal Rights Amendment?

Guide To Resources

Commission on the Status of Women, Report on the Twenty-Fifth Session, 1974. United Nations, \$5.00.

Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. UN Office of Public Information, New York.

Background Papers, Equal Rights for Women, International Women's Year 1975. No. 518, UN Office of Public Information, New York.

Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1967. UN Office of Public Information, New York.

Human Rights, A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations, 1973. United Nations, New York, \$3.00.

Education and the Advancement of Women, 1970. UNESCO, UNIPUB, P.O. Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York 10016, \$3.00.

Family Planning: Improving Opportunities for Women, 1974. The Victor-Bostrom Fund Committee, 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Smaller Families Through Social and Economic Progress, Monograph No. 7, 1973. William Rich, Overseas Development Council, Washington, D.C. \$2.00.

In The Human Interest, 1974. Lester R. Brown, Norton, New York, \$6.95.

The Situation of Women in the United Nations, 1973. Alexander Szalai, UNITAR Research Report No. 18, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, New York, \$2.50.

Emancipation of Turkish Women, 1962. UNESCO, UNIPUB (see above). \$1.25.

Our Soviet Sister, 1973. George St. George, McKay, New York, \$7.95.

Women and Work—An International Comparison, 1973. Marjorie Galenson, Cornell University, \$3.25.

Women's Role In Economic Development, 1970. Ester Boserup, St. Martin's Press, New York, \$9.95.

The American Woman—Her Changing Social, Economic and Political Role, 1972. William H. Chafe, Oxford University Press, Fairlawn, N.J. \$7.95.

Films — Women Up In Arms — 28½ min., black & white, 1966, United Nations, from McGraw Hill Films.

Fear Woman — 28½ min., color, 1971, United Nations, from McGraw Hill Films.

Single copy — 25¢ 100/\$6.00 1000/\$50

Equal Partners

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American Jewish Congress/Women's Division
B'nai B'rith Women
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Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
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National Council of Negro Women
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Woman's National Farm and Garden Association
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YWCA, National Board
Zonta International

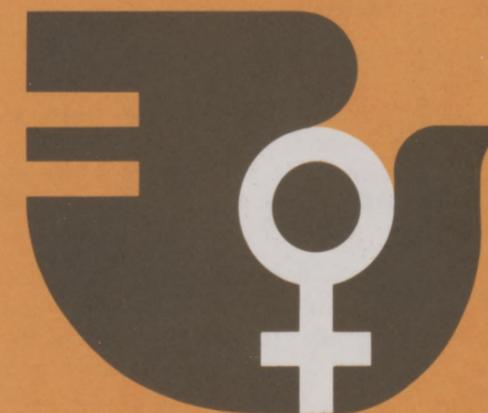
Written by: Betty Claire Agree
Editorial Committee: Martha Aasen (League of Women Voters)
Peggy Carlin (UNA-U.S.A.)
Dorothy Ferebee, M.D. (Nat'l Council of Negro Women)
Esther W. Hymer (Int'l Fed. Bus. & Prof. Women's Clubs)
Carol Leimas (American Assoc. of University Women)
Mildred E. Persinger (YWCA)

Information on U.S. programs for IWY:

Dr. Ruth Bacon, Director

U.S. Center for International Women's Year
Meridian House International, 1630 Crescent Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009 — (202) 667-6800

equal partners



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR
1975

1975 — Year to Promote Partnership

International Women's Year has been proclaimed by the United Nations as a call to action

- to promote equality between men and women;
- to integrate women into the total social and economic development effort of nations; and
- to recognize women's increasing contribution to strengthening world peace.

The Year came into being

- because, despite decades of progress in eliminating discrimination against women, in no country have they attained full equality; and
- because of growing global recognition of the importance of women in nation-building.

A wide variety of needs confront women around the world. They range from improving the lot of rural agricultural workers to securing equal access to policy-making positions. There are, however, many common concerns. Chief among them is lack of opportunity and adequate preparation for the full participation of women in their respective societies.

The biological symbol for woman, the mathematical sign for equality and the dove: The IWY 1975 emblem illustrates the determination to help women — half of the world's population — to participate on every level in the solution of the world's problems.

"It is important that everyone gives serious attention now to International Women's Year 1975 . . . we must think positively about how the position of women in their respective societies and in international affairs could not only be improved, but their large potential contribution better utilized for the benefit of all."

Kurt Waldheim,
Secretary-General of the United Nations

**The Theme for International Women's Year is
Equality, Development, Peace**

A Waste of Womanpower

Worldwide Facts and Figures

The general tendency in most cultures is to value males more than females:

- Among the more than 700 million illiterates in the world, the majority are women, in some areas 80 to 85 percent.
- In 1969, the percentage of females to males enrolled in higher education was: in Asia, 28 percent; in Africa, 25 percent; in Latin America, 34 percent; and in the Arab States 23 percent.*
- Percentages of girls to boys enrolled in primary and secondary schools in the same regions in 1969 was, in most instances, under 40 percent. The average ratio of female to male enrollment in the 5-14 age group reached one to one only in Latin America and North America.
- Although women constitute more than one-third of the world's gainfully employed labor force, they are in most countries concentrated in unskilled and low-paid jobs. Women's access to high-level, well-paid jobs is limited.
- In the majority of countries, only a small percentage of women hold policy-making posts — whether legislative, judicial or executive.
- In the U.S., the President's Council of Economic Advisors reported in 1973 that while 43.8 percent of working age women were employed, they were clustered in low-status jobs, and their pay averaged only 66.1 percent of men's wages.
- To this date, under the laws of many countries, a married woman is deprived of a number of important personal and property rights, including the right to seek employment outside the home without her husband's consent.

*Latest U.S. statistics show 44 percent women vs. 56 percent men enrolled in High Schools and Colleges.

The United Nations Works for Women



"The full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields."
From the Preamble of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Commission on the Status of Women

Promoting women's rights in the political, economic, social, civil and educational fields is the chief concern of the *Commission on the Status of Women*, established by the UN in 1946. It is composed of representatives of 32 countries, including the U.S., elected by the UN Economic and Social Council.

In the Commission, delegates, usually women, from vastly different cultures pool forces and focus on the overriding issues that affect all women. Their efforts have resulted in the drafting of declarations and international instruments. Commission-sponsored seminars listed below are among several which have brought together women from all over the world to share their expertise on such subjects as:

Status of Women in Family Law (1953, Bogota, Colombia)

Participation of Women in Public Life (1960, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

The Family in a Changing Society (1973, London, England)

At its 25th Session in 1974, the Commission called for "intensified action" to secure legal rights for women where they do not now exist, and to close the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* status where such rights have legal sanction.

International Conventions

Among plans to mark IWY 1975, high priority is placed on securing ratification by all Governments of existing international instruments which explicitly or implicitly deal with the rights of women. These include:*

- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women.
- ILO Convention on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation.
- UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education.
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriage.

*For explanation of these Conventions see Guide to Resources, "Human Rights".



Declaration Against Discrimination

Designed "to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of men and women," the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1967) advocates:

- abolition of all existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women;
- equal rights to vote in all elections and to hold public office;
- the same rights as men to acquire, change or retain nationality;
- equal rights with men under civil law;
- equal educational rights with men at all levels; and
- equal rights in the fields of economic and social life.



United Nations Photo

UN Secretary-General Waldheim addressing 25th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. To his right, Assistant Secretary-General Helvi Sipila, Secretary-General of IWY and the UN Conference on Women; to his left, Leticia Ramos Shahani (Philippines), Commission Chairperson.

International Women's Year Conference

Highpoint of IWY 1975 will be an International Women's Year Conference to be held in Bogota, Colombia, during June. The conference is not regarded as an occasion to glorify women, but as a serious meeting of government delegates, women and men, to evaluate the status of women throughout the world today.

Special attention will be given to the situation of women in developing nations where their emancipation is essential to the progress of their countries. An action plan to increase all women's contribution to the achievement of global development will be an important agenda item.

The Tip of the Iceberg

One of the major significant issues raised by IWY 1975, is the relationship between the status of women's equality and family planning.

While addressing the *International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development*, 1974, Helvi L. Sipila, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs said:

" . . . population statistics are the tip of the iceberg only. Women are, if you will, the submerged two-thirds. It is women who give birth to children . . . women are more than half of the world's population . . . We cannot hope to create the necessary conditions for growth while leaving aside half of the human resources required for that growth."

The *Study on the Interrelationship of the Status of Women and Family Planning*, undertaken on the initiative of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1968, focuses on (1) the importance of family planning for women as individuals and its impact on their roles in society; (2) the status of women as a factor influencing family size and the birthrate, and (3) the implications for women of current population trends.

This study indicates that the educational level of women, the nature of their employment or occupation, their position in the family and in public life, all have a marked effect on family size. Women participants at the *UN's 1974 World Population Conference* in Bucharest worked for the incorporation of these principles in the *World Population Plan of Action*.



United Nations Photo

UN-assisted project in Ghana: woman worker being trained for production of fibre bags.

Education + Employment = Equality

The equation is not as simple as the formula above, but facts and figures about the status of women worldwide tend to emphasize that learning and earning are essential avenues of advancement for women in both the developing and developed areas.

It is still a man's world according to a recent International Labour Organization (ILO) report, *Women Workers in a Changing World*. This document, reviewing the minimal progress made over the past decade, reveals: inequality of educational opportunities and lack of vocational training facilities for girls; lack of promotion and career advancement opportunities for women; inadequate application of the principle of equal pay for equal work.



United Nations Photo

Technical training institute in developing country. Who is absent?

Unequal pay for equal work is only one common condition which women from the developed and developing countries share. Similar disparities still exist between the sexes in many employment situations and in educational opportunities in both "have" and "have not" nations.

Consequently, many IWY 1975 activities are being planned to promote awareness of the plight of women, especially agricultural workers, and of the severe deprivation of basic opportunities they face. It is hoped thereby to strengthen the already existing sense of solidarity among women of the world, and the commitment of both men and women to make true equality a reality in every society.

U.S. Center for IWY
1630 Crescent Place NW
Washington, D.C. 20009



A PROPOSAL: "THE IWY CALENDAR OF MONTHS"

It is suggested that each month during IWY some special area of activity for women should be highlighted as widely as possible. Public attention would be directed to the contributions to each of these areas by women. Magazines, the press, TV and radio would be alerted at once so that their plans could be projected. In each city or town across the country appropriate attention could be given to the special areas as, for example, by the selection each month of one or more women from the city or town as an example of achievements or contributions in a particular area of activity. Voluntary organizations and Government agencies with special competence in the various areas might provide advice and background materials for the months fitting their particular experience. The listing of months would be paired alphabetically with areas of activities. Some specific examples are given under each heading, but this listing is only a sample. Many more activities or occupations will come to mind.

1975 - IWY

JANUARY

- A. Aeronautical science, astronomy, atomic science, the atmosphere and space, aviation.

Examples-- Women in aviation: as pilots - commercial and private
as flight attendants
in airport administration, programming or maintenance
as crew members or ground personnel
flying mercy missions for the sick or injured
ferrying planes across the oceans
Women in astronomy: making discoveries in the heavens
in observatory management and administration
helping to fathom the history of heavenly bodies, including earth
Women in atomic science, including the Chairwoman of the AEC
Women working on the atmosphere, space, and the environment--
→ women on the Houston space-flight backup teams
women working to control pollution
women working to improve the environment

FEBRUARY

- B. Business, industry and labor.

Examples-- Women in: the unions
: management
: merchandising
: banking
on: assembly lines
in: factories
: manufacturing

Susan Gong---
former international
champion parachutist
(used to?) live in
NASA area.

Jacqueline Piccard
Mary Davis
Doris King/HTA knows

MARCH C. Communications in all its forms -- press, radio, TV, magazines.

Examples-- Women as: reporters
: editors
: owners of papers or magazines
: publishers
: programmers
: announcers
: writers
: photographers
: amateur radio operators
: Braille writers

APRIL D. Doers -- the volunteers, the voluntary organizations, the service organizations.

Examples-- Women volunteers working with the handicapped, the elderly, those in need; youth; to aid the arts; to help community projects; or to improve the quality of life;

Voluntary organizations of all types -- teachers, parents, voters, businesswomen, unions, church women, sportswomen, minorities, the elderly -- carrying on community-oriented projects;

Women's auxiliaries to men's service organizations;

Church, mosque, or synagogue organizations helping others in need;

Women working with the Red Cross, Girl Scouts, YWCA, etc.

MAY E. Education -- all the way from pre-school through college and graduate school, and adult outreach.

Examples-- Women as: teachers, instructors, professors
: executives -- college presidents, deans, high school or elementary school principals
: school board members
: workers in parent-teacher associations
: career counsellors
: members of college boards of trustees
: adult outreach and re-entry programmers
: students

JUNE F. Farming and Agribusiness.

Examples-- Women as: agriculturalists
: livestock growers
: food producers and distributors
Women in: agri-business
: the Grange, the 4-H Clubs
Women as: buyers and operators of farm machinery
: agricultural counsellors and extension service advisers

JULY G. Government.

Examples-- Women in: elective office -- local, state, national
: Government employment (the Civil Service)
: the U.S. Foreign Service
: the Defense Services
Women as: workers in Government service institutions, hospitals, veterans' services, prisons
: candidates for public office
: campaign workers

AUGUST H. Homemakers.

Examples-- Women and: the home
: housing
: nutrition
: consumer interests
: child care
Women as: home economists
and: food, cooking and meal planning
: home crafts and home industries
: interior decoration
: sewing and dress-making
as: gardeners
: family budgeters

SEPTEMBER I. International.

Examples-- Situation of women abroad
International organizations and their work for women
The UN and its family of agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.)
The Inter-American Commission of Women
The Arab League's Commission on the Status of Women
The Economic Commission for Africa, etc.
U.S. voluntary organizations and their work for women abroad
U.S. Government and its work for women abroad

OCTOBER J. Joy -- women in the arts, sports, recreation, drama, music, literature.

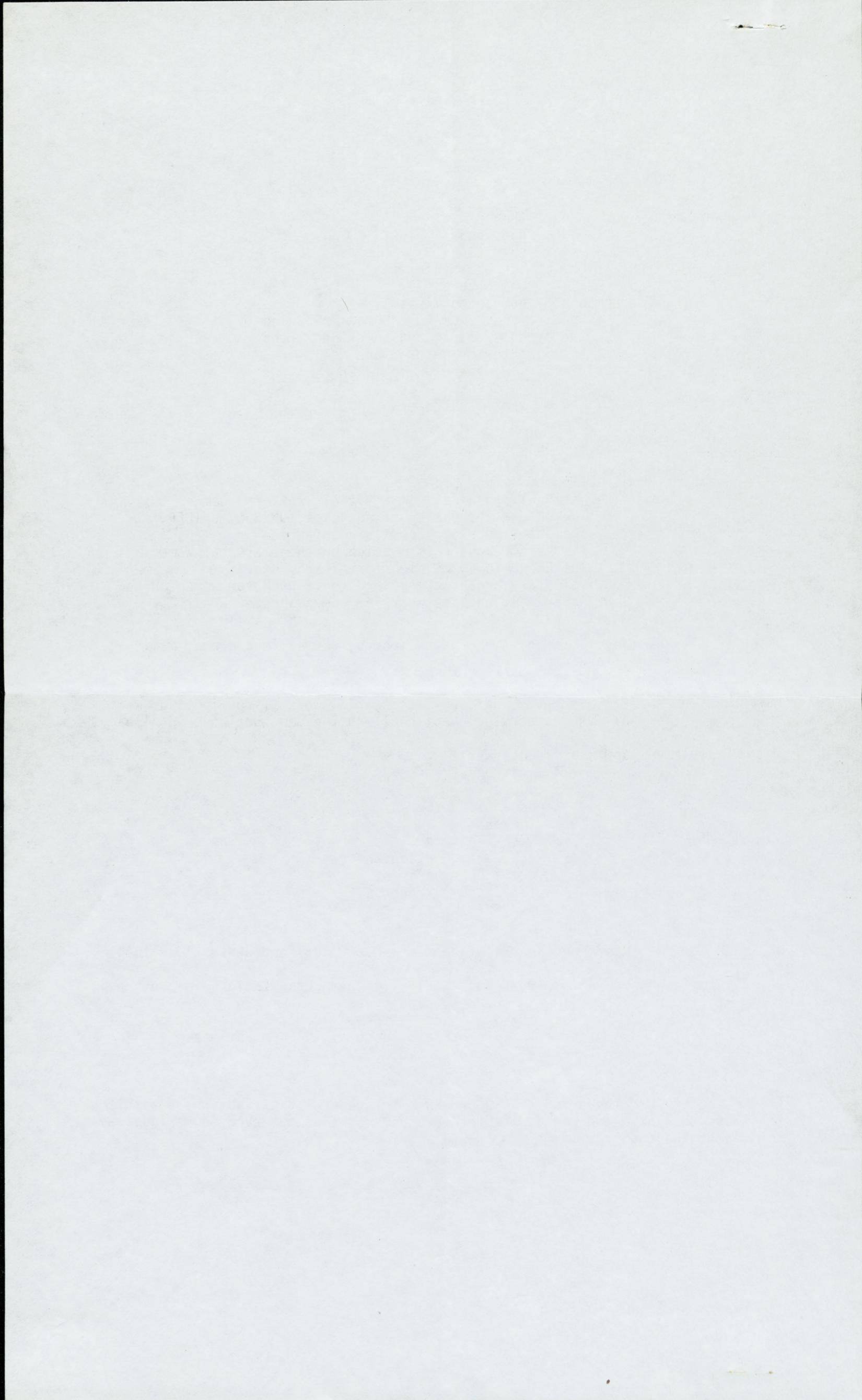
NOVEMBER L. Law, medicine, nursing, secretarial work, fire-fighting, etc. -- all the careers, conventional and the new, not covered already.

Examples-- Women as: engineers
: waitresses
: doctors
: domestic workers
: lawyers
: fire-fighters
: gas station attendants
: dress designers
: landscape gardeners,
etc.

DECEMBER M. Minds and hearts of people -- spiritual and aesthetic values.

Examples-- Women in: religious activities and organizations in churches, mosques, synagogues
as: spiritual and aesthetic leaders
and: the promotion of good will among nations
and: a look to the future.

At the end of IWY, there would be a brochure for general distribution, assembling the facts that have emerged during the various months as observed in various ways throughout the country.

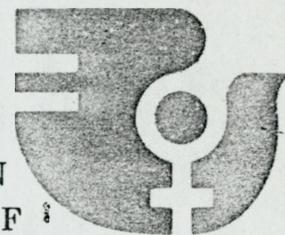


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IWY Coordinator
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L-7

NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON THE OBSERVANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, 1975



Dear Friend:

As you requested, enclosed is a copy of the final report of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, "...To Form A More Perfect Union ..." *Justice for American Women.*

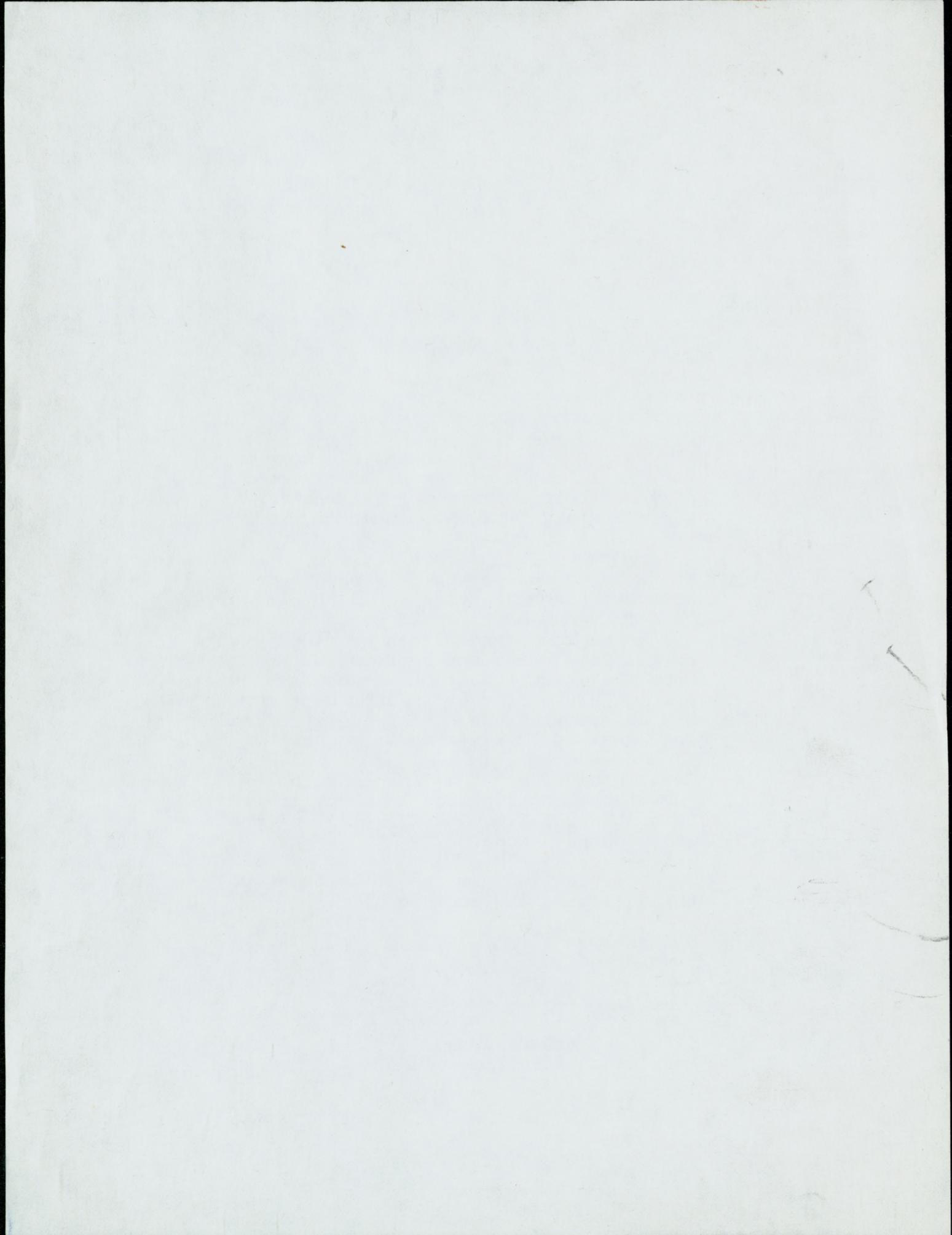
There is no charge for this single copy; however, a contribution of \$2.00 per copy to defray our costs would be appreciated. Checks or money orders can be made payable to IWY Commission and sent to IWY Report, Room 1004, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. If your friends want copies ask them to include a self-addressed mailing label to expedite their request.

Contributions are tax deductible as a charitable contribution to a governmental unit under 26 U.S.C. § 170(c)(1) of the United States Code.

We hope you find our report informative, thought-provoking and useful.

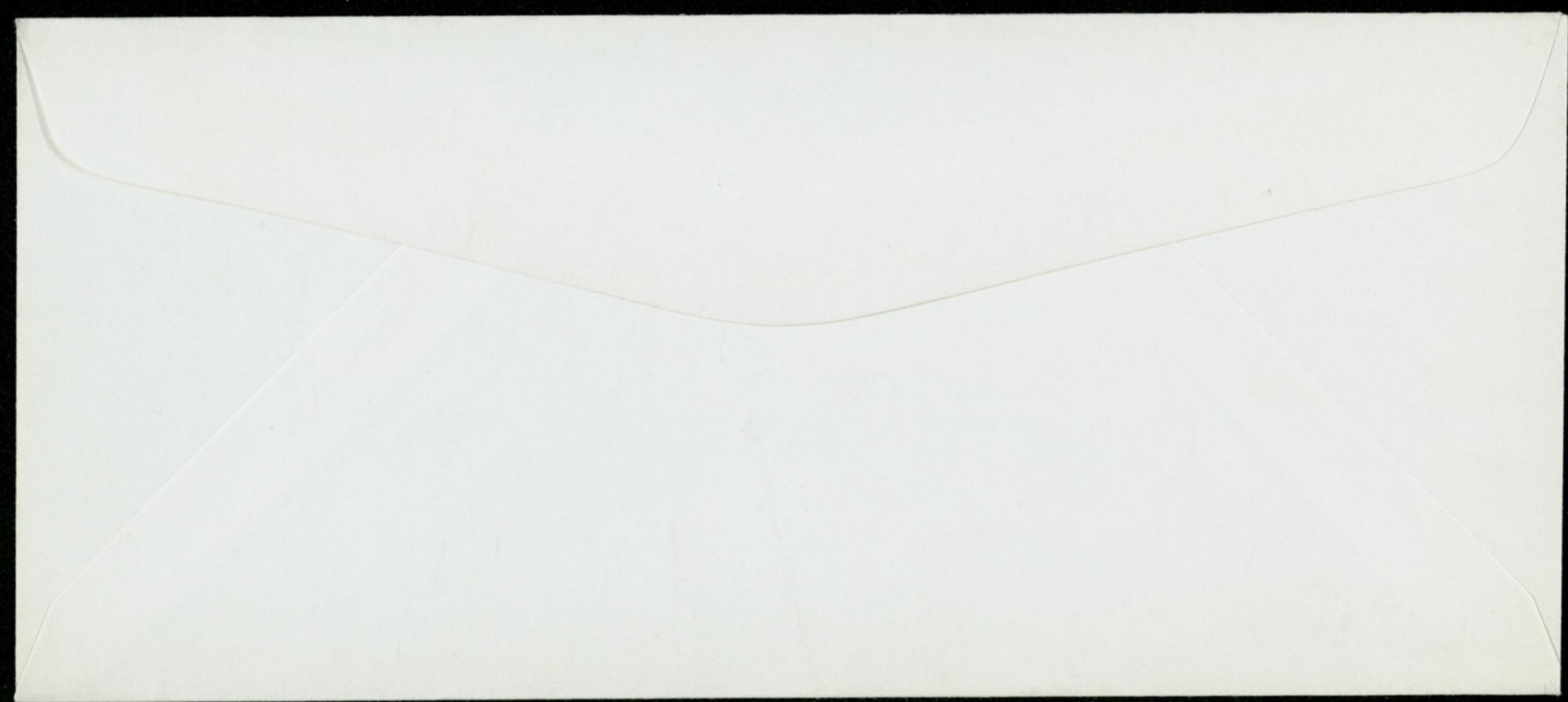
Sincerely,

Elizabeth Athanasakos
Presiding Officer



The United Nations Comes to Texas

United Nations Association
Houston Chapter
2813 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77006



The United Nations Comes to Texas

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State (Zip) _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is a check for _____ to cover _____ fee(s)
at \$10.00 and _____ student fee(s) at \$5.00. (Fee covers
registration, luncheon and packet of materials.)

Please indicate 1st and 2nd choices of panels:

- ____ "Three-quarters of the Earth's Surface: The UN Conference
on the Law of the Sea"
- ____ "Balancing the Equation: UN Conferences on World
Population and World Food"
- ____ "A New Dimension for Human Resources: International
Women's Year, 1975"

(The three seminars will be in session simultaneously. Seating is limited and seminars will close when capacity is reached. To assure a seat, reservations should be made by November 1, and tickets will be mailed. Reservations made after November 1 are subject to available space, and tickets must be picked up immediately prior to luncheon at the University Center. You will be notified if your reservations cannot be accommodated. Please note: no ticket is necessary for the morning session in Cullen Auditorium.)



The United Nations Comes to Texas

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UNA-USA is a nationwide, non-profit organization dedicated to broadening public knowledge about the United Nations and its multi-faceted activities.

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UNA-USA publishes a monthly periodical, The Inter Dependent, as well as fact sheets and educational materials on many specific UN activities.

UNA-USA is supported entirely by membership dues, contributions from individuals, foundations, business and labor organizations, and by income from its publications, conferences and special events.

The Association has an active program throughout Texas. In addition to the Houston Chapter, which is serving as host chapter for "The UN Comes to Texas", there are chapters in Beaumont, Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio.

Interested individuals are invited to become members of UNA, and lend their support to local efforts to further the United Nations.



The United Nations Comes to Texas

You are cordially invited
to participate
in an extraordinary one-day event
with
The Secretary-General of the United Nations
Mr. Kurt Waldheim
and
The Permanent Representative of the
United States to the United Nations
the Honorable John Scali
Saturday, November 9, 1974
University of Houston

The Day's Program

10:00 a.m. "Economic Development: New Priorities for the Future", Cullen Auditorium.
Keynote Speaker: F. Bradford Morse, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, United Nations. Discussion by a panel of experts in the field of economic development, followed by questions and discussion from the audience.

12:30 p.m. Luncheon, Houston Room, 2nd Floor, University Center.
Speakers: Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
 The Honorable John Scali, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations.
Presiding: Louie Welch, Co-Chairman, "The United Nations Comes to Texas".

2:30 p.m. "A New Budget for the Earth's Resources".
Three concurrent seminars, Continuing Education Center.
 Presentations by featured speakers, followed by responses by a panel of experts, and questions and discussion from the audience.

A. "Three-quarters of the Earth's Surface: The UN Conference on the Law of the Sea".
Keynote Speaker: Constantin Stavropoulos, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.
Speaker: Hon. John Norton Moore, Chairman, National Security Council Interagency Task Force on the Law of the Sea.

B. "Balancing the Equation: UN Conferences on World Population and World Food".
Keynote Speaker: Rafael Salas, Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities.
Speaker: John McDonald Jr., Coordinator for Multilateral Development, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State.

C. "A New Dimension for Human Resources: International Women's Year, 1975".
Keynote Speaker: Helvi Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General, Secretary-General for International Women's Year.

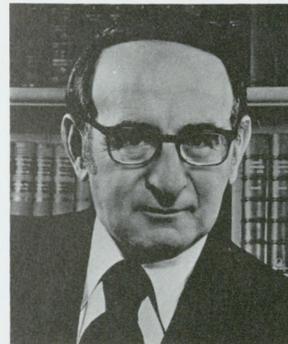
Registration Fee, \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students) (Includes luncheon, admission to panel of choice and packet of materials. No ticket necessary for the morning session.)

For further information on "The United Nations Comes to Texas", contact the Houston Chapter, United Nations Association, 2813 Westheimer, Houston, Texas 77006 or (713) 526-7522.



Mr. Kurt Waldheim, the fourth Secretary-General of the United Nations, began his term in January of 1972. Dr. Waldheim had been Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN since

1970. He served as Austria's Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs. He had been a member of the Austrian delegation to all sessions of the General Assembly since Austria's admission to membership in 1955. In 1968 he was elected President of the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Vienna and graduated from the Vienna Consular Academy.



Ambassador John Scali, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, assumed his cabinet-level appointment in February of 1973. Before his appointment to the UN,

Ambassador Scali was a Special Consultant to President Nixon. He accepted that White House position after 28 years as a newsman. He accompanied the President on the historic journeys to Moscow and Peking. In his present capacity, Ambassador Scali is responsible for diplomatic relations with 137 member states of the United Nations. He is a graduate of Boston University with a degree in Journalism.



F. Bradford Morse, former Republican Congressman from Massachusetts, served as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, a ranking member of the Sub-Committee on Inter-American Affairs, and Congressional Advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the Conference on the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament. Appointed by the Secretary-General in 1972, he is the highest-ranking U.S. citizen in the UN Secretariat.



Rafael Salas, Executive Director of the UN Fund for Population Activities, has been assigned responsibility for World Population Year, 1974. He has held a number of academic positions, including Professorial Lecturer in Political Science, Economics and Law at the University of Philippines and Assistant Vice President of the University. In 1966 he became Executive Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines. He has been with the UN since 1972.



Helvi Sipilä, highest-ranking woman in the United Nations Secretariat, is Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. She has been designated Secretary-General for International Women's Year, 1975. A graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki, she has practiced law since 1943. She has represented Finland on the Commission on the Status of Women, and has served as Chairman of the Commission. She was appointed to the UN in 1972.



Constantin Stavropoulos, Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, has served in the United Nations Secretariat since 1946, and as head of the Office of Legal Affairs since 1952. He was formerly Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and has served as the Secretary-General's representative at all UN codification conferences.

Article 5

Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. Marriage to an alien shall not automatically affect the nationality of the wife either by rendering her stateless or by forcing upon her the nationality of her husband.

Article 6

1. Without prejudice to the safeguarding of the unity and the harmony of the family, which remains the basic unit of any society, all appropriate measures, particularly legislative measures, shall be taken to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of civil law, and in particular:

(a) The right to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit property, including property acquired during marriage;

(b) The right to equality in legal capacity and the exercise thereof;

(c) The same rights as men with regard to the law on the movement of persons.

2. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure the principle of equality of status of the husband and wife, and in particular:

(a) Women shall have the same right as men to free choice of a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;

(b) Women shall have equal rights with men during marriage and at its dissolution. In all cases the interest of the children shall be paramount;

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(c) Parents shall have equal rights and duties in matters relating to their children. In all cases the interest of the children shall be paramount.

3. Child marriage and the betrothal of young girls before puberty shall be prohibited, and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

Article 7

All provisions of penal codes which constitute discrimination against women shall be repealed.

Article 8

All appropriate measures, including legislation, shall be taken to combat all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

Article 9

All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure to girls and women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in education at all levels, and in particular:

(a) Equal conditions of access to, and study in, educational institutions of all types, including universities and vocational, technical and professional schools;

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(b) The same choice of curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard, and school premises and equipment of the same quality, whether the institutions are co-educational or not;

(c) Equal opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(d) Equal opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult literacy programmes;

(e) Access to educational information to help in ensuring the health and well-being of families.

Article 10

1. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life, and in particular:

(a) The right, without discrimination on grounds of marital status or any other grounds, to receive vocational training, to work, to free choice of profession and employment, and to professional and vocational advancement;

(b) The right to equal remuneration with men and to equality of treatment in respect of work of equal value;

(c) The right to leave with pay, retirement privileges and provision for security in respect of unemployment, sickness, old age or other incapacity to work;

(d) The right to receive family allowances on equal terms with men.

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2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, measures shall be taken to prevent their dismissal in the event of marriage or maternity and to provide paid maternity leave, with the guarantee of returning to former employment, and to provide the necessary social services, including child-care facilities.

3. Measures taken to protect women in certain types of work, for reasons inherent in their physical nature, shall not be regarded as discriminatory.

Article 11

1. The principle of equality of rights of men and women demands implementation in all States in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals are urged, therefore, to do all in their power to promote the implementation of the principles contained in this Declaration.



Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

UNITED NATIONS

Introduction

The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the General Assembly on 7 November 1967. The Declaration sets forth the principles of rights for women on equal terms with men and calls for measures to guarantee their implementation.

The work on the Declaration began in 1963 when the General Assembly noted in a resolution that there still remained considerable discrimination against women, in fact if not in law, and asked the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a draft Declaration aimed at eliminating such discrimination. The draft text, which the Commission adopted in March 1966, was considered by the Assembly that year and sent back to the Commission for further review in the light of additional proposals and Assembly discussions. The Commission adopted a revised text in March 1967 to which the Assembly gave high priority at its twenty-second session. After accepting the recommendations of its Third Committee for further amendments to the revised text, the Assembly adopted the Declaration.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women represents a milestone in the work of the United Nations to promote equal rights for men and women in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights. The Com-

mission on the Status of Women may be expected in the future to concentrate its efforts on securing the full implementation of the Declaration through all the means available to it. The Commission recognizes that a first step in this direction is to spread knowledge of the provisions of the Declaration and full understanding of their meaning among men and women throughout the world.

Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex,

Taking into account the resolutions, declarations, conventions and recommendations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies designed to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote equal rights for men and women,

Concerned that, despite the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other instruments of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and despite the progress made in the matter of equality of rights, there continues to exist considerable discrimination against women,

Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the wel-

fare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Bearing in mind the great contribution made by women to social, political, economic and cultural life and the part they play in the family and particularly in the rearing of children,

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields,

Considering that it is necessary to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of men and women,

Solemnly proclaims this Declaration:

Article 1

Discrimination against women, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offence against human dignity.

Article 2

All appropriate measures shall be taken to abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices

which are discriminatory against women, and to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women; in particular:

(a) The principle of equality of rights shall be embodied in the constitution or otherwise guaranteed by law;

(b) The international instruments of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to the elimination of discrimination against women shall be ratified or acceded to and fully implemented as soon as practicable.

Article 3

All appropriate measures shall be taken to educate public opinion and to direct national aspirations towards the eradication of prejudice and the abolition of customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women.

Article 4

All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure to women on equal terms with men, without any discrimination:

(a) The right to vote in all elections and be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;

(b) The right to vote in all public referenda;

(c) The right to hold public office and to exercise all public functions. Such rights shall be guaranteed by legislation.

FOR A WORLD IN ONE PEACE



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

UNA-UNICEF CENTER

WHAT IS THE CENTER?

It is a gift center which sells handcrafted objects from America and around the world. The store is a show case for a variety of cultures. Open all year, Monday - Friday, 10:00 to 4:00; Saturdays, 10:00 to 1:00.

Proceeds from this gift mart support the activities of the Houston chapter of the United Nations Association.

It also sells year-round UNICEF cards, notes, books, puzzles, records, educational materials.

Proceeds from these sales go to support UNICEF's program of aid in underdeveloped countries and for emergency assistance.

The Center is also the office of the Houston chapter of the United Nations Association.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER?

It provides a lively place where teachers, librarians, students, youth leaders, and citizens in general can come for resource material about the United Nations and its agencies.

It also provides a place where Chapter Committee Chairpersons and members may come for their meetings, to order their materials, to use equipment, to exchange ideas.

Our belief is that an informed grass roots opinion will encourage our government to lend its efforts to making the United Nations a more effective instrument for world peace.

JUST WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION?

The UNA-USA is a national, privately supported, membership association which has a cooperative relationship with more than one hundred organizations.

The purpose of the UNA-USA is to assist in the development of understanding and support for effective US participation in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies.

The Houston Chapter of the United Nations Association is affiliated with the UNA-USA.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HOUSTON CHAPTER?

Cooperating with Rice University in preparing a Peace Studies seminar for teachers in secondary schools.

Offering a yearly essay contest, the winners of which visit the UN for three days.

Offering a yearly poster contest, with cash awards.

Providing teachers, librarians, others, with posters, literature, films, etc.

Assisting schools with UN Model Assemblies, and similar programs.

Assisting Scout troops with certain badges.

Providing organizations with speakers on UN-related topics.

VISIT OUR CENTER

THE UN AND SOME OF ITS "FAMILY" OF AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS AND PROGRAMS

"If we can learn to judge the United Nations less in terms of its failures to attain the ideals that we hold for it, and more in terms of its success in responding to the needs of the world, we shall be in a better position to analyze its accomplishment."

Inis Claude, Jr.

UNICEF — The United Nations Children's Fund (formerly called the UN International Children's Emergency Fund) does not participate in the UN budget, but is funded by voluntary contributions from various governments, and by the sale of greeting cards and similar items; during the past 25 years, these sales have netted some 45 million dollars in funds for UNICEF projects, which benefit children and mothers in underdeveloped countries.

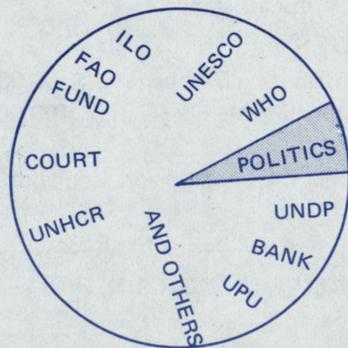
FAO — The Food and Agriculture Organization helps nations of the world increase the output of their farms and fisheries. In 1960 FAO launched its FREEDOM FROM HUNGER campaign to draw the attention of the world to the gravity of the problem of hunger in many parts of the world.

UNESCO — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization works to free mankind from illiteracy and to spread knowledge of modern methods to increase their well being. It strives to foster international understanding through the exchange of cultures.

WHO — The World Health Organization works toward the goal of the highest possible levels of health for all mankind.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS COST US?

The estimated total cost of the UN, per capita to the US, for one year (1972) was \$2.31, as compared to almost \$375 per American per year for the US defense budget.



The **UN** resembles an iceberg. One tenth, the political part, is all that is "visible" to most of us. The "hidden" nine tenths of its manpower and funds is working all over the world to make it a better place for all of us.

MEMBERSHIP in the United Nations Association of the United States of America also brings membership in the local chapter, and vice versa.

As a member of the UNA, you would be supporting and encouraging local and national programs.

In addition, you would receive:

1. "The Interdependent", a lively monthly newspaper published by UNA-USA.
2. UNA-H newsletter, published periodically.
3. National Policy Panel Reports published on occasion by UNA-USA.
4. Opinion polls to complete and send to congressmen.
5. Mailings in regard to UN-related legislation.
6. Ten percent discount on merchandise at the UNA-UNICEF Center (except for UNICEF items, UNA publication, and special sale items).

If you are interested in becoming a member, please complete the following and mail to:

UNA-UNICEF CENTER

Mr. _____ Cut Here
Miss _____
NAME Mr. & Mrs. _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____ New or Renewal
 I would like to volunteer my assistance.

YEARLY DUES

- | | | | |
|---|---------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Member | \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member . . . | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member | 15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member | 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member . . | 25.00 | | |

I would like to add a contribution to help support the program and service of UNA. \$ _____

Membership Dues \$ _____ contribution \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to **UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, Houston Chapter,**



345 East 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 (212) OX 7-3232

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** Fifty-six UN Member States, in addition to South Korea and Switzerland, have contributed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations? Thirty-seven countries have contributed troops to the four major peacekeeping operations: Korea, the Middle East, the Congo and Cyprus.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** In 1972, the total U.S. contribution to the UN, its Specialized Agencies, and voluntary programs is just under \$482 million, a cost of \$2.31 per American per year as opposed to almost \$375.00 per American per year for the U.S. Defense Budget?
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The total regular UN budget is less than one-third of what it costs to run the New York City Police Department?
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** UNICEF is currently helping in 112 countries with a child population of over 100 million? In one year, nearly 42 million children were protected against malaria.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** 85% of UN expenditures are used for economic and social development? On the average, over half the cost of these UN projects are paid for by the developing countries.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The work of the UN's World Health Organization (WHO) has eradicated smallpox from most of the world? American children are no longer being vaccinated, and only travelers to Africa and the sub-continent of Asia need vaccinations.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** December 10, 1973 marks the 25th Anniversary of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights? This declaration is the basic document for the constitutions of many of the emerging nations. It also set the pattern for subsequent declarations concerning the rights of women and children.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The UN has established a Fund for Drug Abuse Control to help combat the production, consumption and illicit traffic in narcotics? For example, a UN pilot project is under way in Thailand to replace the heroin poppy with other crops.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The UN was responsible for three major treaties governing the use of outer space? They cover the peaceful uses of outer space, the rescue and return of astronauts, and liability for damage caused by man-made space objects.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** Our area code network will be a part of a world-wide direct dialing network under the auspices of the UN's International Telecommunications Union (ITU)?
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The UN has designated 1974 as World Population Year and will hold a World Population Conference in Bucharest, Romania to discuss plans for world-wide action on population issues.
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has designated English as the official language for use by all commercial pilots and air traffic controllers?
- DID YOU KNOW THAT:** The UN will hold a conference in Santiago, Chile in 1974 to discuss all matters concerning international waters, including: fishing rights, national territorial limits, the marine environment, and the establishment of an international organ to govern maritime activities?





*Centre for
Economic and Social
Information*

OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/1
April 1974

FORUM ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
NEW YORK, 25 FEBRUARY 1974

Statement by Ms. Margaret K. Bruce, Deputy Director, Centre for Social
Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and in Charge of Promotion of
Equality of Men and Women Branch

The Forum brings together women leaders from over 100 countries to consider crucial issues facing the world today and to examine women's role and contribution in finding solutions to the vast and complex problems, which we call "population" and "development".

The status of women and the part they play in society are certainly not new to the United Nations. In fact, if we look back to the time of the signing of the Charter in 1945, we can claim with some pride and satisfaction that much has been accomplished in the intervening 29 years.

To take but one example, in 1945 women were denied the right to vote in approximately one third of the Members of United Nations, which at that time consisted of only 51 sovereign States. Today, the United Nations counts 135 States among its Members, and in virtually all of these women's right to vote and to be eligible for election equally with men is no longer disputed. While it is true that few women represent their countries here at the policy-making levels, their right to do so is no longer called in question, and the legal barriers which previously existed, have now largely been removed.

Similarly, in the economic field, in 1945 women's right to work and the equal conditions of work, including the thorny question of equal pay for work of equal value was hardly discussed, even in the International Labour Organisation. Today, these questions are fully accepted as "rights" to be recognized and implemented in practice, albeit progressively and at a very slow pace. As regards education, no one denies that women should be educated equally with men, although the situation in practice is far from one of equality. Women's position in the family is perhaps much slower and harder to change, yet even here we can note a trend, at least in some areas of the world, towards a partnership of the spouses, and a sharing of the rights and responsibilities of marriage and parenthood, rather than the subordination of the wife to the husband.

(more)

In short it can be said that the legal position of women in all these fields has vastly improved since 1945, and that the principle of equality of both sexes before the law has won widespread recognition, strengthened, we believe, by the efforts of the United Nations. Much credit for these achievements belongs to the Commission on the Status of Women, established in June 1946 as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, equal to the Commission on Human Rights, with the mandate to promote equal rights of men and women in all major fields.

Important as they are, these changes are but a drop in a vast ocean. The gap between law and reality remains wide, and women have a very long way to go before they take their rightful place in our society.

What is the situation of women in the changing world of today? And let us not forget that women make up more than half the world's population, more than half its human resources.

In the large majority of countries -- developed as well as developing -- women are educationally disadvantaged, whether it be at the primary, secondary or higher levels of education. The world's illiteracy rates still exceed 700 millions and the major percentage of these are women, ranging in some areas to as high as 80 to 85 per cent. Lack of educational opportunities and training touches off a chain reaction and perpetuates discrimination in other fields, especially employment.

Women constitute more than one third of the world's gainfully employed labour force. In most countries, however, -- and again I speak of developed as well as developing -- they are concentrated in a limited number of jobs, frequently at low levels of skill and responsibility, with equally low wages or salaries. Their work is not recognized as being of equal value to men's work and their pay for the same job done is often lower.

These figures do not take into account the millions of women who are toiling from morning till night as unpaid subsistence farm or domestic workers. There are no statistics to tell us how many women live in such circumstances, nor the extent of their economic output and return.

It is often claimed that men should have preferential treatment in employment, as well as higher remuneration, because it is they who are the breadwinners in the family. This claim however often poses a danger to the very men it is designed to protect -- the danger that women, rather than men, will be hired by employers who wish to cut down labour costs.

Moreover, many women, including those who are widowed, divorced, separated or abandoned, are themselves heads of families and the sole support of their children. They frequently lack the skills and training needed to enable them to make adequate provision for their -- often many -- children.

Within the family, despite the progress made, under many legal systems and certainly in practice the male is the dominant partner, and his word is final in any major decisions concerning matters affecting the family and its members.

The woman, upon marriage, is still deprived under the laws of many countries of a number of important personal and property rights, a fact of which she may be totally unaware as long as the relations of the spouses remain harmonious, but which may cause great hardship if this is not the case.

(more)

Even when the law accords her equal protection the women may not know her rights and still less how to secure their enforcement, especially if she lacks education and is economically dependent on her husband.

In public life the percentage of women who hold policy-making posts -- whether legislative, judicial, or executive positions -- is small in the vast majority of countries, even those where women have long had the right to vote and to hold public office.

The same situation is reflected in the planning bodies at both the national and international levels, including those concerned with development planning, the formulation of population policies or the execution of family planning programmes and similar schemes. Rarely are women seen among the ranks of the policy makers, and even then only in supportive roles.

The disadvantages women suffer are likely to be exacerbated by population pressures and trends, which place a severe strain on available resources. For women usually lose out if they must compete with men for limited educational facilities and limited job opportunities.

The movement of population from rural to urban areas -- and also across national boundaries -- has also its special impact on women. Frequently, they are left behind, struggling to maintain and support their children in conditions of extreme poverty. They may migrate from the rural areas to the towns in search of work which does not exist, and are quickly exposed to the dangers of exploitation, prostitution, and the misery of the urban slum.

Time does not permit more than passing reference to a few of these problems, all of which are extremely difficult to solve. They are, moreover, closely related to the wider problems of human rights, conditions of development, and population change, and we are realizing more and more that each of these issues interacts on the other. The condition of women is not only affected by problems of human rights, development and population, but, in turn, has a marked, if not crucial, impact on them.

The respective roles of men and women in society have their roots in traditions, customs and beliefs, dating far back in history. They will not be changed without radical reforms, not only in the laws of nations, but in the minds and attitudes of both women and men, and of society as a whole. Both sexes are conditioned from birth to the belief that man is superior to woman, that he will play a different role from her, and that he should be the provider, she the guardian of the home.

In considering these questions, we must be careful not to appear to discount, or to downgrade women's role as mothers of the future generations, nor to scorn those who opt for a traditional role. There is often much misunderstanding on this score, especially by those who reject the "women's rights or women's liberation movements".

Nor should we forget that there are societies or circumstances where the "status" of the woman, the esteem in which she is held, and the protection she is given depends to a large extent on the number of children she bears -- especially if they are sons. If our goal is to be the small family norm we must be very careful that the woman does not lose this status without being given in its place an alternative role, which is fully recognized and accepted by the society in which she lives.

(more)

We must remember also that freedom of choice in the roles they play belongs at best to an élite and small minority of women. The vast majority, like men, seek employment outside the home for reasons of economic need, to support or improve the levels of living of themselves, or their families.

Within the United Nations, questions of the status of women and their roles in society for many years were considered primarily from the viewpoint of human rights, and more especially that of the promotion of equal rights of men and women, and the elimination of discrimination on grounds of sex. The contribution of women to society was largely ignored in any other context, and by United Nations organs other than those concerned with human rights.

The principle of equality of men and women and the promotion of respect for human rights, without distinction as to sex is an objective set forth in the United Nations Charter, and further elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and many other International Conventions, Declarations and recommendations.

I shall refer there to only one of these, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of 1967. This Declaration unites in a single instrument the results of many years of study, by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, of laws, practices and attitudes, which deny women the exercise of their rights in politics, education, employment, marriage and the family, penal and civil law, as well as other areas.

The elaboration and implementation of international standards, while a very important and continuing element of United Nations programmes in this field is a slow process, and it cannot be said that questions of equality and of discrimination against women have truly stirred the imagination of governments. The realization in practice -- as distinct from law -- of the norms established has not advanced rapidly, despite the activities undertaken, nor has it received high priority. Its impact has been far less than similar action aimed at the eradication of discrimination on grounds of race.

In more recent years, however, there has been a gradual awakening to the fact that the condition of women and the roles they play affect -- and may, even retard -- economic and social progress and development and that, in turn, conditions of development affect the position of women and their possibilities of assuming other than the traditional roles of child-bearing, child-rearing and home based economic activities.

These changes have paralleled a growing awareness and recognition of the interdependence of both social and economic aspects of development, which is reflected in the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade adopted in 1970.

One of the stated objectives of the Strategy is that "the integration of women in the total development effort shall be encouraged." Virtually nothing is said however about how this is to be achieved, and follow-up action has only recently begun, despite the urging of women themselves through the medium of the Commission on the Status of Women.

(more)

For the first time in 1972 the matter was discussed by persons concerned with development and those concerned with questions of the status of women at a meeting of experts convened under the auspices of both the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women. The regional economic commissions, especially the Economic Commission for Africa, are showing increasing interest in this question and are developing their own practical action and training programmes for women. Seminars are to be held over the next two years in co-operation with each of the four regional commissions, focusing on the integration of women in development, with special reference to population factors. UNICEF and the specialized agencies, especially FAO, ILO, UNESCO and WHO have also greatly increased their activities on behalf of women in recent years. New recommendations directed especially to the development planning and review and appraisal bodies of the United Nations have been made by the Commission on the Status of Women at its session which has just concluded.

I emphasize however the developments are only a beginning.

As in the case of development in the population field also a close two-way relationship has been found to exist between population factors and the condition of women.

New information has come to light as a result of a Study on the Status of Women and Family Planning, undertaken on the initiative of the Commission on the Status of Women, under the guidance of Ms. H. Sipila who was appointed Special Rapporteur for this Study in 1968.

Three interrelated areas are explored in the report which has just been issued: (1) The importance of family planning for women as individuals and its impact on their roles in society; (2) the status of women as a factor influencing family size and the birthrate; and (3) the implications for women of current population trends.

The Study reveals that the educational level of women (even more than that of men), the nature of women's employment or occupation, their position in the family, and also in public life, have a marked effect on family size, and also on the success of family planning programmes.

High fertility patterns most often (though not always) are accompanied by low status of women, and are frequently both a result and a cause of underdevelopment, setting in motion a vicious circle which is difficult to break, especially where resources are limited.

Current and future population trends in many countries have very serious implications both for the success of the development effort, and for the advancement of women. However, unless action is taken as a matter of urgency and priority to improve the condition of women this vicious circle will continue.

The Study also focuses on a further essential -- and often overlooked aspect of the population question -- that is how do family planning programmes and fertility regulation help the individual woman, irrespective of demographic factors in the country concerned? How do they facilitate her exercise of her rights -- to health, education, equal work and conditions of work, active participation in public life and equality in the family. It also highlights the limitations that exist on women's access to the knowledge and means to plan and space births effectively.

(more)

In short, the focus of the Study is on family planning as a human right rather than as a means to fertility reduction. It is, moreover, repeatedly stressed that family planning must be accompanied by other programmes for social and economic progress without which it is unlikely to lead to significantly lower birth rates in countries of high fertility.

I have deliberately emphasized in my remarks problems of the status of women and drawn attention to their close interrelationship with development and population issues, and to the urgent need for action in this context to promote the equal rights and opportunities of women with men.

This is not to say that improving the status of women, and providing them with new opportunities and new roles will solve the problems involved. It will not.

Action is needed on many fronts, but the status of women has been a largely forgotten element in the formulation of development or population policies, plans and programmes.

As we begin World Population Year and prepare for a programme of intensified action for International Women's Year in 1975, I join my appeal to that of Ms. Sipila's in her opening statement today, to exert your influence as leaders of the women of the world to bring about the radical reforms called for by the goals set in the United Nations Charter more than a quarter of a century ago.

It is frequently said that matters of the status and roles of women should not be discussed by women only, but by men and women, since the roles of each must change if true reforms are to be effected.

There are, however, many who maintain that, at the present state, women still need to meet together and, as women, discuss common problems and strategies, and exchange views on crucial issues affecting the society at large.

This International Forum provides a special and unique opportunity for women leaders from all over the world to discuss these issues and to learn from each other's experiences. We hope that it will set the stage for the World Population Conference later this year, and that, at that Conference in Bucharest, men and women together will discuss and adopt a World Population Plan of Action for the future.

We hope also that this Forum will be a prelude to new initiatives and action programmes for International Women's Year in 1975 -- an event in which men, as well as women, will participate to bring about the goals of the Year -- equality, development and peace.

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OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/8

WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS

A Special Message for International Women's Year 1975

from

Ms. Helvi L. Sipila, Assistant Secretary-General for
Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

(The highest-ranking woman staff member of the Secretariat of the United Nations outlines the role of women in United Nations deliberations and the crucial part they must play if world problems like runaway population growth are to be resolved.)

The General Assembly Hall of the United Nations has been the forum for a large number of meetings dealing with matters of great importance in furthering the principles and purposes of the United Nations. But rather few women have been present. The decisions of the twenty-eight General Assemblies, only two of which have been presided over by a woman, have been made by delegations headed by men. Three Heads of Governments and two Permanent Representatives are the only exceptions. It was of great significance that a group of women came for the first time to the General Assembly Hall in February 1974 for the International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development. Although not a policy-making body, it was the first time in history that women nominated by the Governments of 108 countries came to the United Nations to discuss and make recommendations on subjects of crucial importance to the future of human kind.

Why have women been missing from previous meetings of this kind?

In the past 30 years many changes occurring in the composition of the delegations participating in the work of the United Nations have borne witness to the progress made in the implementation of the principles and purposes of the Charter in the field of equal rights and equal responsibilities of all individuals without distinction. The growth in the number of Member States from 51 to 135, the use of five, in the near future six languages, and the co-operation of the various races within

the United Nations, show that the peoples of the world have taken a big step forward on their way towards universality and equal opportunities for all without distinction of race, language or nationality.

But the picture is different for the fourth ground of distinction mentioned in the Charter -- that of sex. In the last General Assembly, for example, there were only 180 women compared to 2,369 men delegates. There were no women in the delegations of 55 countries and only one woman in the delegations of 44 countries. Why is this so? Are women discriminated against in these countries or do they not want to participate in international politics? Do women not know the subject matter or are they simply unaware of the importance of international decision-making?

We must remember that no woman in any country had the right to vote 82 years ago and that no woman in any country could become a member of the national Parliament only 69 years ago. Most women have gained their political rights during the last two or three decades. The present generation of women are, therefore, still newcomers to political life at every level, particularly at the international level. So that although there are a large number of women involved in national politics, particularly in fields where women's own experience has been considered most valuable -- the various fields of education, social development and social welfare -- in international affairs women's contribution is still very inadequate even in these fields. This is so despite the fact that most of the women delegates to the General Assembly serve in the Committee dealing with social and humanitarian matters, and despite the fact that almost no Government sends a male representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, one of the most hard-working functional commissions, which since 1946 has accomplished much in the promotion of equality between men and women. We must admit that it has had great success in formulating international standards in the fields of political rights, nationality, marriage, education, employment and occupation, where conventions are now in force and where their implementation is taking place -- albeit much too slowly.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in 1967, is a valuable document, which completes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by further elaborating the questions of equality and discrimination between men and women. It is hoped that the goals of equality set out in the Declaration will be achieved through legal implementation when the States ratify the necessary legal instruments which already exist in the form of conventions or in a new all-embracing convention currently being discussed.

It is not, therefore, for lack of international standards that there still exists discrimination based on sex and lack of equality between men and women. It is a question of lack of awareness of and perhaps interest in these questions, which are still too often dismissed as "women's issues", without real importance when national and international priorities are being set. World affairs are still divided into those concerning women and those concerning human beings. Had it been otherwise, we might not be in the situation we are now in. If all the women of the world had been given education, employment opportunities, equal status within the family in law and in fact, and more opportunities to participate in the activities of their societies, in the total development effort, including decision-making, and if all the women of the world had been given an opportunity to both participate in and benefit from development equally with men, we would probably not be faced today with

(more)

all the problems relating to population and development which pose such agonizing problems for the world today.

What do I mean by "the situation" we are in? Who has ever questioned the role of women in population and development? In my view, however, population statistics are the tip of the iceberg only. Women are, if you will, the submerged two-thirds. It is women who give birth to children. If they did not fulfill this function there would be no problems of overpopulation, no continuation of human existence. Women are more than half of the world's population and they provide the world with the human resources without whom there would be no development and as economists have pointed out, we cannot hope to create the necessary conditions for growth while leaving aside half of the human resources required for that growth. To state this as bluntly as this is not in any way to deny the important role men have to play in this question, but only to underline the crucial role of women in population and development which has been, as in other areas, taken so much for granted, it has almost been forgotten.

Discrimination is like a boomerang, it often hits the one who casts it. But again, I am not maintaining that the present situation has been caused solely by men discriminating against women. Much depends on deeply rooted traditions and ways of thinking of both men and women about their own roles in the total development effort. There is no question that the status and the opportunities available to women vary according to the stage of development of their country. For example, the highest percentages of women in the labour force or school enrolment up to and including higher education as well as in public office and functions as well as equal rights and obligations of the spouses in law and in fact, are most likely to be found in the so-called developed countries. There are, however, most outstanding examples of what women can do in the so-called developing countries when given the same opportunities as men, and it has often been seen that the most active women, those who make the most valuable contributions in international affairs are women from those countries.

Too few women in both the developed and the developing countries participate in the formulation and implementation of national, regional or international policies relating to development and population. Women are inadequately represented at the General Assembly, on the Regional Economic Commissions, in the Economic and Social Council and all its functional Commissions and other activities, with the exception of the Commission on the Status of Women, with the result that women are left out of the process of promoting the advancement of women even in areas of special interest to them. This despite the fact that in 1970, the Programme for Concerted International Action for the Advancement of Women was adopted by the General Assembly at the same time as the International Development Strategy. Unfortunately, because it was considered a "women's issue", it was initiated and developed in different bodies than the Strategy itself. Further and even more importantly, this leaves women altogether out of the formulation of economic and social development policies both at the international and the national level. As a result it could be said that present plans and priorities in those matters do not reflect women's views and concerns.

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However, in the Programme for Concerted International Action, very clear targets were set out in the fields of women's education, beginning from literacy, vocational training, economic opportunities, improved legal status as well as their participation in administration and decision-making. There was also a request that information, knowledge and means for family planning be made available to all individuals who so wish, the same request that was made in the Declaration for Social Progress and Development, one year earlier. With the increasing concern over the high rates of population growth due to declining mortality rates and continuing high rates of fertility, the United Nations has adopted some important principles. Although the States have the sovereign right to decide on their own population policies, the individual couple has the human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.

On the other hand, no matter what the population policy of the respective State is, there cannot be one single state, which does not welcome the improvement of the quality of life of its citizens, both those who already exist and those yet to be born -- bearing in mind that about 9 per cent of the children born each year die before the age of one.

It has been common knowledge for some time that birth rates are relatively low in the so-called developed part of the world where women have, in general, better opportunities to play their full role in the development effort together with men. However, it has rarely been suggested that the low birth rates might be at least partly due to the differences in the opportunities women have to undertake other roles and to participate fully in the life of their societies outside their former traditional role of mothers.

While it would not be right to pretend that one single factor would change the reproductory behaviour of women around the world, recent studies have shown that there is a very clear relationship between family size on the one hand and the educational, economic, legal and social status of the woman on the other. If this is true, then everything done to increase the opportunities of women to have alternative choices in their lives to the traditional mother role, will strengthen their capacity to make decisions about family size according to the best interests of their families and States.

Thus we see the clear interrelationship of World Population Year 1974, and International Women's Year 1975. They are, in fact, two sides of the same coin. Without the one, we cannot hope to achieve the objectives of the other. Women cannot hope to participate fully in decision-making until they are able to exercise choice in their childbearing role. And we cannot hope to reduce the rate of population growth until women are able to participate more widely in their societies.

Therefore, as we stand poised on the threshold of International Women's Year, which hopefully, will usher in a new era in international history, I should like to issue a plea to all to set aside prejudices -- be they prejudices of race, sex, language or religion, so that we can confront the problems of such magnitude before us all with all, not half of humanity, and all, not half of our human resources.

Finally, I should like to make special appeal to women leaders to take a leadership role next year, to use to the utmost, your influence in your own countries, to act as the link between your Government and women at the grassroots levels so that the view, concerns and aspirations of women can be felt in every field of endeavour and every corner of our world.



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OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/9

U.N. TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN COLOMBIA
AS HIGHLIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

World-Wide Initiatives Planned During Year to Promote
Equality of Men and Women

The promotion of equality between men and women will be the subject of a major United Nations Conference in Bogota, Colombia in June 1975.

The first world meeting on the topic held at the governmental delegation level, the Conference will be the highlight of United Nations efforts during International Women's Year 1975. All Member States in the United Nations system will be invited.

It will be part of a wide-ranging programme during the Year involving United Nations agencies, national governments, non-governmental organizations and citizen groups throughout the world.

Commenting on the Year, United Nations Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim has said: "We are talking, after all, about half the world's population, and we must think positively about how the position of women in their own societies, and in international affairs could not only be improved, but their large potential contribution be better utilized for the benefit of all."

Conference Topics

The resolution of the Economic and Social Council*, requesting the Secretary-General to convene the Conference, recommends specifically that countries should provide equitable representation for women and men in the delegations they send to Bogota. This point emphasizes the fact that discrimination against women will only be ended by changing attitudes in the minds of men as well as women.

Outlining the topics for consideration at the Conference, the resolution says it should "examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system have implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women made by the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment..."

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* Economic and Social Council resolution 1851 of 16 May 1974.

It calls on the Secretary-General, in drawing up the agenda for the Conference, to focus attention on:

- evaluation of current trends and changes in the roles of women and men in political, social, economic, family and cultural life, including sharing of responsibilities and decision-making; and
- examination of the major obstacles which hinder the contribution of women and men as full partners in the total development effort and in sharing its benefits in both rural and urban areas.

In addition, the resolution requests the Conference to: "launch an international action programme including short- and long-term measures aimed at achieving the integration of women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort and at eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, and at achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination."

Activities During Year

The United Nations is working to encourage widespread discussion and promotion of women's equality during 1975. These efforts include production and distribution of publications, photographic exhibits, radio and film/TV material. It also aims to stimulate activities by Member Governments within their own countries, non-governmental organizations and concerned citizen groups. A series of regional meetings on various aspects of women's equality is being considered.

In addition, the Economic and Social Council has called upon the Secretary-General to accept contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private foundations and interested individuals to supplement the resources available for the International Women's Year Programme.

Agencies of the United Nations system are also preparing activities to promote the aims of the Year. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), for example, is making the crucial subject of equality of opportunity and treatment of women workers a major item at its annual conference to be held in Geneva in June 1975.

The subject of women's status and equality will, in addition, be a major item on the Agenda of the General Assembly in 1975.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR: SOME POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. *In the developing countries there is an increasing emphasis on human rights as an essential element on economic and social development. Will the imperatives of development take precedence, or will the improvement in the status of women be impeded by cultural and religious traditions? In the developed countries, is the male orientation so strong that greater efforts will be needed than in the more fluid social structures of developing countries?*
2. *Of the estimated 700-800 million illiterates in the world today, between 75% and 80% are women. In allocating funds for foreign assistance programs, should the United States increase its contributions to programs and projects specifically designed to help women, particularly in rural areas where the education problem is most acute?*
3. *Statistics show that birth rates are highest where the standards of living are lowest. Should development assistance be made conditional on including comprehensive family planning programs?*
4. *Many women contribute to their countries' economy without pay, particularly in rural areas. In addition, the role of the housewife is said by many to have an intrinsic economic value of its own. Should this be recognized through tax credits, special subsidies or other monetary devices?*
5. *Women comprise more than one third of the world's paid labor force, but in general, their positions and salaries are not equal to that of men and they are limited to traditional women's jobs, e.g. secretaries, nurses, teachers. What is the best way to overcome these inequities? Would "quota" hiring be desirable or is it a form of reverse discrimination? Would it lead to tokenism in hiring practices?*
6. *Can women effect any real changes in their status without becoming part of the political power structure at both the local and national level? If active participation in the governmental process is essential, is a militant or "radical" position necessary to achieve even moderate progress?*
7. *Should governments absorb part or all of the costs of services such as day care centers to provide women with opportunities for productive activities outside the home?*
8. *International Women's Year will focus on equal rights for both men and women. Would improvement of the status of women on a world-wide basis, help men as well? Or would the changing of traditional sex roles result in psychological and social dislocations in the family and community structure?*

100 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK 17, N.Y.



