



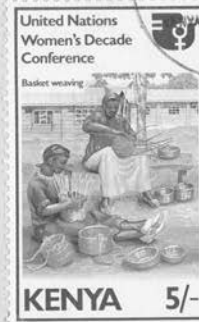
Emily Anne Staples Tuttle papers.

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UN. WOMEN'S DECADE
1976 — 1985
CONFERENCE

Official First Day Cover
15th July 1985

U.N. WOMEN'S



DECADE



CONFERENCE

1976 — 1985



The United Nations declared 1975 as an international Women's year out of a growing recognition that the full and equal participation of women was essential to world development and peace. The objective of the year was to define the requirements for a society in which women participate in a real and full sense in economic, social and political life and to devise strategies towards these goals. The focal point of the year was a United Nations International Conference held in Mexico city. The conference adapted a world plan of Action, representing a global consensus on what should be done to improve women's situation, and the declaration of Mexico on the Equality of women and their contribution to development and peace. The Mexico conference also called for the period 1976 to 1985 to be proclaimed by the United Nations as the Decade for women; a time to implement the world plan of action. These recommendations were subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

As a conclusion to the decade in 1985 the General Assembly decided to convene a world conference to be held at the Kenyatta International Conference

Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of the conference is to assess what progress has been

provides assistance in times of stress such as in illness and death.

Small Scale Business:

A number of women groups have begun to establish small scale businesses. These include posho mills, bakeries, transport etc. Technical assistance for these activities are usually sought from the women's Bureau and from field officers from other ministries that deal with the kind of work a group may wish to undertake. The Bureau also provides assistance in areas of budgeting and in the assessment of projects through the training unit which organises specific training programmes for women which include: Selection of Projects, Project Planning, Project Management etc.

Handicraft Development:

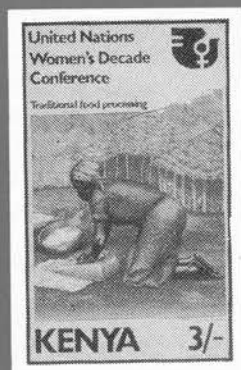
The Bureau assists women groups that engage in the production of handicrafts to improve the quality of their products through training and identification of marketing outlets. In this way such groups can engage in and seek opportunities for earning a cash income.



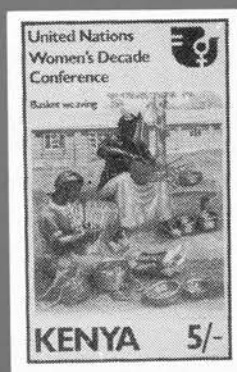
The women's Bureau has several units which provide services to women's groups to help



Repair of Water Pipes



Traditional Food Processing



Basket Weaving



Dress Making

The United Nations declared 1975 as an international Women's year out of a growing recognition that the full and equal participation of women was essential to world development and peace. The objective of the year was to define the requirements for a society in which women participate in a real and full sense in economic, social and political life and to devise strategies towards these goals. The focal point of the year was a United Nations International Conference held in Mexico city. The conference adapted a world plan of Action, representing a global consensus on what should be done to improve women's situation, and the declaration of Mexico on the Equality of women and their contribution to development and peace. The Mexico conference also called for the period 1976 to 1985 to be proclaimed by the United Nations as the Decade for women; a time to implement the world plan of action. These recommendations were subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

As a conclusion to the decade in 1985 the General Assembly decided to convene a world conference to be held at the Kenyatta International Conference

Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of the conference is to assess what progress has been achieved in the advancement of women during the decade and to identify any remaining obstacles preventing the full realization of the decades goals of Equality, Development and Peace. Secondly, in the light of this review, the conference will formulate priorities and strategies to overcome such obstacles and to implement the decades goals to the year 2000.

The women of Kenya have actively participated towards the implementation of the world plan of action for the integration of women in development which came out of the United Nations world conference on International Women's Year held in Mexico in 1975. This has been through the women's bureau which is a division in the department of social services in the Ministry of Culture and Social Services.

The Bureau plays a very important role in coordinating, evaluating and motivating women to contribute fully to the country's economic and social development.

The objectives of the women's Bureau are as follows:-

- i) to create awareness of the potential and actual position of women in national development and obstacles to their advancement in society.
- ii) to mobilise women for socio-economic activities.
- iii) to facilitate the re-orientation and training of government extension personnel, teachers, and others who are involved with activities of women and girls.
- iv) to liaise with government, non-governmental, international and bilateral agencies on questions relating to finding and implementation of programmes for improvement of the condition of women.
- v) to conduct research and data collection on the situation of women.

The activities of the women's Bureau are guided by a 5 year plan of action which gives priority in raising of social and income earning capabilities for women in rural areas. At the moment there are about 11,500 women groups. These groups engage themselves in various projects all over the country. The projects are as follows:-

Agricultural Projects:

The agricultural projects include livestock development and farming which depends on the differing ecological conditions in the country. These agricultural projects are; Rabbit, Bee, Poultry, cattle and pig keeping, goat and sheep rearing, fishing and fish ponds, groundnuts and sim sim projects, farming and vegetable growing. Women's groups are usually provided with technical assistance for those projects by extension officers from the Ministries of Culture and Social Services, Agriculture and Livestock Development.

Home Improvement:

Women's groups also undertake projects aimed at improving their living standards. Such programmes include nutrition, cookery and home improvement. They also contribute money to assist other group members purchase utensils, building materials and

provides assistance in times of stress such as in illness and death.

Small Scale Business:

A number of women groups have begun to establish small scale businesses. These include posho mills, bakeries, transport etc. Technical assistance for these activities are usually sought from the women's Bureau and from field officers from other ministries that deal with the kind of work a group may wish to undertake. The Bureau also provides assistance in areas of budgeting and in the assessment of projects through the training unit which organises specific training programmes for women which include: Selection of Projects, Project Planning, Project Management etc.

Handicraft Development:

The Bureau assists women groups that engage in the production of handicrafts to improve the quality of their products through training and identification of marketing outlets. In this way such groups can engage in and seek opportunities for earning a cash income.

The women's Bureau has several units which provide services to women's groups to help improve the work they do in their various projects.

The information unit serves as a clearing house for various categories of information by disseminating them to women in the rural areas and to policy makers, planners and other agencies involved in women development activities.

The training unit has the responsibility of identifying women's training needs and for fulfilling these needs. Study tours are also organised to enable women to travel within the country and to learn from other women new skills and experiences with projects which meet their particular needs and interest.

Research and data collection on the conditions of women in order to provide a sound basis for policy formulation, are also carried out.

Currently the women's Bureau is planning to initiate studies and evaluations of projects aimed at reviewing and appraising the situation of Kenya Women with respect to goals of the United Nations Decade for Women in areas of employment, health, education food and agriculture.

“ This conference is the culminating international event of the United Nations Decade for Women and its significance is enormous, dealing as it does with half of the world's population. Some two billion four hundred thousand human beings who, be they destitute women farmers struggling for a living to support their families or women pioneering in the field of science, affect in a most fundamental way the rest of humanity.

Many problems remain unsolved, but undeniably the decade has been instrumental in making governments, and the public at large recognize the importance and magnitude of women's role in society. This conference will build on the experience of the Decade and adopt comprehensive and forward-looking strategies to ensure that women, in their multiple roles can take their rightful place in society on an equal basis with men.

Women as public figures, individuals, wives and mothers, have a stake in shaping the future. May this conference serve as the catalyst which will usher in a dynamic, progressive and enlightened era in which women can contribute to and benefit from the sum total of humanity's aspirations and achievements.”

(Message from the Secretary General of the Conference).

It is in recognition of the importance of this UN Women's Decade Conference that the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation is issuing a set of special commemorative stamps. The stamps are in denominations of: Shs. 1/-, Shs. 3/-, Shs. 5/- and Shs. 7/-.



Release Date: 15th July 1985
Designer: J.O. Tobula/Harrison Studio
Printer: Harrison & Sons (Ltd)
Size: 27.94mm x 44.45mm
Format: Vertical
Set: 50 to a sheet in pane of 25
Process: Lithography
Values: Sh 1/- Repair of Water Pipes
Shs 3/- Traditional Food Processing
Shs 5/- Basket Weaving
Shs 7/- Dress Making



Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation

9/28/85 Thurs Striv

Women's conference stalls on resolutions

Associated Press

Nairobi, Kenya

Negotiators at the U.N. women's conference failed to meet a midnight deadline Wednesday on proposed resolutions concerning apartheid, Zionism and the status of Palestinian women living in Israeli-occupied territory.

Although the deadline was extended to this afternoon, the negotiators' failure to agree on the divisive political issues raised concerns that the conference, which ends Friday, would be unable to produce a final document.

Leticia Shahani, secretary-general of the U.N. Decade for Women conference, said she was confident "a common purpose, a common will" would emerge.

However, Shahani of the Philippines said the success of the conference hinged in part on the outcome of the political disputes.

The conference, which began July 15, drew 3,000 delegates from around the world to assess gains made by the women's movement from 1975 to 1985, a decade dedicated to women by the United Nations.

A final document, called "Forward Looking Strategies," is one of the goals of the conference. However, efforts toward reaching agreement on issues to be contained in the document have frayed over political issues that have split the conference along traditional lines. A proposed resolution describing Palestinian women in Israeli-occupied territory as victims of oppression has become one of the most controversial issues at the conference.

Women won't vacate rooms in Kenya

Nairobi, Kenya —UPI— Hundreds of American women challenged the Kenyan government Tuesday to use troops to evict them from hotel rooms to make way for other delegates coming to a United Nations women's conference.

The women have been given until Thursday to vacate their rooms in first-class downtown hotels and move into dormitories at the University of Nairobi.

Most of the US delegates represent organizations not sponsored by governments and are in the Kenyan capital for the start of Forum 85 Wednesday. That is a prelude to the UN Decade for Women Conference, which begins next week and has attracted government-supported delegations from around the world.

The hundreds of women facing

eviction are led by Betty Shapiro, chairman of the American Jewish Women's Caucus. The women told a press conference they would stage sit-ins rather than be evicted by the Kenyans.

"If the government sends in the troops, we will meet that situation as it occurs," Shapiro said. "We are trying to stay in our rooms."

Another spokeswoman, Jesse Hackes, of Washington, D.C., said the women had paid for rooms at such top-flight hotels as the Inter-Continental, Hilton and New Stanley well in advance.

The official UN delegations are expected in the Kenyan capital later in the week.

One delegate said the attempt to dislodge the non-affiliated delegates

showed "a lack of respect for all women."

The women passed resolutions to stay where they are and agreed to share their rooms with UN delegates as a compromise.

But Edna Gachukia, the head of the Kenyan delegation, said there were only 6,000 hotel beds in Nairobi available for the estimated 14,000 delegates expected for the two conferences. The university rooms would be adequate for the unaffiliated delegates, she said.

Victor Jackovich, a spokesman for the US Embassy, said American officials had told the Kenyan government of their concerns about the room shortage.

Did you

TEAM win?

MILWAUKEE, JULY 10



United Nations Association of Minnesota

NEWS

VOL. 19 NO. 1

Minneapolis-St. Paul

October, 1985

A Participant's View of the Women's Conference in Nairobi

Ed. Note: The United Nations Decade for Women was a major focus of UN activity from 1975 to 1985, ending with the World Conference in Nairobi this past summer to review the accomplishments of the past ten years and to develop strategies for action through the year 2000. Following are reports from two Minnesota women, one who participated in NGO & The Governmental Organizational meeting in Nairobi, and one who was instrumental in supporting the **Nairobi in Minnesota** conference in St. Paul.

Noha Ismail, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, went to the International Women's Conference in Nairobi out of personal interest to participate in the Non-governmental Organization meetings. Once she arrived, however, the official Palestinian Delegation asked her to join them because some of their delegates were unable to attend. Thus, Ismail also was able to take part in the Governmental Organization meetings. Here, in part, are her thoughts on the World Conference.

For two and a half weeks in July I was privileged to be among 14,000 women from all over the world to come together in Nairobi, Kenya, to share their work, dreams, frustrations, and to plan for the future. The event that brought us together was the World Conference marking the end of the UN Decade for Women. Our task was to review and appraise the progress made to date, to identify the obstacles yet to be overcome, and to develop forward-looking strategies for the year 2000.

For many women it was the first time in a gathering of this nature, providing them with a rare opportunity to share knowledge across cultural and natural boundaries. American women in jeans and sandals mingled with African women in colorful togas, Indians wearing elegant saris, and Iranians covered by somber black chadors. There were women of privilege and women who were greatly disadvantaged. Women who knew what was taking place in their countries and who had actually contributed to progress, and women who had no previous involvement in feminist issues but were eager to share their experiences and acquire new skills.

(continued on page 4, col. 1)



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The United Nations Learning & Accomplishing at 40

On October 24 we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The original charter was signed 40 years ago at the stately Herbst Theater in San Francisco on June 26, 1945.

Originally, 50 flags flew during the two months of discussion and debate leading to the finished charter. There are now 159 flags representing member countries.

The UN became, and remains, the only organization willing to face long-term conflict and violence as well as the short-term disagreements over the past four decades.

Paul Lusaka of Zambia (and a former grad student at the University of Minnesota) spoke of the UN as similar to "a good child" doing its best and learning "although often hampered by unloving parents." He also reminded delegates that the UN has acted as the "mother of (African National) independence, a mother of our birth as nation-states."

Three of the original signers remain and were present: our own Harold Stassen, Gen. Carlos Romulo of the Philippines and Lebanese minister to the U.S. in 1945, Dr. Charles Habib Malik.

St. Paul Theme "An Exciting Process: From Most Livable City, to a More Livable World" begins with a series of open house exhibits around Rice Park at 11:30-12:30 Thursday the 24th. The Library, Ordway, St. Paul Hotel and Landmark Center will participate with ice cream and cake served by city dignitaries.

(continued on page 3, col. 1)

Nairobi in Minnesota

by Jeanne Justus

A mid-summer conference drew over 400 women to the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul last July 13. The one-day meeting was organized by the Minnesota Worldwide Women Task Forces (MWWTF), composed of representatives of many women's groups.

Following an opening celebration on the eve of the conference, *Nairobi in Minnesota* featured three plenary discussion sessions and several workshops covering the principal themes and sub-themes of the Decade: Equality, Development and Peace, and Health, Education and Employment. Leaders came from the Caribbean and Canada as well as from Minnesota.

Minnesota is implementing an agenda through the year 2000 based on strategies identified in Nairobi. MWWTF is planning a spring meeting for April 19 to broaden the participation of MN women. On Aug. 22, 1985, 200 attended the first of these events, **An Evening of Debriefing**. A few of the MN women who went to Nairobi described the conference and the strategies targeted for the period 1985-2000.

Cellarage by David F. Juncker and Susan Bonne

Susan Bonne, free-lance writer and editor, has accepted the position of Editor of the UNAM Newsletter for 1985-86.

Dave Juncker, senior editor, will direct an editorial board including past presidents and editors to assist in developing long range newsletter improvements.

Susan has made her mark by suggesting that we adopt the practice of connecting the prefix UN to each of the organizations of the United Nations (UN WFO, UN World Bank, etc.) In this way we can emphasize the world organizations that many do not realize are members of the UN family.

Membership is a continuing challenge for the United Nations Association. The editorial board suggests that each Board Member make it a personal goal to recruit one new member a month. We can do it if we try.

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom."
Robert Milliken, Physics, 1923.

"Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote."
Grover Cleveland, 1905.

Revised: *"Apartheid will never be replaced as: Sensible and responsible Africans do not want self determination or the right to vote."*
Suwid, 1985.

"There is no likelihood that humans will ever be able to stop the arms race."
Suwid, 1985.

"There's no future in believing something that looks impossible, can't be done. Our future is in making it happen and starting today!"
Editors.

Special Programs

Peace and Justice Week, Oct. 18-27: Twin Cities Peace groups will present classes, vigils, celebrations, etc. to promote World Peace and Justice. Events include vigil in remembrance of the Beirut Marine barracks bombing and an Ecumenical service on "What Peace in the Mid-East Means to Me" on Oct. 23rd. For a complete list of activities, contact **Eleanor G. Otterness**, 331-6203.

A TEACHER'S CONFERENCE, open to the public, on Global Learning in Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations, will be held October 18, 1985, at the Blake School, 511 Kenwood Parkway, Minneapolis, co-sponsored by UNAM.

The Honorable **Harold Stassen**, one of the three living Charter signees, will open the meeting. **David Weissbrodt**, Professor of Law (U of MN) and lifelong advocate of human rights, will speak on "UN Actions for Human Rights." **Ronald J. Glasser** will address the group on experiences as a war-time medical officer in Viet Nam.

Eleven discussion sessions cover various issues confronting the UN. The program demonstrates the many contributions that the humanities and social sciences make to international understanding. (Supported in part by the York Langton Fund, UNAM.)

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(612) 333-2824

Twin·Mn·World

- Want to read the best of the alternative press? Pick up an issue of *Utne Reader*, a magazine which culls the articles for you from hundreds of sources. *Utne Reader* is published by Eric Utne of Minneapolis and is available at selected newsstands or by subscription. Write to *Utne Reader*, P.O. Box 1974, Marion, OH 43305.
- John Edie, former headmaster at Blake School, was honored June 26 at the annual meeting of Minnesota World Federalists for his long and dedicated teaching leadership. Mr. Edie now works with statewide Minnesota teachers as a volunteer on global education in cooperation with the Minnesota College of Education and World Affairs Center (see events).
- The Immigration History Center will celebrate their 20th Anniversary with a dinner at Landmark Center November 2, 1985. Call Velma Dobi at 373-5581 for more information.
- Make a point to connect with CONNECT, the Consortium on New Educational and Cultural Ties with the Soviet Union, founded and run by Paula DeCosse of Minneapolis. CONNECT is comprised of three groups: US-USSR Youth Exchange Program in San Francisco, YouthLink of Minneapolis, and Vision of Peace in New Jersey. CONNECT's first joint project is the US-USSR Youth Art Exchange, on display September 16 through October 31 at the downtown YWCA, by appointment, and open all Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Contact Linda Harris for more information at 332-0501.
- Minnesota's International Diabetes Center has been designated the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Diabetes Management and Education, the only Center so designated in the world. Dr. Donnell Etzwiler is Director of the International Diabetes Center.
- The Japan American Society of MN held its fall meeting at 3M, Tartan Park. Kevin Oshima, talented bonsai expert, and Betty Ryer, flower arrangement master, displayed their work and fielded questions concerning bonsai and ikebana flower arrangement techniques.

UNA Minnesota 1985-86

Programs & Projects David F. Juncker, V.P.

Day after day we are reminded by sheer volume from our postal services of the growing numbers of peace, justice, global issues, and other pertinent organizations vying for our attention, cash contribution and local action. I join Tom Atchison, our new UNAM President, in feeling both pleased and excited by the increasing level of public awareness of global issues.

To be successful in our mission, in today's environment, UNAM must carefully attend to the areas and services which reflect our expertise and ability to affect change. This will mean a commitment to limiting the number of projects and further, a dedication toward effective presentation and evaluation of select programs.

Tom, with his multitude of connections to related organizations, will continue to provide necessary linkages enabling others to assist and become acquainted with our programs.

Your program committee, though open to every idea we can solicit, will continue to focus on the following short list of projects:

- Oct 16 World Food Day Celebration
- 40th Anniversary of the UN-World Food Organization
- Oct 24 United Nations 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Oct 25 UN Rally
- Dec 10 UN Human Rights Day "When the Conscience is Wounded"
- Jan-Apr Statewide Multilateral Study on Peaceful Uses of Space. Robert T. Jones, former head of NASA, (NACA) and Dr. Arthur Kantrowitz, physicist and former head of AVCO-Everett Research Labs.

...Global Awareness and...

International UN Days

- Sep 8 International Literacy Day
- Oct 16 World Food Day
- Oct 24 United Nations Day
- Oct 21-27 UN Disarmament Week
- Oct 31 UNICEF Day
- Dec 10 Human Rights Day (1948)
- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Mar 21 International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Apr 7 World Health Day (WHO - 1948)
- May 17 World Communication Day
- Jun 5 World Environment Day

International Years and Decades

- 1986: International Year of Peace
- 1987: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
- 1981-90: Third UN Development Decade
- 1981-90 International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
- 1981-90 Second Disarmament Decade
- 1983-92: UN Decade of Disabled Persons
- 1984-93: Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

World Conferences

- 1986: UN Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

...Local Actions and...

- Sep-Dec Buy your UNICEF Holiday Cards at the Store, 1026 Nicollet Ave.
- Oct 4-6 Peace Child Festival
- Oct 16 World Food Day Celebration
- Oct 18 Global Education in Minnesota (GEM) Social Studies Teachers' Workshop
- Oct 24 UN Day - 40th Celebration
St. Paul Theme: An Exciting Process: From Most Livable City, to a More Livable World; 11:30 a.m., Rice Park (Landmark, St. Paul Hotel Library, and Ordway)
Minneapolis Theme: Global Opportunities: Through the Practical Eyes of Our Children; 12:00 noon, Bob Keeshan, Westminster Forum. 1:00 p.m., US-USSR Youth Art Exchange Exhibit, YWCA (Peavey Plaza). Anniversary cake and ice cream.
Duluth: Lectures Oct. 31 and Nov. 1
- Oct 25 UN Rally, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis.
Brian Urquhart (UN) "Does UN Life Begin at 40?"
Dr. Hartley Clark (Carleton College) "UN and Conflict Resolution"
Arvonne Fraser (Humphrey Institute) "Report From Nairobi"
Charlotte Hartwig (St. Olaf College) "Report From Nairobi"
- Oct 20-27 Peace and Justice Week (Twin Cities Peace Coalition Groups)
- Nov 5 Election Day (VOTE)
- Dec 10 Human Rights Day

...Global Awareness and...

Let Us All Paint Peace

by a young Israeli girl as quoted by Mrs. Ofira Navon, wife of the President of Israel at the IYC Conference in Mexico in November 1979

*I had a box of colors
Shining, bright and bold;
I had a box of colors
Some warm some very cold.
I had no reds for the blood wounds,
I had no black for the orphans' grief
I had no white for dead faces and hands,
I had no yellow for burning sands.
But I had orange for the joy of life,
And I had green for buds and nests
I had blue for bright clear skies,
I had pink for dreams and rest
I sat down and painted peace.*

New Officers for UNAM 1985-86

President: Thomas Atchison 941-3508
1st Vice President: Martin Hirabayashi 920-5180
2nd Vice President: David Juncker 824-2317
3rd Vice President: Doreen Johnson 724-7442
Secretary: Marian Raup 644-7491
Treasurer: Randy Zats 926-3513

New Board Members for UNAM 1985-86

Three year term; first term:

Robert Erickson
Bobbi McAdoo Gahlon
Dorothea Garwick
John Carl Hancock
John G. Harrison
Brian Job
Zehra Avsar Keye
Lynn Lindsay
Louise Platt
Margaret Shideman
Nathan Smith

Two year term to fill vacancies:

George Billings
Jan Fiola
Ruth Jamieson
Sister Mary Henry Nachtsheim
Carolyn Sorensen

Nominating Committee

Marguerite Benson
P. Richard Bohr
Esther Piper
Joann Youngstrom
Paul Sand, Chair

Silver Tea

On September 16, the downtown YWCA hosted a Silver Tea in honor of Princess Alexandra as part of the British Festival. Princess Alexandra is a first cousin to Queen Elizabeth.

"Soviet Hands - Today/Tomorrow," an exhibit of the art of Soviet children, opened concurrently at the YWCA's Source Gallery. Guests of the Silver Tea had a preview of the show before it opened to the public. The exhibit was sponsored by the YWCA, Connect (Consortium on New Educational and Cultural Ties with the Soviet Union), and the Peace Child Project.

The Silver Tea and art exhibit was a smashing success, with attendance of about 500. The Princess Alexandra was charming - warm, gracious and attentive to those who came to greet her.



Liudmila Tatoyan, age 13, Madina, Armenian Republic, USSR

"All children are gifted. It does not matter whether an alumni will become artists, actors, or journalists or not. The important thing is that they become decent human beings. And art plays an enormous role in achieving this." Genrikh Kifian, Director, Museum of Children's Art, Yerevan, Armenia, USSR.

President's Perspective by Tom Atchison

UNAM programs are the crux of our organization. They provide the education and action for our members and for the public that is needed to promote the principles of the UN and to help demonstrate its potential for making this a better and more peaceful world. They provide the impetus for increasing our membership and augmenting our financial support from the community. It is my hope that more of our members will take on a larger role in planning and carrying out our programs.

I want to remind you of some additional programs: the Volunteers Party at the Hirabayashi's on October 1, the Peace Child Festival in Peavey Plaza on October 5, the Global Learning Conference at Blake School on October 18, the 40th Birthday celebrations on the Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis and in Rice Park in Saint Paul on October 24, and the UN Rally at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency on October 25.

Governor Perpich has appointed Harold Stassen as State Chair for the 40th Anniversary of the establishing of the UN and we have asked Mayors Don Fraser and George Latimer to themselves serve as Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chairs. Ambassador Peter Dailey, appointed National Chair by President Reagan, is organizing a nation-wide essay contest for high school students on how the UN can use the experience of the past forty years and the principles of the Charter to increase its effectiveness in meeting the challenges of the future.

Beyond UN week we will be joining with other groups in recognizing Human Rights Day (December 10), and in organizing the International Conference on Tolerance for Diversity of Religion and Belief.

Please take the initiative to join in planning, carrying out and participating in these and other activities that will make our Association a vital and influential part of your life and the life of our community.

Memorial Contributions Received

Eugene O'Brien
Amos Deinard
Mrs. Dorothy Jacobson

United Nations Day

(cont'd from page 1)
In Minneapolis the theme will be "Global Opportunities through the Practical Eyes of our Children." Bob Keeshan (Captain Kangaroo) will speak at the Westminster Forum, 12 noon, followed by an exhibit in the YWCA gallery of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Youth Art Exchange. City dignitaries will distribute anniversary cake and ice cream.

Duluth will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the UN October 31 and November 1. Dr. Thomas Clifford, President of the University of North Dakota, is the featured speaker.

Dr. Clifford, an economist and educator, has a law degree and is a decorated veteran of the Second World War.

His two subjects, "Peace Conferences on University Campuses" and "The United Nations' Contribution to Economic Development Around the World" will be presented at three locations: at noon October 31 at a Duluth UN and Rotary Club luncheon; at St. Scholastica, 7:30 p.m. on the 31st, and on November 1 at UMD, 9:00 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

1984/85 Multilateral Final Report

Keeping the Peace in Troubled Times: Recommendations for Multilateral Action. More than 50 community study panels participated and prepared reports which were synthesized by the Association's staff into a single consensus report of 30 pages. Copies are available through the UNAM office for \$4.50.

The concluding paragraphs of the report state: "Humanity now faces the ultimate danger of nuclear war. If local wars are not prevented or contained they could escalate to a global conflagration that could put an end to human civilization. We cannot outlaw war, but we can work to develop a system of international norms and institutions that can contribute to maintaining international peace and security..."

"World peace is threatened by nothing so much as by what can accurately be called the immaturity of the international political system. If the United Nations is to enjoy any degree of success in the struggle against endless conflict, the mature cooperation of governments is a bedrock necessity."

World Food Day

UNAM is sponsoring a World Food Day program on October 16, to increase understanding of the goals and accomplishments of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and to raise funds for the program budget of UNAM.

INTERNATIONALLY, UN World Food Day offers a unique and effective means for mounting a unified global effort to decrease hunger and build food security for all.

EDOUARD SAOUMA ON WORLD FOOD DAY

Lebanese-born and an agronomist by training, Saouma began his career with the FAO in 1962. He became Director-General in 1976. In this role, he has been a leader in calling on the governments and peoples of the world to end what he has called "the biggest scandal of our times: hunger in the midst of plenty."

FAO's singular purpose is to lead the global war on hunger and malnutrition so that no one anywhere will go to bed hungry - or starve to death. The task is enormous, but we aim at nothing less.

As the Director-General of the leading international organization in the development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, I see food as the first and foremost of all human rights.

Efforts to end hunger must be global, because the problem is global. The solution needs a dynamic, concerted and continuous attack by all. That is what FAO endeavors to mount. But an attack means action. Hunger can be virtually eliminated well before the end of the century. But not by science and technology alone. The challenge calls for a bold political response and a clear determination to act. The fact that food is the foremost issue gains acceptance in summit meetings, from Lagos to Cancun, but action often lags behind.

There is no single universal recipe, but some steps are vital for such an historic achievement.

First, farmers must be given good incentives to grow more food. Prices should tilt in favor of the farmers, in a break from past practices of keeping food prices down for the exclusive benefit of those who live in the cities.

Second, increased investment. We estimate that gross investment in agricultural production, storage and marketing should reach some \$180 billion a year by the end of the century.

Third, redirection of research and development to make them more oriented to the problems of food production in developing countries.

Fourth, small farmers and landless laborers should have easier access to land, water, markets and services including training.

And, since we are living in an age of interdependence, there has to be an improvement in the international framework. That means lowering trade barriers, concerted action on world food security and increasing external assistance to agriculture.

1026 Update

UNAM CENTER GIFT SHOP AND UNICEF ACTIVITIES

UNICEF. UNICEF will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in December 1985. This is a remarkable accomplishment of steady and committed championship of service to children. In anticipation of the anniversary, Marjorie Swanson, our UNICEF Chairman, has available for sale not only the beautiful and traditional UNICEF cards for all occasions but gift items specially designed for you. Ask her about the "mug with Christmas card design."

GIFT SHOP. The gift shop which was started more than ten years ago is now UNAM's proud "Window to the Public." Manned by a large number of UNAM members and friends who give their time voluntarily, the gift shop is a wonderful place to visit. The shop is one of the few places in the Twin Cities where one can purchase "travel around the world with us," reasonably priced, unique and practical gift items. And new items are being added in response to buyer interests. Most importantly for UNAM and members is that the gift shop and UNICEF sales provide direct financial support for UNAM. For your consideration and pleasure, Shirley Dahl, our gift shop buyer, has ordered new merchandise below for the Fall and Holiday Season. Visit us soon!

New Merchandise for Fall and Holiday Sales Includes:

- kits of wood and paper scale model houses, shops and village buildings from England
- spun glass pianos, ballerinas, animals and birds
- coated paper mobiles from Denmark
- houses of inlaid straw from China, with a surprise; also, silk-lined boxes
- exquisite gold-plated candleholders with sparkling crystal drops from Sweden
- lovely silver and stone inlay earrings from Taxco, Mexico
- pine needle baskets, ducks and wreaths

Coming for Christmas:

- ornaments galore, from Austria, Sweden, Africa, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Peru and others
- a variety of pinecone wreaths, spice balls and nosegays
- beautiful wrapping papers
- tree tops of capiz shell, brass, wood and blown glass

These are just a *sampling* of the beautiful and unique treasures you will find. And don't forget, UNAM Members have a **10% discount!**

(continued from page 1)

Amid all of this diversity and variety we were bound together by a common cause. We were not surprised to learn that discrimination against women is not exactly the same from country to country; nevertheless, it is a worldwide problem. The statistics alone are staggering. While women represent half of the world population, they perform nearly two-thirds of all working hours, receive only one-tenth of the world income, and own less than 1% of world property.

Several hundred panels, workshops, group discussions, committees, exhibits and performances facilitated the exchange of ideas. Participants were eager to acknowledge the wide range of national and regional gains made during the past ten years. Unquestionably, there is a growing recognition given to women and their needs today. Ninety percent of the world's governments now have organizations promoting the advancement of women. International and regional centers for training and research have sprung up all over the world, bringing about gradual change in funding patterns designed to draw women into the mainstream of national life. They are all part of a movement some observers have claimed is the most important development of the twentieth century.

But we were also mindful of the obstacles that have yet to be overcome. Nowhere is women's burden heavier than in the Third World. At a time when women in industrialized countries are fighting for access to corporate ladders, equal pay, and day-care for their children, many Third World women are struggling just to maintain their most basic human right, survival. As one delegate put it "to talk feminism to a woman who has no water, no food, and no home, and who is struggling to survive under a racist or oppressive regime is to talk nonsense." So, inevitably, the discussions at times turned to problems of development, international conflict, commercial exploitation, and the need for a new economic order.

Much of the media and some Western delegates sharply criticized the process and accused the Third World of "co-opting" and "politicizing" the conference. But it is naive to expect the women of the world to limit their concerns to welfare issues at an international conference that calls for them to take a more active role in the decision-making process.

When Apartheid was introduced as an agenda item in Nairobi, it was a legitimate issue since this abhorrent system does not distinguish between the sexes. South African women, like men, are vulnerable to imprisonment, torture, reprisals, and other oppressive practices. When the question of Palestinian women living under Israeli rule is discussed in an international gathering of government representatives, it, too, is a legitimate issue. Like all Palestinians, they suffer from the long drawn-out effects of a military occupation and the denial of their right to self-determination. They are also subject to discrimination in employment, health care and education. These special and immediate needs of women should be identified and discussed, and they should be given broad publicity to promote action on all levels.

We would be fooling ourselves if we went along with the notion that politics is strictly the domain of men, and that women should stay out of it. It is impossible to separate between women's rights and human political rights at a time when expenditure on armament far outweighs expenditure on social programs, and when more than two-thirds of the world's refugees are women and children.

What has the conference accomplished? It accomplished as much as any UN conference could, within its parameters. It trained an international spotlight on the plight of women worldwide and accentuated the need for social reform. By focusing on global themes, it also showed that while women may differ in priorities, strategies and perspectives, they all have a common identity in that they share in the same basic inequities. After much discussion, this is what enabled the delegates to reach consensus on the conference final document which identifies their goals and objects and which was submitted to the UN General Assembly for approval. Since these resolutions are not binding, the ultimate success of the document depends on the member states themselves and the degree to which they are committed to enhancing the participation of women in their societies, both as agents and as beneficiaries.

The resounding message from Nairobi is that the issue of equality for women should remain on the world agenda until such reforms are implemented. It is a long-term process and one that will require much patience, hard work, and effective leadership. It is hoped that the vast interaction among women in Nairobi and the intercultural networks that were formed as a result of the conference will help in transforming regional feminist issues into global concerns and keep the spirit of the UN Decade for Women alive.

— Noha S. Ismail
Member of the Palestinian Delegation

NOTICE:

Has your ZIP CODE changed? If so, please contact Jan Massey at the UNAM office at 333-2824. We want you to continue to get all of our mailings!



Women, Public Policy and Development Project

Arvonne Fraser, Senior Fellow and Project Director (612) 376-9785
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DRAFT

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

WITHOUT LEAVING HOME

The agenda for the U.N. world women's conference scheduled for Nairobi, Kenya in July, 1985, is also an agenda for every women's organization and for groups of women's organizations within specific geographic areas. It calls for looking backward to see how far we have come during the U.N. Decade for Women--the last ten years, assessing the obstacles encountered, and then looking ahead. The look ahead involves developing strategies in the light of current and future trends to achieve equal partnership with men by the 21st century. Understanding how far a group has moved empowers that group to continue and even accelerate the momentum for the advancement of women. It also allows for a realistic appraisal of what's still needed to be done if the goal of equal partnership is to be reached.

Put in U.N. language, the agenda calls for:

- a critical review and appraisal of achievements during the last decade
- an analysis of the difficulties or obstacles encountered in achieving objectives
- a look at probable future trends
- formulating strategies for the advancement of women based on experience and on perspectives to the year 2000.

The World Plan of Action from the first world women's conference and the World Programme of Action from the 1980 conference lay out a series of objectives for women internationally. Generally, these are grouped under the three themes of the Decade: equality, development and peace and revolve around the three sub-themes of education, employment and health of women. At the 1980 conference, seven other priority areas were identified. These are: food, rural women, child care, migrant women, unemployed women, the female-headed household, and young women.

Every women's organization has had its own agenda and activities that fall under one or more of these categories or themes. Individual organizations can then look back at the situation ten years ago, review their activities and their accomplishments, analyze the difficulties or obstacles encountered by the group in their area, and then develop an action plan for the future.

This could be done by reviewing the organization's files of meeting minutes, newsletters, notices of events, newspaper clippings, etc. Then, in a group, members could discuss what it was like ten years ago, what their expectations and problems were then and how things have changed over the span of time. Some groups may find they met their original objectives and discovered new areas that needed attention. Others may find their original objectives were too difficult or more complicated than they had first anticipated and either the group changed its course or adapted new strategies. In either case, this review and appraisal will serve as a solid base on which to look ahead.

External conditions may have changed. The world is not the same as it was a decade ago. What are the current and future trends in the area in which your group operates? How does this affect your activities? What are the specific goals and objectives in your area to be reached by the year 2000? How can progress be made toward achieving these new goals? What needs to be done first, second, and third? How does the work of other groups affect what your group does? Has collaboration with other groups increased the movement toward achieving objectives?

Many groups are a part of larger networks--either as affiliates or sister organizations. If the results of the review and appraisal, of using the U.N. agenda, are shared with other groups, can the objectives be achieved more easily? Is there something to be gained from sharing information and experiences? Will sharing the results of one group's appraisal lead to collaboration and cooperation and increased effectiveness?

Organizations with national and international interests might collect the results of appraisals at the local level, analyze them for case studies of successes in achieving goals or overcoming obstacles or for effective strategies and share the results with all branches of the organization. During this national or international analysis, common experiences and common objectives might be found and shared.

Organizations at the local level might encourage other groups to do reviews and appraisals within their organizations and share the results. Groups working on similar objectives might then decide to collaborate. Other groups might decide to pool resources or develop plans to send a representative to national meetings or to the non-governmental forum at Nairobi. Still others might decide to learn what similar women's organizations in another country might be working on and thus introduce an international dimension into their own programming.

In short, one needn't leave home to be a participant--a part of--international activity in advancing women. Activities on the local level are an essential underpinning for improving the status of women. While there are differences among women just as there are differences between countries, many similarities remain. Women's organizations on the local level have provided the energy and the achievements for women during the Decade for Women. They will continue to be the base for advancement in the future.

WORLDWIDE WOMEN

MISSION:

The WORLDWIDE WOMEN TASK FORCE is dedicated to attaining the goals and objectives of the U. N. Decade for Women -- equality, development and peace, and the subthemes of employment, health and education.

Working with the Non-governmental Planning Committee we seek to facilitate and coordinate the efforts of the non-governmental organizations in Minnesota to achieve the objectives of the 1985 U. N. Conference for Women. These are:

1. Provide for a critical review and appraisal of the achievements during the Decade, the difficulties encountered in achieving the objectives, and possible future trends.
2. Formulate strategies that will identify and recommend concrete methods for the advancement of women to be applied at local, regional, national, and international levels, based on experience during the Decade and on perspectives to the year 2000.

GOALS:

1. Participating non-governmental organizations will each provide a critical review and appraisal of their achievements within the organization, the difficulties encountered in achieving the objectives of the decade, and possible future trends.
2. Participating non-governmental organizations will formulate strategies that will identify and recommend concrete methods for the advancement of women to be applied at local, regional, national and international levels, based on experience during the Decade and on perspectives to the year 2000.
3. The Women, Public Policy and Development project of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs will compile and analyze the data obtained from participating non-governmental organizations and working with the World wide Women Task Force and participating organizations will formulate recommendations for Minnesota. These recommendations will be disseminated to Minnesota organizations and the appropriate U. N. groups.
4. The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs will disseminate findings of the 1985 U. N. International Conference on Women to Minnesota non-governmental organizations.
5. Participating non-governmental organizations will demonstrate that they have taken specific measurable steps toward achieving the objectives of the U. N. Decade for Women.

GLOBAL
SISTERHOOD:
INTERNATIONAL
COUNTERPART
ORGANIZATION
LINKAGE

Women's Organizations Profile

Worldwide Women's Task Force, U.N. Decade for Women

Name of organization _____

Mailing address _____

Name of contact person _____ Phone _____

1. How long has your organization been in existence?

_____ less than 1 year

_____ 1 - 3 years

_____ 4 - 5 years

_____ 6 - 10 years

_____ 11 - 20 years

_____ over 20 years

2. Please circle the primary areas of focus for your organization.
(These are organized within the themes of the U.N. Decade for Women.)

Circle as many as apply.

EQUALITY

power and authority
political representation
decision making
careers and jobs
leadership
empowerment
subjugation
family violence
rape
sexual abuse
sexual harrassment
pornography

EMPLOYMENT

careers and jobs
benefits (insurance,
maternity/family leave,
flex-time, childcare)
job evaluation/promotions
skills/training
leadership development
re-entering labor force
pink collar concerns
pay equity
upward mobility
unions
migrant women
rural/farm women
minimum wage
unemployment
under-employment

penalty

DEVELOPMENT

political
economic
social
cultural
agricultural
technological
Third World

HEALTH

nutrition
fitness
pre-natal
birthing
infant health
family planning
sexuality
mental health
first aid
chemical dependency
food/water
aging

PEACE

nuclear freeze
disarmament
trade equity
global unity
diplomacy
amnesty
conflict resolution

EDUCATION

early childhood
child care
parenting
skill development
vocational training
political involvement
leadership development
life-long learning
global/international
literacy
information network
disabled training
information sharing
career counseling
on-job training
curriculum development
non-sexist resources
non-racist resources
sex education

2.a. If you circled more than one area, please indicate the
one area most focused on by circling it twice.

What strategies does your organization use in addressing the areas circled in #2?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> classes | <input type="checkbox"/> serving as role models |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conferences | <input type="checkbox"/> organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> giving programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> membership meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> making speeches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> political activism | <input type="checkbox"/> providing support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> gathering data |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> writing articles/newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

3.a. Please double circle the strategy most used by your organization, if more than one applies.

4. Which of the following groups does your organization primarily serve?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> children | <input type="checkbox"/> older women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teens | <input type="checkbox"/> mothers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> young adults | <input type="checkbox"/> unemployed women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working women | <input type="checkbox"/> women and men |
| <input type="checkbox"/> all women | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> minority women | _____ |

5. In brief, what is the goal of your organization? _____

6. What methods does your organization use in working toward its goals?
Rate as to methods importance and use, if more than one applies:

- 1 = very important and used
2 = important and used
3 = important, but not used
4 = not important, not used

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> public meetings/hearings | <input type="checkbox"/> organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> educational conferences/workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> disseminating educational materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lobbying | <input type="checkbox"/> political campaigning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrations | <input type="checkbox"/> financial support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> issue research |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> networking |

What are the 2 most pressing issues facing the constituency with which you work?

8. In thinking about some of the barriers your organization faces in achieving its goals, please complete the following statement by circling those that apply.

Some of the obstacles we encounter in fulfilling our mission include:

Internal obstacles

lack of money
 lack of staff
 lack of volunteers
 lack of members
 lack of materials
 lack of skills in leaders
 insufficient follow-through
 by leaders
 by members
 lack of interest/involvement
 by members
 insufficient planning
 communication problems
 other _____

External obstacles

lack of appropriate/adequate laws
 poor existing laws
 lack of enforcement of laws
 red tape/bureaucracy
 problems in the work place
 unemployment
 underemployment
 lack of education/training
 lack of resources/opportunities
 lack of/inadequate child care
 sexual/racial/ethnic/religious
 tensions or prejudice
 lack of support of public/corporate/
 governmental leaders
 lack of community support
 lack of awareness of problems
 other _____

9. Thinking back on what your organization was like 10 years ago (or since its inception, if it is less than 10 years old)...list 5 ways your organization is different today.

- (1) _____
 (2) _____
 (3) _____
 (4) _____
 (5) _____

10. Now shift forward. The year 2000 is only 15 years away. Thinking ahead to that time, what 5 things would you like your organization to have accomplished by that year?

- (1) _____
 (2) _____
 (3) _____
 (4) _____

The natural follow-up question to #10 is to ask what your organizational plan of action will be to achieve your goals by the year 2000. If you do establish such a plan, Worldwide Women would very much appreciate your sharing it with us. One of the strongest recommendations from the U.N. Decade for Women meetings has been that women's organizations be urged to engage in a "Looking Back/Looking Forward" process in order to achieve equal partnership by 2000. We are interested in hearing of your plans and progress.

We have a few final questions.

11. Is your organization interested in developing more of an international or global perspective?

☐ yes ☐ no

12. Would your organization be interested in establishing a link to an organization in another country who shares a similar focus?

☐ yes ☐ no

13. Is your organization interested in participating in a "Looking Back/Looking Forward" planning process developed by Worldwide Women from the recommendation of the U.N. Decade for Women?

☐ yes ☐ no

14. Is your organization interested in participating in a regional conference on the U.N. Decade for Women?

☐ yes ☐ no

15. Please feel free to comment or make suggestions in the space below.

We thank you for your time and thoughtfulness in completing this questionnaire. We intend to synthesize and analyze the information collected and present it at the U.N. Decade Conference in Nairobi in July, 1985 and at a regional conference to be held in Minnesota in the fall of 1985.

Worldwide Women is affiliated with the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the Minnesota Women's Consortium, but operates entirely on volunteer energy. If your organization is interested and supportive of our efforts, a contribution of any size would be greatly appreciated in order to include more organizations and groups in our research and planning activities. Checks may be made to Worldwide Women Task Force and sent to

THANK YOU again for your participation.



1975-1985 / UN DECADE FOR WOMEN

1975 - First World Conference
for Women, Mexico City
1980 - Mid-Decade Women's Con-
ference, Copenhagen
1985 - End of Decade Women's
Conference, Nairobi
1985 - NAIROBI CONFERENCE IN
MINNESOTA

WHAT IS WORLDWIDE WOMEN -
MINNESOTA?

It's Minnesota women getting involved in review-
ing and appraising achievements made during the
UN DECADE and joining with other WOMEN WORLDWIDE
TO SET A PLAN OF ACTION TO REACH EQUAL PARTNER-
SHIP BY 2000 through PEACE, EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT:
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION?

- LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD process - a tool to measure achievements, set goals, develop a vision for the future.
- PLAN OF ACTION - an action agenda developed locally, national-ly, internationally
- GLOBAL SISTERHOOD - internationalizing perspectives, linking with a counterpart organization in another country/region/ participate in the "Sisterhood is Global" conference planned by Twin Cities NOW - October 27, 1984
- EQUAL PARTNERSHIP BY 2000 - joining with women locally, nationally, regionally and internationally to empower women and girls for equality

CO-SPONSORS OF WORLDWIDE WOMEN - MINNESOTA:

Minnesota Women's Consortium
Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Office of Women, Public
Policy and Development, University of Minnesota

(clip and return)



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS PROJECT

1985 World Conference on Women. "Looking toward the year 2000" is the central theme proposed for a third U.N. World conference on women planned to be held in 1985. If women are to be equal partners with men in the 21st century, then girls and young women must become a focus of attention in the remainder of this century. Their education, health, employability, and participation in families and in society are important questions for every nation and community. The purpose of this segment of the project is to build on past conferences, encourage women's organizations, policy makers, and the U.N. conferences in 1985 to discuss and develop tangible means of assisting today's girls and women in becoming equal partners in the world of the 21st century.

International Equal Partners Network: Women's organizations all over the world are designing and carrying out projects, issuing publications, discussing women's issues in their communities and nation, and attempting to influence public policy. There is little communication between these organizations, especially on the experiences of the leaders and members of these organizations. A model for an International Equal Partners network is being designed to facilitate exchanges among non-governmental organizations and their members. The network could issue publications listing international, national, and regional meetings planned; the results of those meetings; publications available and where to obtain them; and collect and publish data on the status of women and women's organizations. The network could also provide a meeting place for informal task forces or other groups working on specific policy issues--education, employment, health, young women and girls, etc. Membership in the network could be on an organizational, institutional or individual basis.

International Women's Assistance Organization: Getting small grants to Third World women's organizations doing self-help projects at the grass roots level is an important development goal. Large donors--governmental and private--are often incapable of finding, assessing, evaluating or giving technical assistance to small projects, because it is not cost-effective. Small donors who may want to help Third World women's projects often have no vehicle for doing so. Third World women's groups often cannot provide the financial and written reports required by donors, either because of illiteracy, language barriers or lack of training in Western financial and reporting methods. Some projects need small amounts of technical assistance--marketing, training, appropriate technology, project design, management, or reporting. A design for a new organization would include matching resources and needs through a fiscal and technical assistance intermediary. A U.S. arm of the proposed organization could be set up to assure tax-deductibility of private contributions and to receive and disburse U.S. government funds, if available.

Arvonne Fraser
Senior Fellow, Project Director
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WOMEN, PUBLIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

DRAFT

International Segment
Arvonne Fraser, Director
(612) 376-9785

The purpose of the project is to understand the role of women's organizations in helping to improve the situation and circumstances of women at the international, national and local levels.

The focus of the project is the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-85), the three world conferences on women associated with the Decade and the interaction of non-governmental women's organizations (NGOs) and governmental institutions.

The goal of the project is equal partnership between men and women.

The objectives of the project are to measure the achievements of women's organizations in terms of policies and programs developed and to develop strategies for furthering the progress of women, looking to the year 2000.

Three sub-projects are underway: 1) to inform women's organizations about the projected 1985 World Conference on Women and assist in preparations for that conference; 2) to develop an International Equal Partners Network of women's organizations which share the goals and objectives of the Decade; 3) to develop an International Women's Assistance Organization to raise and distribute funds in small grants to Third World women's organizations doing self-help projects at the grass roots level.

The rationale for the project is that non-governmental organizations are a necessary complement to governments and that if women are to be equal partners with men they must participate in decision making about all aspects of life. Only if women organize into groups to promote their interests and train themselves for equal partnership will their goals be achieved.

The two world conferences on women--the 1975 Mexico City World Conference of International Women's Year and the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women--were organized around the themes of equality, development and peace. The sub-themes of the 1980 conference were: education, employment, health. The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) serves as the preparatory committee for the 1985 conference. "The agenda is expected to reflect the conference's main aim of providing an international forum for reviewing the achievements of the UN Decade for Women (1976 to 1985), while formulating strategies for advancement of women at national, regional and international levels." (UN Information Service UNIS/WOM/51) The UNCSW met in Vienna in February, 1983 and will meet again in 1984 and 1985 in preparatory sessions for the 1985 conference which is expected to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

3/16/83

2 + a

violence against women increasing
women in decision making positions.
goal: equal partnerships - how to do it.

COPENHAGEN PROGRAMME OF ACTIONIntroduction

Despite international politics, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held in Copenhagen from July 14-30, 1980, moved women in development a giant step forward. One hundred and thirty-six governments were represented by 1183 delegates who met to consider the progress made and obstacles encountered in meeting the five year minimum goals which were set at the 1975 Mexico City World Conference of International Women's Year. These goals were set forth in the World Plan of Action and are:

- "(a) Marked increase in literacy and civic education of women, especially in rural areas;
- "(b) The extension of co-educational technical and vocational training in basic skills to women and men in the industrial and agricultural sectors;
- "(c) Equal access at every level of education, compulsory primary school education and the measures necessary to prevent school drop-outs;
- "(d) Increased employment opportunities for women, reduction of unemployment and increased efforts to eliminate discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment;
- "(e) The establishment and increase of the infrastructural services required in both rural and urban areas;
- "(f) The enactment of legislation on voting and eligibility for election on equal terms with men, equal opportunity and conditions of employment including remuneration, and on equality in legal capacity and the exercise thereof;
- "(g) Encouragement of a greater participation of women in policy-making positions at the local, national and international levels;
- "(h) Increased provision for comprehensive measures for health education and services, sanitation, nutrition, family education, family planning and other welfare services;
- "(i) Provision for parity in the exercise of civil, social and political rights such as those pertaining to marriage, citizenship and commerce;
- "(j) Recognition of the economic value of women's work in the home in domestic food production and marketing and voluntary activities not traditionally remunerated;
- "(k) The direction of formal, non-formal and life-long education towards the re-evaluation of the man and woman, in order to ensure their full realization as an individual in the family and in society;

- "(l) The promotion of women's organizations as an interim measure within workers' organizations and educational, economic and professional institutions;
- "(m) The development of modern rural technology, cottage industry, pre-school day centres; time- and energy-saving devices so as to help reduce the heavy work load of women, particularly those living in rural sectors and for the urban poor and thus facilitate the full participation of women in community, national and international affairs;
- "(n) The establishment of interdisciplinary and multisectoral machinery within the government for accelerating the achievement of equal opportunities for women and their full integration into national life."

The formal governmental debates, involving national ideological differences and unending boundary feuds that took place at the Copenhagen Conference and which the media focused on, do not tell the whole story of the conference. Action-oriented individuals at the Conference who saw women in development, peace, and equality as their first priorities hammered out a section of the conference Programme of Action on "National Strategies and Tactics" that was unanimously adopted by consensus. (Certain political references elsewhere in the document caused the U.S., Canada, and Australia to vote no on passage of the entire Programme.)

The Copenhagen Programme of Action is divided into three parts: 1) historical perspective and conceptual framework; 2) national targets and strategies for full participation of women in economic and social development; and 3) a programme of action at the international and regional levels.

The historical perspective sets forth three reasons for women's current secondary status throughout the world. The first is the result of the historic division of labor based on women's childbearing function. The second is the result of the "mass poverty and general backwardness of the majority of the world's population." The third is that there is no historical explanation but that women's status has been unfavorable because of "defacto discrimination on the grounds of sex."

The national strategies and tactics section set forth guidelines for national development plans and politics. Although there is heavy reliance on government to solve women's problems, the Copenhagen Conference recognized the need for women's organizations to work with the "national machinery" of government institutions and women's bureaus. The priority action areas of health, education and employment were delineated with special Third World attention to the areas of: food, rural women, child care, migrant women, unemployed women, female headed households and young women.

Part III, the international and regional section of the Programme of Action set forth guidelines for development assistance that include: national and international efforts for programmes aimed at women's integration in development, developing planning that takes into account the potential contributions and interests of women, development of incentives for cooperative movements among women, utilization of locally available expertise in the design and implementation of women's projects, and intensifying the efforts of the U.N. Voluntary Fund to give special support to women most in need.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

All organizations of the United Nations should take separate and joint actions to implement the Plan's recommendations.

All United Nations' agencies should:

- support efforts towards establishing and implementing national, regional and global programmes aimed at women's integration into development.
- develop strategies for increasing women's participation in the social, economic and political life of their countries.
- integrate issues of concern to all women in their programmes and projects.
- increase the proportion of women in their organizations by nominating and appointing women, particularly from developing countries, for posts in decision-making levels in secretariat and executive bodies.
- give high priority to undertaking multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary action-oriented research in areas where information does not exist on ways of integrating women into development.
- prepare and make available compendiums of statistics on women.
- encourage statistical operations and practices that are free of sex-based stereotypes and use appropriate research methodology that would have relevance to the participation of women in development.
- pay special attention to industries where the majority of employees are women, analyze the causes of their existence and examine the possibilities of new technological patterns leading to changes.
- include in their publications and media support activities specific guidelines on issues and topics of particular interest to women and those in which women could be successfully integrated.

- issue publications with periodic progress reports on Decade activities and encourage the exchange of experience and information between women in member states.
- strengthen special mechanisms within U.N. bodies and existing specialized agencies (such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Branch for the Advancement of Women) to implement the programme of action.

The U.N. Secretariat should:

- undertake a comparative compilation of the national legislative measures which are aimed at promoting sex equality and should assist in the introduction of new laws designed to integrate women into all fields or activities by generating ideas and exerting persuasion.
- include in the Directory of International Statistics, a special section on the location of data which monitors progress towards equality between the sexes.
- amend their recruitment, training, promotion, and remuneration policies in order to ensure equal treatment and status for women and men employed by the organizations whether as temporary, fixed-term or permanent employees or as consultants.

Regional Commissions should:

- provide assistance to national machineries for women (women's bureaus and government institutions) to accelerate the integration of women in the development process and take up projects and programmes for them.
- prepare for each region an inventory of social, economic and demographic indicators relevant to the analysis of the status of women in the region.. The level of long-range fundamental research on women and development should be increased to provide a sound base for development planning.

Regional Commissions (cont.)

- in periodic reviews or appraisals, report fully on the specific aspects of the situation of women in every sector of their development programmes on the basis of replies to the questionnaire on the implementation on the World Plan of Action and The Programme of Action.
- assist member states' governments which have difficulty in providing resources to complete the questionnaire and submit data required for review and appraisal.
- provide assistance to governments and non-governmental organizations for the second half of the Decade in light of the review appraisal of progress achieved in the first half.
- adopt the following measures: integrate the recommendations of this programme into the work programme of their respective sectorial units so that its implementation contributes to the third United Nations Development Decade; Promote fellowship and special training programmes in the tertiary sectors to that women can improve their socio-economic status; undertake skilled human resources inventories at all levels so that trained women have equal opportunities for job recruitment and placement.
- strengthen the offices of the Regional Commissions by recruiting women for posts at a high level of decision-making and responsibility. Posts should be established at a high level to coordinate and implement policies relating specifically to the status of women.

The Voluntary Fund should:

- continue to intensify its efforts to give special support of women most in need, and to encourage consideration of women in development planning.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) should:

- develop studies to access the working and employment conditions of rural women with a view to assisting governments, to revive national and international wage and labor policies, trade agreements, and prices of commodities, where men's and women's wages are adversely affected by and also affect the exchange earnings of the developing countries as obtained from export of such commodities.
- include specific provisions relating to women in the International Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations and on the transfer of technology aimed at diminishing any adverse affects of redeployment of industry and technology.
- continue to develop studies to assess the employment, health and educational conditions of migrant women with a view to assisting governments in reviewing their national and international policies. The ILO should aid in the preservation of the migrants' cultural heritage as well as the use of the mass media for supportive channels of information for migrant women.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should:

- intensify its efforts to encourage and assist governments to find innovative approaches to achieve their development goals through incorporating and benefiting women. These efforts should include resident representatives advising the government on issues of interest to women while monitoring existing programmes and promoting project development, coordination, and cooperation to further the goals of the Decade.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) should:

- ensure the inclusion of women in the current work undertaken in preparation for the new international information order-- participation of women and their positive dynamic image must be emphasized.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) should:

- assist governments in organizing more training courses to improve women's planning, technical and managerial skills in all fields.

The Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee On Coordination should:

- include in its work program consideration of statistics relating to women and developing short- and long-range goals for improving the quality and relevance of data pertaining to the conditions of women.

The Commission on the Status of Women should:

- require The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to keep under review the reporting systems under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination once it comes into force.
- continue to carry out comprehensive and critical biennial review and appraisal of progress achieved by implementing the provisions of the World Plan of Action and of the Programme for the Second Half of the Decade.
- strengthen the Commission's Branch for the Advancement of Women by resetting priorities within existing budgetary resources.

U.N. Radio should:

- include contributions and participation of women in the areas of major political economic and social issues.

Other Priority Areas (Third World Proposals)

Food

The key role performed by women in all phases of food production should be recognized and enhanced. The participation of women, especially in rural areas, in agricultural policy-making should be promoted.

Rural Women

The living conditions of women in rural areas should be improved and steps should be taken to ensure that rural women participate equally and effectively in the development process by giving rural women access to formal and non-formal courses in leadership and decision-making. The possibility of devising statistics which measure rural women's contribution on an equal basis with men should be examined. And rural women's participation in the cultural, political economic and social activities of the community should be fostered.

Child Care

Government-supported early childhood services should be developed which serve the needs and conditions of working women. Provisions should include community-based, work-based, culturally appropriate and work-related child care services. Existing services should be upgraded by improving the competence of the persons providing them.

Migrant Women

Migrant women should have the same access to education, training, employment, support and health services as the national population. Language and literacy training, vocational training, counseling and orientation and information programmes should be provided to assist migrant women and the families in settling into the host country.

Unemployed Women

Governments should ensure that all women have access to secure employment by providing training and retraining to equip unemployed women with marketable skills. Such training should include personal and vocational development programmes.

Women Who Alone are Responsible for Their Families

Governments should ensure that women who are alone receive a level of income sufficient to support themselves and their families. Efforts should be made to assist women responsible for their families in obtaining secure accommodation and favorable access to credit, financing, and medical services.

Young Women

Government policies should promote education, health and employment of young women. Special education should be given to the employment of young women to ensure that they are consciously involved in social and political development. Living conditions of present and future generations can also be improved by educating young women in matters relating to food and health.

NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

Economic and Social Development

Improvement in women's status requires action at the national, local and family levels, as well as a change in the attitudes of both sexes about their roles and responsibilities in society. In an effort to enhance the development of women, governments should establish qualitative and quantitative targets for the second half of the UN Decade.

The national machinery (women's bureaus, government institutions) should increase participation at the grassroots level by encouraging the development of local women's organizations and providing channels of communication between organizations to help women's groups obtain financial and technical assistance from international and bilateral funding sources in order to enhance the welfare and status of women.

All laws and regulations discriminating against women should be repealed. *Programs* should be developed by governments to inform women of their legal rights, and commissions should be established to assess these rights and to identify, specify and classify the the necessary legislative measures that have not yet been enacted. Governments should carry out investigations into the degree of protection or oppression and the amount of discrimination experienced by women under customary law. Legislation should also be enacted and implemented in order to prevent domestic and sexual violence against women; victims should be fairly treated in all criminal procedures.

Every effort should be made to enact legislation guaranteeing women the right to vote, to be eligible for election or appointment to public office and to exercise public functions on equal terms with men. Governments should foster knowledge of civil and political rights and issue instructions for the equitable representation of women in different branches of government.

Educational programmes and campaigns using the media should be instituted to eliminate prejudices and traditional attitudes that limit the full participation of women. The mass media should also promote the programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women as well as other international, regional and national programmes for women to increase public awareness and participation.

Priority should be given to research concerning those groups of women that have been neglected in social research--rural workers in agriculture and allied activities and working women from the underprivileged sectors of society. National and regional indicators should be developed and improved to determine the degree to which women have actually been participating in development. Permanent advisory committees to national statistical authorities should be established to improve the quantity and relevance of data pertaining to the situation of women, their participation in development and equality between the sexes.

Employment

Governments should promote through national legislation, full and equal opportunities and treatment of women in employment and should ensure that women and men receive equal remuneration for work of equal value and equal education and training opportunities with the aim of ensuring better overall working conditions and occupational mobility for women. Employment opportunities in management and other non-traditional sectors of society should be encouraged for women, but measures should be taken to ensure that such employment does not result in lowering working conditions, remuneration and status of those sectors. Legislative and/or other measures should be adopted and implemented to secure women's right to work, to unemployment benefits, credit and financing and social security as well as to prohibit discrimination or dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or maternity leave or marital status. Urgently needed infrastructure services should be developed and provided such as adequate housing, safe water, energy and child care centers in order to alleviate the workload traditionally imposed on women in their performance of tasks essential for the survival of their communities.

Health

Governments should improve the physical and mental health of all members of society through demographic policies, an improvement in the health care of women throughout their lifecycles through studies of diseases and the development of policies and programs aimed at the elimination of all forms of violence and abuse against women.

Programmes should be developed to improve the training and utilization of community health workers to support women in their contribution to primary health care both within the family and the community, particularly with reference to self-care and self reliance. Women should be involved in planning and carrying out health programmes at all levels. Incentive policies should be established to give women greater access to training in the medical professions in health-related research in accordance with local and national needs.

Educational programmes should be established to improve the quality, availability, preparation preservation and rational use of food. Standards of safety, health, product information and quality should also be created.

Programmes should be formulated to aid in the prevention of maternal and infant mortality, and to preventing mutilation practices which damage women's bodies and health. Special attention should be given to the needs of elderly and disabled women--especially those living alone.

Education

Education was recognized by the organizers and participants at the Copenhagen conference as an essential element in bettering women's position in the world. Since literacy is a key to women improving their status efforts should be made to establish targets for the abolition of differentials in the literacy and educational attainment rates for boys and girls within overall efforts to increase literacy and education.

Other key provisions of the education section included:

1) The promotion of national accreditation and equivalency programmes to encourage the return of women and girls who have dropped out.

2) Provide education to enable women to combine their household duties with the opportunity to improve their educational level.

3) Encourage free and compulsory education at the primary level for both boys and girls, preferably at co-educational facilities, with trained teachers of both sexes and, if necessary, transportation and board facilities.

4) Increase female enrollment in science, mathematics and technical courses and in management training courses in science and technology.

5) Provide equal access for all levels and types of education.

6) Promote the development of non-sexist learning resources and curricular materials.

7) Develop programmes to encourage a basic understanding of human rights and stress the importance of the elimination of discrimination on the basis of race and sex.

8) Urge governments to enroll women in all their technical institutes and to promote the establishment of intermediate technical courses.



Dear Minnesota women,

We are writing to you today to announce a special meeting of the Minnesota Worldwide Women Task Force (MnWWTF). The purpose of the meeting is to engage the interest and commitment of Minnesota women in the activities of the task force for the coming year. The information enclosed will give you an idea of our history and previous accomplishments and some of our hopes for the future.

Worldwide Women is at a crossroads in its development. Our desire is to be a representative of all Minnesota women, an ongoing coordinating mechanism for networking and for actions determined by you (in the tradition of the Minnesota Women's Consortium) around local, national, and international issues of women's equality.

Our mission is to bring together a broad base of women with which to build coalitions and continue dialogue; to create a Minnesota agenda to advance women and families; and to act as change agents and as active participants in the peaceful worldwide revolution for social and economic justice.

One of the main themes of our Nairobi in Minnesota Conference (July 12-13, 1985) was a Kenyan term, Harambee, which means "all pull together". This is where our strength is, in a broad coalition of women. We are working to ensure diversity in our planning meeting as we have in the past year on the task force and at its events. Our next activity toward this goal is a meeting with the Alliance of Women of Color on September 23 to discuss ways to expand participation (if interested, see minutes below.)

The planning meeting will be on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 from 9:00 - 3:00 at the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, 2610 University Avenue in St. Paul. Led by two planners from the Institute for Cultural Affairs, we will discuss the group vision of Worldwide Women and then break into committees that will begin to carry out the specific tasks decided upon by the group. So that you can start thinking about the role you want to play, these committees will probably include Coordination, Authorization and Funding, Publicity, Attendance, Agenda 2000, Agenda 2000 Conference, Hosting, etc., of which you can serve on any number.

We are enclosing the minutes of the last meeting where some initial ideas were generated for possible activities for the task force.

Please bring a bag lunch and all the creativity you can muster! Also, we will need a head count to reserve a room; please leave a message at the ICA office (871-8382) by September 28 if possible, to confirm your presence at the meeting. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested and willing to commit some effort to the project so please pass this invitation on to others!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lund and Sue Laxdal
for the Minnesota Worldwide Women Task Force



WORLDWIDE WOMEN - MINNESOTA
TASK FORCE

August 22, 1985

Summary of the Responses of
NAIROBI IN MINNESOTA Conference Participants:
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND VISIONS FROM THE WOMEN'S DECADE 1976-85
on Peace, Equality, Development, Employment, Education, Health.

Introduction

On July 12 and 13, 1985, 450 (mostly) women participated in the NAIROBI IN MINNESOTA conference in St. Paul. The conference, a microcosm of the concurrent United Nations international women's world meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, was organized around the same global themes discussed in Nairobi: PEACE, EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH. The purpose of the local conference was to provide Minnesota women an opportunity to learn about and exchange views on women's issues in a global context and from a multi-cultural perspective. In the view of the prime sponsors, the Minnesota-Worldwide Women Task Force (MN-WWTF), the goals were achieved even beyond our expectations because the presenters and the participants included many international women (14 countries were represented), young and old, and women of diverse ethnic, racial, and geographic backgrounds. This summary will allow the reader to see how these goals were met and to use this information as background for the next step: a feminist action agenda for Minnesota women planned by diverse Minnesota women to promote Peace, Equality and Development worldwide. By focusing on select strategies to achieve commonly defined goals, we hope to give new purpose and strength to women, to empower us to improve our lives and the lives of our families here and around the globe.

Methodology of Collecting Participant Responses.

In two plenary sessions (Friday evening and Saturday morning) and 20 workshops, participants recorded their view of accomplishments during the decade on the given theme, and wrote their vision for the future. In each workshop cards were distributed before the panel discussion started and collected at the end; participants were also encouraged throughout the day Saturday to add their views of significant accomplishments and future goals for each major theme, identified as "Harambee" responses. Debbie Warnsholz, a student at Metro State University, has analyzed and summarized responses for each theme. For this report we have distilled the accomplishments and visions from both sources, noting the number of respondents via each recording method on each theme. We conclude with several strong overriding conclu-

sions culled from the conference evaluations and participant responses. A preliminary conference program is attached for your reference, with an extract of the Welcome to the conference to provide a context for these observations.

Summary of Participant Responses

PEACE

Accomplishments
(101)

- 1) Geraldine Ferraro as a Vice Presidential candidate
- 2) proliferation of women's peace groups and their effects on national and international peace efforts.

Visions
(118)

- 1) the concept of basic human rights for all fostered through nonviolence: the world well watered, fed, clothed and housed

Sample quotes

"Women have opened doors for each other and continue to provide education, forums and strategies to focus and mobilize toward peace."

"...to find a way to use (our) unique gifts creatively for peace! Whatever talent, skill, interest...to use it for peace even in such a small way as to help ourselves feel more peaceful and act more peaceful with one other person...the rippling effect would be amazing!"

Harambee:Visions
(219)

"feed people not Pentagon," "refugee children and mothers being respected in our schools and communities," "building mentally, physically, spiritually healthy communities," "WAMM, Peace camp at Sperry...keep it going," "ribbon the Pentagon."

EQUALITY

Accomplishments
(3)

- 1) the beginnings of pay equality and consciousness raising of the general public re injustices of male and female opportunities
- 2) increasing sense of sisterhood on a global scale; we are open to finding our commonalities rather than focusing on our differences

Visions
(34)

- 1) the use of education and the legal system to eliminate sex discrimination
- 2) to eliminate rape and violent acts against women, minorities and children, promoted through commercial exploitation of sex and violence

Sample quotes

"Women and men to support each other and rise above sexual stereotypes, become introspective without apology and take pride in our differences, strengths and similarities. What are we here for after all?"

"My vision is to see love, acceptance and peace in everyone's eyes, feel it in their touch and celebrate it in our sharing of life experiences."

Harambee:Visions

"E.R.A," "including men in these conferences," "equal access to jobs," "awareness of cultural differences and need to respect them," "women in sports," "gender free curriculums and history including her-story," "more of good discussion about aging," "lesbian rights," "REAL women issues (Canada's movement) - to learn from their success," "50/50 or Fight campaign in Canada for divorce settlement equality,"

DEVELOPMENT

Accomplishments
(25)

- 1) networking internationally that has begun and its effect on a very personal level for individuals in the rural parts of our/"the" world

Vision
(51)

- 1) economic self-sufficiency for rural, Third World countries and women
- 2) linkages through travel, education and networking worldwide

Sample quotes

"My personal life style will reflect an economically just value system of mutual aid and resource sharing versus consumerism and material greed."

"Walk the sacred circle, walk gently and prayerfully each step, on our mother and grandmother Earth." (the Native American prayers and visions of hope for the land and its peoples)

Harambee:Visions
(76)

"Third World people being included in planning for advancements in health, agriculture and self-sufficiency plans from the beginning to gain a motivation from within."

EMPLOYMENT

Accomplishments
(27)

- 1) the gradual, steady move by women into the corporate world, science and political arenas nationally, locally and personally
- 2) state and federal government implementation of pay equity

Visions
(73)

- 1) to achieve pay equality
- 2) the contribution of women to the economy

Sample quotes

"his"tory to include the women of the past who worked for so many just causes," "thought provoking,, enlightening, educational - there's much to learn about women's work."

Harambee:Visions
(100)

"eradicating dependency," "women must gain more knowledge and validation in the financial systems," "more cooperative management systems," "better quality childcare and more shared parenting for working mothers," "more women in non-traditional fields (law, science, space, math, labor)."

EDUCATION

Accomplishments
(20)

- 1) the awareness of teaching techniques and expanded career opportunities to lessen sexual discrimination

Visions
(42)

- 1) focus on family and support services for continued growth and strength in education

Sample quotes

"We have role models all over the world to accomplish safe and accessible child care."

"We should value children, put our money where our mouth is."

Harambee:Visions

"good pay for child care workers," "more funding for quality primary education," "better latch key programs as part of our educational system."

HEALTH

Accomplishments (21)	1) the increasing acceptance of women of all generations (younger and older) 2) the expansion of women's health resources
Visions (57)	1) quality medical care for women and children
Sample quotes	"We have found attention focused on world hunger and results are occurring."
Harambee:Visions (78)	"men take responsibility for family planning," "sex education in schools," "access to birth control," "connection to be made between malnutrition and military spending," "empowerment of the older (61+) generations," "women-centered health care options."

Note: The Harambee banner, with the addition of Visionquest (visuals of the future), is on display at the St. Paul YWCA. The banner "Building our Legacy", recording the name and founding date of women's organizations represented at the conference, and significant dates in Minnesota women's herstory, is on display at Metro State University.

Observations

The responses indicate enthusiasm for the information exchanged and appreciation for the opportunity to expand perspectives on women's issues in terms of new insights from other countries, and from minority perspectives within our own culture. They also indicate gaps in our knowledge about women's lives and their contribution to the global economy. There is a strong interest in making connections with other women here and worldwide, to learn of new ideas and new strategies. In a breakdown of "topics of interest", participants referred to countries on every continent and to our Native American and Black and Hispanic cultural resources (Asian refugees are less well known and appreciated), giving credibility to our notion that an holistic approach to women's issues is called for: encompassing from the grass roots and global in outreach.

The Canadian women have expressed an interest in continuing to network with us and have much to teach us about their successful E.R.A. and government support for women's programs. The Caribbean women also want a continuing exchange of information and welcome joint development projects with women's groups here. These international women in particular provided us new role models and created the instantaneous reality of global sisterhood. If we are to make one overriding observation, it is that women found a great sense of empowerment - of connectedness and

strength - in hearing about other's women's accomplishments - and their failures, when those defeats were transposed into new resolve "to do it better next time." The Celebration, giving dramatic voice to women's hopes and longing for equality, whetted the appetite for more portrayal of women's stories, in visual as well as in written "herstory".

The resounding message from Nairobi in Minnesota is this: women must participate in greater numbers, and with greater support from other women, in political and policy-making bodies where the decisions are made that affect their lives and the lives of their families. And to do that, we need more opportunities like this one, to gain knowledge, to gain confidence and skills, to gain the support of other like-minded persons and to build the leadership we need to make the world in our image. It is very significant to note that having a woman Vice Presidential Candidate is considered a step toward peace. Other women's groups are also discussing ways in which to encourage greater participation of MN women in politics. This is clearly an action item in which women's groups can collaborate. A computerized list of participants, including the 70+ program presenters, will be available in the next month. Following the August 22 Debriefing with Minnesota women who went to Nairobi, we welcome anyone interested to join the MN-Worldwide Women Task Force, which will serve as a facilitating coalition of broadly representative women to plan continuing discussion meetings from September - March, based on the UN Decade themes and Forward Looking Strategies (the document to come out of the Nairobi meetings), in preparation for an April 1986 conference (AGENDA 2000): to plan a feminist action agenda for the women of this state.

* * * * *

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a telegram on Saturday, July 13 to "Nairobi in Minnesota from Minnesota in Nairobi"... a global sisterhood link on which to build.

* * * * *

Audio and video tapes of Nairobi in Minnesota are available from Borne Recording Service (612/920-5767), 2309 W. 53rd St., Mpls, MN 55410

Summary prepared by Sally Flax, Associate Administrator, Office of International Programs, University of Minnesota

*Minnesota - Worldwide Women Task Force c/o Institute of Cultural Affairs, 2302 Blaisdell, Mpls, MN 55404, 612/871-8382

*List of members attached

WELCOME TO THE NAIROBI IN MINNESOTA CONFERENCE
7:00 PM, JULY 12, 1985

Greetings sisters and welcome to Nairobi in Minnesota. I am Sally Flax, a member of the MN-Worldwide Women Task Force. I thank my sisters on the Task Force for delegating me as their spokeswoman. We have been meeting together since April 24, 1984. We owe our existence to Isabel Rife, on leave from Metro State University in 1984, who asked Arvonne Fraser if she could use some of her time and energy to get MN women involved in the end of the United Nations Decade for Women activities. Arvonne Fraser, director of the Women, Public Policy and Development Center in the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota, has been an active participant in the international networking of the women's decade, both as a government staff person while head of the Women in Development Office in the U.S. Agency for International Development, and as a contributor to the planning for the non-governmental organization or NGO Forum in Nairobi. Arvonne Fraser is one of only a few U.S. women who will have participated in all three of the women's world conferences: Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in July 1985 - Happening right now, as Nairobi in MN is happening here at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. So, thanks to our godmothers, Rife and Fraser, and many thanks to members of the MN-Worldwide Women Task Force.

How did 12 MN women, representing diverse women's groups - workers, students, educators, volunteers, businesswomen - come to call ourselves Worldwide Women? From that fateful April date in 1984, first 12 of us, now 32 of us, have been meeting to educate ourselves about the women's decade, to learn why women have not achieved equality despite a focus on women's issues worldwide during these past ten years; and to decide what we in MN can do about it. We have concentrated on the U.N. themes as a framework, because they are universal concerns: peace, development, equality; subthemes employment, education, health. With the help of staff from the Institute of Cultural Affairs who joined us in March, 1985, we have learned to work in a consensual mode, to create a shared vision for this conference. The U.N. functions in a consensual mode, a style foreign to our majority decision making and to the procedures of Robert's Rules. Let me tell you, consensus demands patience and persuasion! By focusing on these global themes we have forged a common purpose, avoiding or surmounting divisive diversions which in the past few years have dribbled away the strength of women's collective efforts.

Our task force has done what the U.N. has asked women around the world to do: to assess achievements of the decade, to identify barriers to equality, to discern trends that will affect women as we approach the year 2000, and, finally, to develop strategies for empowering women in order to improve their lives and the lives of their families. These are now the content of the conference program of which all of you are a part.

The evaluation tool and planning process we developed for use by women's organizations - called Looking Back/Looking Forward - will be talked about in the Saturday morning session at 8:00 tomorrow. You can become part of that process, to build a future vision, and to shape the leadership to make it happen.

Page 2

This evening I want to briefly involve you in our voyage of discovery about the shared concerns of women here in MN and around the globe, concerns that can unite us in working together to change the world. Because that is what women must do. The men have certainly made a mess of it! You will hear many speakers address the failure of economic development policies, policies which link us in a global chain of interdependence that affects all of us. Witness the global effects of our worldwide recession. In 1985 we find many nations are poorer, far deeper in paralyzing debt, the gulf between the haves and have nots has widened in the world and here in the U.S. - and always women are at the bottom of the heap, with greater illiteracy, less longevity, less income in many more female-headed families, less access to wealth and power. And most telling of all, women are victimized by the double burden of the work of the home and child rearing plus work outside the home, now essential for survival for so many women and families in the developed and less developed world. Yes, the research of the decade does show some gains - in preventive health care and family planning, in participation in education and employment (though at the low end of the labor force), and in the exciting fact that 90% of the 121 governments responding to the U.N. decade survey have established women's bureaus and programs to deal with women's issues. But these slight gains for women must be judged against the deteriorating economic and political status of women worldwide, in a world ravaged by hunger, war, oppression. We act helpless as our futures are mortgaged by the distortion of priorities set by men who control the world's systems. Admittedly, where there have been women in power (three come to mind in recent decades), they also operate like men because they have been locked into the same old patterns of thinking in self-interested, narrowly nationalistic terms. It is this thinking that dictates that we spend more on armaments in rich and poor countries alike than on programs to promote equitable human resource development and peace.

As we approach 2000, we are on the threshold of a new era. We in the U.S. have moved through the agricultural and industrial ages, and so may be about 80 years ahead of our sisters in some of the developing world. In the new age of information and technology, we send satellites into the skies and our astronauts - men and women - come back rhapsodizing about the earth as a unitary system, the home of humankind where no national boundaries can be seen. The evolution of this new age must be understood in juxtaposition with another historic, evolutionary step which has been emerging since the 1950s. Slowly, inexorably, our culture, our language and our patterns of human interaction have been influenced by this international feminist movement. Allow me to define it, as I mean it. In its most basic sense, feminism means equality between women and men, nothing more, but nothing less. Women and men who are feminist thinkers see the world as whole, embracing the entire spectrum of political and social ideologies. A feminist consciousness is a global consciousness, respectful of others, encompassing. And thus we are Minnesota-Worldwide Women, part of a global sisterhood. We need one another for the survival of our planet.

While the concerns of women differ in degree in different parts of the world, women are the nurturers, the primary vessels for the transmission of culture and values. We can turn this double burden around by working together to educate coming generations to achieve equality and freedom for all. We know there can be no development without peace and stability in the world. So we invite you to take up your plowshares! Let this conference be a first step in our peaceful revolution - a commitment to work together with women of the world as change agents.

From our collective strength, focused on what we can do together, will come new leadership, to make a world in the image this conference will begin to create.

Sally Flax

Member, Minnesota - Worldwide
Women Task Force

opinions

A global women's movement transcends electoral politics

By Sonia Bowe-Gutman

Not much has been written about the women's movement since the Nov. 6 presidential election in which the gender gap vote failed to materialize as a national political force.

While an in-depth analysis of the November vote cannot be made until spring, when the U.S. Bureau of the Census comes out with its new data, it is safe to say that the vote reflects, among other things, the notion that many women do not see themselves as individual economic and political entities but as extensions of their husbands, lovers and employers.

Despite the demoralizing effect of the election on many political women and a national climate that appears hostile to them, the women's movement is not dead. The focus of activity has simply shifted from electoral politics to the international arena where activity is centered on the International Women's Conference scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, next summer.

In Minnesota, political women are regrouping and regenerating themselves by focusing on preparations for the Kenya Women's Conference. The question inevitably arises: "What do we in Minnesota have to do with a far away conference with women around the world?" The answer is, plenty.

At the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Arvonne Fraser, director of the women, public policy and development project, regularly holds meetings at which women from other countries exchange information with Minnesota women on problems, programs and policies in their home countries, including those in the third world. Sex discrimination is a universal problem and it affects education and poverty levels everywhere. Women are grossly underrepresented in elected, appointed and managerial positions. Because of this, women's interests and values are not fairly represented.

By getting and pooling information, women from around the world sometimes redefine problems and come up with pragmatic solutions which benefit not only women, but children, nations and, indirectly, all of us.

As a concrete example, a report from the Ford Foundation states that little investment has been made in improving the technology of Third World women's work, except when it relates to national priorities. When new technologies are developed, they are frequently ill-suited to women's needs. For instance, recent concern about deforestation in Africa has led to efforts to design more efficient stoves and to develop solar cookers. The men involved in this project did not know enough about the lives of women to know they worked the fields during the day and therefore cooked in the evening, when solar cookers are useless.

If women had participated in this project, resources from the United States, participating international agencies, and host Third World countries would not have been

organizations and on the vitality of the women's movement. The two conferences held so far raised the consciousness of participating countries and individuals involved, and have acted as catalysts mobilizing women's participation in the global arena. At the Kenya conference, as in the two preceding ones, two parallel meetings will be held. One is composed of official government representatives. The other is a non-governmental conference of representatives of women from countries around the world, referred to as the NGO Forum.

Fraser, who attended an NGO Consultative Committee meeting in Vienna last October, says that NGO conferences are a "market-place for ideas, a forum for the exchange of information and experience, a place for networking between individuals and groups regardless of nationality."

"Women from around the world sometimes redefine problems and come up with pragmatic solutions which benefit not only women, but children, nations, and, indirectly, all of us."

Among the many concrete results of the decade is the Voluntary Fund for the U.N. Decade for Women. It was established in 1975 to support projects to help women in developing countries acquire the skills and resources they need to realize their potential.

The fund is financed by governments and by public and private organizations. Since its inception in 1975, it has helped initiate 350 projects in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. They include revolving loan funds to help women learn financial management and obtain conventional credit, energy conservation projects, income generating ventures and self-reliance projects.

Dr. Barbara Knudson, also from the University of Minnesota, is now at work at the Vienna International Center, consulting for the planning committee for the Kenya conference. She is working with women from around the globe to ensure a productive meeting this summer. She agrees that both men and women in the United States and Minnesota have much to learn about the problems women everywhere face.

There is much for Minnesota women to learn and much to teach at the Kenya conference. The cost, however, is prohibitive for many of us. To get around this, a number of organizations such as the Minnesota Women's Consortium, the Office of International Programs and others have

"The source of energy and power for the women's movement is not necessarily in the national political power centers. We can transcend these."

wasted. Therefore your tax dollars and mine would have been saved.

The upcoming Kenya conference is the third and last to be held during the Decade for Women. The first was held in Mexico City in 1975. Its outcome was a World Plan of Action. The second conference was held in 1980 in Copenhagen, and its participants produced a World Program of Action. Each document set a framework of thought and action on women's issues.

Although the media have not reported these events as substantive, but only as political events, these conferences and the activities surrounding the Decade for Women have had an impact on the United Nations, on women's groups around the world, on the growth and proliferation of women's

banded together to sponsor events related to the Kenya Women's Conference. In July, a statewide conference concurrent with the Kenya conference will be held. In September, a meeting called Agenda 2000 will be held so area women can meet and learn from the Minnesota representatives to the NGO forum of the conference.

This proliferation of activities shows that the source of energy and power for the women's movement is not necessarily in the national political power centers. We can transcend these and build multiple frameworks and international networks. After all, the Reagan administration is temporary. Women and men will remain. As the scholar Carlos Fuentes says, "Reality is not the product of an ideological phantasm. It is the result of history." And so is the contemporary women's movement.

Sonia Bowe-Gutman is a local free-lance writer and a graduate student in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

This certificate
notes you officially part
of St. Pauls winter
celebration.

The only problem is that
winter has been capricious
and January has been
an average of 19 degrees
warmer than usual.

Orientation Material on Kenya

"Jambo" or "Jambo sana" are the cheery words of greeting heard everywhere in the beautiful and fascinating land of Kenya. The nation lies astride the equator on the east coast of the African continent, just below the Horn. Kenya achieved independence after two-thirds of a century of colonial rule by the British in 1963 and, under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta, the first and long serving "mzee" or wise elder statesman, achieved political stability and a modicum of economic progress, despite the fact that the latter part of the period was characterized by world wide recession. Following fifteen years of Kenyatta's leadership and upon his death in 1978, Daniel arap Moi succeeded to the Presidency and has continued the nation on its path of development, characterized by the slogan of "Harambee" or Let's All Help One Another.

Kenya is classified as a market economy and has long been considered by the United States as a staunch friend on the African continent. The basis of the economy is agriculture; Kenya is more than 80% a rural nation. Tourism, focused on the great game parks of world wide fame and on the rich marine life found on the beautiful beaches, is second only to agriculture in importance in the Kenyan economy. Commerce and trade are also important, since Kenya serves as the African headquarters for multi-national firms from all around the world, as well as the center of the nation's fiscal life.

If one word were to be chosen to describe Kenya, it might well be "contrast." While a rural nation, the city of Nairobi offers visitors and Kenyans alike every amenity of contemporary life, from sleek modern hotels to discotheques and chic boutiques. Luxurious transportation by land and air to every corner of the nation and all parts of the world is available readily. Yet hundreds of thousands of persons live in squatter settlements without basic sanitation; walking and rickety overcrowded "matatus" (privately owned taxi-buses) fill the travel needs of everyday people. A visitor to Nairobi's most famous meeting place, the Thorn Tree Cafe at the New Stanley Hotel, may see a famous movie star or well known international political figure ... and may also see a Masaai warrior striding by, dressed in ochre red blanket and rubber tire sandals, and carrying a tall spear. Mercedes are common among the new-rich of Kenya; one wit dubs such persons as belonging to a new tribe, the "wa-Benzi". But at the same time, malnutrition and starvation face thousands. Nairobi offers high quality medical care, even the famous Flying Doctor Service, which can rescue a tourist or Kenyan in

emergency situation in inaccessible areas, but thousands of children die annually from dysentery or malaria or polio, all treatable and preventable. Contrasts of all kinds will meet the eye and intrigue the imagination in this nation which offers to its visitors rich glimpses of Africa, past and present, poor and rich, traditional and modern.

The visitor to Kenya will receive virtually everywhere warm and welcoming friendliness which characterizes the people of the land. Big smiles and cheerful "jambo's" will reward the person who learns even a few words of Swahili or a local language. The following information is offered as a brief introduction to a fabled land, in the hopes that knowing a bit more in advance will make the actuality of Kenya yet more rewarding.

History

The borders of present day Kenya were established by decisions of the then colonial powers on the continent, in the period just before the turn of this century. In the centuries preceeding that time, major movements of people on the continent brought a mix of tribes to live in the territory, the largest group being the Kikuyu, a Bantu people, in the forested central section and the Luo, a Nilo-Hamitic tribe, on the shores of Lake Victoria to the West. Smaller tribes, as many as 30-50, depending on the classification scheme used, occupy their own traditional areas, though today there is additional movement, both to the cities and for employment in other parts of the nation. The notion of "tribe" remains very significant in contemporary Kenya; one's basic identity derives from tribal origins which color many aspects of life, such as marriage, residence and even occupation.

The major incursion of Europeans came in the period around the turn of the century, though there had been explorers and missionaries far earlier, and was associated originally with the building of the railroad from Mombasa to Lake Victoria. The story of that enterprise is a small piece of history worth reading; it is recounted in form as fascinating as a novel in the book called The Lunatic Express, written by Charles Miller. For a view of European imperialism of that era and as backdrop for the Kenya of today, it is recommended reading.

Many persons know of Kenya principally through tales of "mau-mau" in the sensational novels of Robert Ruarck. They are not recommended reading as the presentation, most feel, is inaccurate, designed more for titillating reading than for history. The era of the uprising of Kenyans to reclaim their land is however an interesting one, with many heroes known as Freedom Fighters.

Following the Second World War, that watershed of our era, colonialism was clearly on its last legs. The struggle in Kenya was fierce and often inhumane on both sides. There were three interested parties, the Kenyans, the (mostly) British settlers, and Whitehall, the Government in London. The first two groups both felt they owned and deserved the land; Whitehall saw the handwriting on the wall and began the complex preparations for Independence, though not always graciously. Freedom fighters, including Kenyatta, were imprisoned, but their influence continued from detention camps. Eventually the climax came with the freeing of leaders and full independence under Kenyatta on December 12, 1963. Kenyatta's magnanimity in forgiving his former enemies, thereby setting the stage for a multi-racial society, remains an example of inspired leadership.

Early years after Independence were heady ones of great hopes. The hard realities became apparent in the second decade of Kenya's nationhood when problems of drought, over-population, oil shocks, corruption and inefficiencies affected the young and struggling land severely. Kenyatta's death in 1978, while a great loss to the nation, occasioned a smooth transition to the presidency of the then vice-president, Daniel arap Moi. He is a member of a smaller tribe, rather than the dominant Kikuyu as Kenyatta was. He has adopted a philosophy known as "nyanya" which means to follow in the footsteps of Kenyatta and the other founding fathers of the Kenya Republic.

Geography

Kenya is about the size of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, roughly six hundred miles in both North-South and East-West directions. The northern 2/3 of the country is desert land, inhabited by nomadic peoples, with only a few small towns near green areas where a spring or river flows. The lower part holds virtually all of the population; some areas, notably, the basin of Lake Victoria and Kikuyuland on the slopes of Mt. Kenya (north of Nairobi) have extremely heavy population densities. Present day Kenya is bordered by Somalia and Ethiopia to the North, Uganda to the West, and Tanzania to the South, with the Indian Ocean forming the fourth side.

The coastal strip is, of course, warm and humid, but cooled always by the sea breezes. The water is crystal clear and tepid in temperature, wonderful for Minnesota persons, but perhaps best of all is the rich marine life. Most of the coast has a reef, some 2-300 yards from the shore, forming a sheltered

lagoon. At low tide, the reef is exposed, and visitors quickly learn to adapt their schedule to the tide timetable, as do the coastal people, in order to have the pleasure of seeing brilliant red and green starfish, octupi, shells in incredible variety, fish of all hues, sea urchins and cucumbers, on and on and on. Please don't miss is.

From the coast, the land gradually rises through semi-arid scrub country to Nairobi's mile high altitude. An old story about the land between Mombasa and Nairobi has cartographers comparing old maps with new and searching in vain for the place called "Mamoba." Mystified, they sought out an ancient map maker from the turn of the century to inquire. "Mamoba," it turns out, was the designation for Miles and Miles of Bloody Africa. In fact, there are lots of miles of nothingness between Mombasa and Nairobi, but often one is rewarded by the sight of Mt. Kilimanjaro rising more than 19,000 feet above that Mamoba, making it all worthwhile. And don't forget, you must also look out for elephants along the Mombasa road which runs through Tsavo National Park.

Nairobi itself, originally a railroad town, lies just at the point where the semi-arid high plains or savannah country turns into forested hills leading up to the escarpment of the Rift Valley. One of the wonders of the natural world, the Rift Valley is a giant crack in the earth extending from the Red Sea down the spine of the lower half of the African continent. Near Nairobi, the drop is more than 2,000 feet, sheer cliffs with gorgeous views of the Rift itself below. In the Rift lies a chain of lakes with wondrous bird life, dozens of inactive volcanoes, and geothermal springs, now utilized for electrical power. Much of the Rift in this area is barren country best suited for ranching, and inhabited by Masaai people. This is the most fabled tribe of Kenya, distinguishable easily by a lean and patrician appearance and renowned for courage and resistance to change in their way of life. They are the people most visitors want to see and photograph, and there are tourist opportunities to do so. For a fortunate few, there will be closer glimpses of Masaai life and culture.

Beyond the Rift lies the green and fertile basin of Lake Victoria, the only one of the Kenya lakes to retain still its colonial name. (Uganda and Tanzania also border this lake which is comparable in size to our Great Lakes, and presumably the three nations have not yet agreed on a new name.) Here are the large tea plantations and much fertile farmland, nourished by the near daily rainshowers at the close of the day. The medium sized towns of Kisumu, Kisii, Eldoret and Kitale are not so beautiful, but are alive and bustling, in ways far more representative of contemporary Africa than is the shiny new Nairobi.

The Game Parks

Amid the geographical wonders of Kenya are the most famous attractions for tourists, the extensive and thickly populated (with animals) game parks. Since much tourist information is available to describe the parks, the topic will not be covered here. There are parks in varied ecological zones, and therefore different types of animal inhabitants. The game lodges are all comfortable, even luxurious. The time of year should be excellent for game viewing..... surely everyone will want to see some selection of these natural wonders, well maintained for the world by a tourist and environmentally minded Kenya government.

Climate and Clothing

From all of the above, the reader will gather that Kenya has a range of climatic conditions, from the balmy coastal strip to the high cool plain of Nairobi to the hot and arid Rift and back to warm and sticky in the basin of Lake Victoria. Specifically, Kenya has two seasons, wet and dry. July is at the end of the long rains and is about the coolest time in Nairobi itself. Cool in Nairobi is far from a Minnesota winter, but you will clearly want a warm sweater.

Nairobi is not a very dressy place, though there are fine restaurants where suits for men and dresses for women are expected. You almost never, however, see anyone wearing nylons, and cotton clothing, preferably in several layers, will be most useful, since days are warm and evenings cool. Shorts are definitely not worn on the streets of Nairobi or any other town -- only permissible on the beach itself. Casual wear of all kinds, slacks, jeans, skirt and t-shirt, summer suits, cotton shifts, work with sandals or other summer shoes will be all you want, with perhaps one more dressed up outfit. Be very sure to have comfortable shoes, as you will walk a lot between conference sites and restaurants, your hotel, and so on.

It is strongly suggested that you leave expensive jewelry at home. Please take reasonable precautions with your personal belongings at all time; a money belt, under-arm or around-the-neck passport carrier may make you feel more secure. There is street thievery, of course, in Nairobi, but one need not be alarmed, only prepared. Carry little cash, guard your purse and camera well, and do leave all gold and precious stones at home!

Other Practical Tips

1) Money and its care are important. Please do use travelers checks rather than carrying too much cash. Holders of American Express cards can get additional travelers checks in Nairobi by writing a personal check to the agent, located conveniently in the center of the city. VISA works differently; you can receive cash or travelers checks from them, too, but charged to your account, in amounts up to \$150 per day. Trying to have money sent to you is not impossible, but difficult and not recommended for other than emergency. Credit cards are welcomed in many larger shops.

Because of the stringent economic circumstances of Kenya, the Government imposes strict currency controls. You will fill out a form on arrival at the Nairobi airport, declaring the total amount of currency you are bringing into the country. From that point, each time you change some of that money into Kenya shillings, only done at banks, some hotels, game park lodges, etc. (not at every small shop on the street), you will produce your copy of that form and have the transaction recorded on it. When you leave the country, that form will be checked again. The amount you had, minus the money you exchanged, should equal the money you have on departure. On the street, you will occasionally be asked to "change money?" Definitely not a good idea! Not only are Kenyan jails not very pleasant places, but we do not want to abuse the hospitality of our hosts, who are using multiple measures to improve their own difficult economic circumstances, including these currency control regulations. The point of all this is not to frighten you, but only to inform you of the rules and the importance of strict adherence throughout your stay.

2) If you need to have an address for mail during your stay, you can use American Express, Express Kenya Ltd., P.O. Box 40433, Nairobi, Kenya. One must have an American Express card or one of their travelers checks to use that service. You can of course also use your hotel address, when you know that. Mail from the U.S. takes anywhere from 5-15 days, usually around 7-8.

3) Nairobi has excellent medical care, though hopefully none will be needed. There are excellent hospital facilities and a well trained medical community. Should you require medical help of any kind, we will provide you with advice. The American Embassy will also help, though only in the most serious cases - there are simply too many of us for them to provide more routine service. (Neither do they, by the way, accept mail, as is done in some other American installations around the world.) Pharmacies are well stocked in Nairobi, but of course it is wise to bring your prescription needs. An extra copy of any

really important prescriptions is always a safeguard, in case of loss. Carrying essential medications in hand luggage is also advised, in the unlikely event of delayed luggage.

Consult your own medical service about the required immunizations, since they do change from time to time. You will require yellow fever most likely, and perhaps cholera and typhoid fever. Not required, but wise if your doctor agrees, are polio boosters and tetanus. There is still polio in Kenya, though not much in Nairobi, and a small wound can cause difficulties at a time when you only want to enjoy yourself.

Please also consult with your doctor about prophylactic drugs for malaria prevention. There are two types, one the standard variety (Chloroquin) and a second which has been developed for areas in which the mosquitoes have developed resistance to the common prophylactic methods. Persons who plan to spend much time at the Coast may want to consider using both types. Both mosquitoes and malaria are far rarer in Nairobi, but most visitors are advised to use at least the common variety of preventive pills.

4) Phoning home is possible, though not always easy. You will be seven hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time, which also means careful planning if you do not want to roust your family or friends from bed. Phoning can be done from most hotels or in the day from the main Post Office in the heart of Nairobi.

5) Transportation around Nairobi is possible via many types of vehicles. Depending on your hotel, you may well be able to walk to Forum activities, and that will surely be simplest in the daytime hours. There are also buses, small privately owned vans (matatus) which run on regular routes, and taxis. The disadvantage of both bus and matatus is that they are usually very crowded, truly body to body. Sometimes it may be necessary to use these vehicles and it is a part of the Nairobi experience surely. Taxis will no doubt be in short supply at times, with so many visitors in Nairobi for the World Conference and Forum. A special word of caution about walking after dark (which comes at around 6:30) particularly alone or in small groups.....don't do it! except on the main and well lighted streets of town. Near downtown Nairobi, there are parks which are not safe places to be in alone after daylight has gone. Do not be frightened, only sensible, much as you would in any other big city anywhere in the world.

6) Further details about what you might see and do will be provided by Schilling staff members. The city itself is eternally fascinating and you will certainly want just to wander for many hours. The large market hall, the

Nairobi museum, the railroad museum, the national archives: these and other Nairobi highlights are within walking distance in the central city and each is worth a trip. For visits to outlying areas and other parts of the nation, further information will be available on the options made possible by Schilling, and other possibilities will perhaps become available upon arrival through the Forum organizing committee. Make reservations early however, for those things you are sure you want to do, for there really will be a crowd of women of the world in Nairobi those weeks.

7) Kenya is a dream land for photographers. Clear air, the wild life, the tropical foliage, the contrasts of old and new all contribute to outstanding visual images. Film can be purchased in Nairobi, but is considerably more expensive, so best bring what you need. While developing there is possible and satisfactory, it takes a fairly long time and it would perhaps be simpler to wait until your return to have your precious shots processed.

8) No matter where one goes, the pleasure of a traveler is greater in direct proportion to the amount she knows about the country visited. A short reading list is enclosed and you will both learn more and enjoy yourself more if you spend time between now and July reading some of these or the many other books on Kenya which your library can provide.

9) Lastly, a few general comments on travel in a developing country, since it may be the first time that some of you do so. Many things will not go totally as you expect. Vehicles may break down, there may be electricity outages, there almost certainly will be delays of many varieties. Please remember that if you want a setting like that of an American Hilton, it would be much cheaper just to go to St. Paul. Try to be prepared for changes in schedules and arrangements, remain very flexible, and consider all emergencies as part of the adventure. You are privileged to have this opportunity to be introduced to a beautiful and enterprising nation, albeit one which has suffered enormously from the world wide recession of the past years. Remember to be appreciative of their outstanding successes and tolerant of problems which are not yet solved. And most of all, learn to know the people of Kenya wherever you go. You will find them proud of their nation, hopeful that you are happy and impressed with Kenya, and eager to become acquainted with you. You will find the experience enriching in many ways, one which will live forever in your memory.

Emphasize concerns of women, Maureen Reagan tells delegates

Associated Press

Nairobi, Kenya

Maureen Reagan said Tuesday she will work to keep politics from dominating the U.N. women's conference, but will not try to muzzle any delegate's views, "no matter how much I might disagree."

There were cheers from the audience when she made the statements to the conference, which brings to an end the U.N. Decade for Women. Reagan, the president's daughter and head of the U.S. delegation, also drew cheers when she denounced South Africa's apartheid policy and reviewed the progress of women in the United States.

The conference has attracted more than 3,000 official delegates and about 11,000 others who are either observers or in a nongovernmental session of workshops called Forum '85 that began July 10.

Many of the speakers — including

Suzanne Mubarak, wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Margaret Papandreou, wife of Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou — expressed support for black women living under white-minority rule in South Africa and Palestinian women living in Israeli-occupied territory. Both topics are viewed with concern by the American delegation, which says it does not want women's issues to be overshadowed by broader political controversies.

Reagan said the U.S. delegation would work against the possibility that "generalized political issues with only a nominal connection to the unique concerns of women might come to dominate this conference." She pledged, however, not to attempt to deny any delegate the opportunity to use the conference as a platform for expressing political views. She called for "a conference of women, by women and for women."

Reagan spoke of "dramatic progress" by American women in the

past decade, including a greater share of jobs and several individual milestones, such as the first appointment of a woman to the Supreme Court, the first space flight by an American woman astronaut and the first nomination of a woman for vice president by a major political party. "But we are still not satisfied," she said. She said women in the United States and throughout the world face cultural, sociological and economic barriers.

Stephanie Clohesy, executive director of the National Organization for Women's legal defense fund, said that Reagan's speech, "while containing some positive points, is by and large administration doubletalk that inhibits meaningful communication between U.S. women and women of the world."

She cited the lack of an equal rights amendment to the Constitution, lack of equal-pay legislation and the dismantling of legislation mandating equal educational opportunities.

U.S. delegation vows to keep focus

From News Services

Washington, D.C.

The U.S. delegation to a world conference on women is vowing to fight hard to keep the focus on issues that apply specifically to women instead of such inflammatory issues as Zionism and apartheid.

The delegation, headed by President Reagan's daughter, Maureen, left Thursday for the conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The official 11-day meeting begins Monday and marks the formal end of the United Nations' Decade for Women, launched in Mexico City in 1975.

The U.S. objective, Maureen Reagan said, is to assess achievements of the past 10 years and come up with a final document that can be used by 130 or so nations as a guide to improve the status of women into the next century.

However, of the 372 paragraphs in the working document, nearly 60 have yet to be agreed upon. Many of those include language that the United States opposes.

At a briefing at the State Department this week, Reagan left open the possibility that the U.S. delegation would walk out of the conference if a consensus is not reached on the final document. She said such a decision would have to be made in Washington.

One objective of the delegation is to avoid an embarrassing repeat of what occurred at the conference in 1980 when the United States was forced to vote against the working document because it contained offensive language pushed by anti-Israel delegates.

At that conference, in Copenhagen, the U.S. opposed two of the document's 218 points: one equating Zionism with racism and another saying money for Palestinian women should be allocated in consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This time, the United States is urging that the document be ratified by consensus, rather than by a vote. If there is a vote, Reagan said she hoped the U.S. delegation could footnote the paragraphs it objects to and still vote for the main document.



Maureen Reagan

Among the issues Reagan would like to focus on at the conference are family violence, illiteracy, health care and development. She has indicated that it has been frustrating to battle anti-American delegations eager to have the women's conference debate global issues.

Beyond the problems with the agenda, Reagan has met with criticism at home about the makeup of the U.S. delegation. In addition, a number of



Sarah Weddington

the 36 delegates have declined to attend the conference.

Sarah Weddington, former assistant to President Jimmy Carter and a member of the delegation to the 1980 conference, has bemoaned the fact that the Reagan delegation includes few veterans of the previous two conferences.

Others have said the U.S. delegation mainly consists of conservative wom-

en.

Reagan said she didn't know how many were Republicans or Democrats. "They were picked mainly because of what they do," she said.

Among the delegates are former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick; Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler; several congresswomen; Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., and Holly Coors, wife of conservative beer magnate Joseph Coors.

Kassebaum and several of the congresswomen are not attending. Nor is Kirkpatrick.

Kirkpatrick briefed the delegation several weeks ago and said she warned them about the limitations of life at the United Nations.

"The U.S. has been slower than most countries to understand that all U.N. conferences in all the various U.N. arenas tend to repeat each other, and that the policies of the General Assembly in New York are simply transferred to these other conferences," she said. "There are very sharp limitations to what can be accomplished there."

Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., a member of the 1980 delegation, said another problem with the conference is its rather tenuous link with any legislative reality. The resulting document will be nonbinding, and relatively few of the women at the conference have any legislative power within their own nations.

Many women, however, insist that the U.N.'s decision in 1975 to devote 10 years of attention to the status of women has borne fruit.

"The plans of action that come out of these conferences are extremely important, particularly for Third World women," Weddington said. "If nothing else, it is an expression of world opinion. These women can go back to their own countries, to their own governments and hold up this document and say, 'You signed this. What are you doing about it?'"

(Compiled from Associated Press and Washington Post reports.)

Women's St. Paul meeting linked to U.N. Kenya session

About 400 Minnesota women are expected to attend a conference today and Saturday that will serve as the local counterpart to the third United Nations World Women's Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

"Nairobi in Minnesota: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally," will be held at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

Like the Nairobi conference, the St. Paul meeting will observe the end of the U.N. Decade for Women and discuss continuing efforts

to improve the status of women, according to conference coordinator Sue Laxdal of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. She said the St. Paul meeting also will be a vehicle for planning a meeting next spring on how the women's worldwide movement should proceed in the next 15 years.

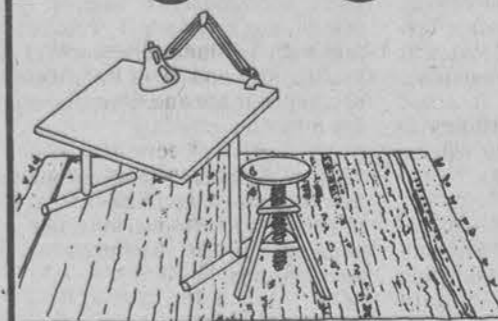
Tonight's highlight will be entertainment celebrating the end of worldwide women's decade of achievement. Weather permitting, entertainers will perform outdoors from 9 to 10:30 p.m. If it rains the performances will be in the auditorium.

Minneapolis Star and Tribune

Fri., July 12, 1985

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S C H L A M P P S

18 July 1985 STRIB

Women can disagree, too

The early days of the U.N. Conference of Women under way in Kenya are living up to expectations: Conflicts over procedures and issues such as apartheid and a Palestinian state are competing for attention with economic opportunity and other so-called women's issues. In a column below, Norman Podhoretz uses these disagreements to discount the conference and to discredit feminism. Arguing from a mistaken premise, Podhoretz provides an unintended tribute to the equality of the sexes.

The tendency for parochial interests to subvert global agendas is a characteristic of most U.N. meetings; the women's conference is no exception. Indeed, the disagreements merely prove that women are no more homogeneous than men. Like men, women do not check their national loyalties or individuality at the door when they enter a world conference.

Women from some 130 countries have gathered in Nairobi not to prove they are the same, but to

pursue solutions to common problems. Their rallying point: Women make up half the world's population, perform two-thirds of its work for one-tenth of its income and own less than one-hundredth of its property. In addition, women carry the burden of housework and child-rearing.

If there is a feminist "fantasy of solidarity," as Podhoretz claims, it is not that women of the world will unite against a common enemy. There is no common enemy; men are feminists, too.

The solidarity is every woman's wish to have her earnings reflect her contributions, and to translate those earnings into full access to education, property ownership, credit. The fantasy is really an aspiration: that with economic power, women stand a better chance to gain political power and thus to work more effectively for world peace. That aspiration is also the mission of the United Nations. Realizing it will benefit not only women, but the other half of the world's population as well.

18 July 1985 STRIB

No solidarity in world feminism

By Norman Podhoretz
News America Syndicate

New York

Do women constitute a special political class with special interests of their own? Feminists, of course, believe they do.

Yet the goings-on at the United Nations Decade for Women Conference, which has just opened in Nairobi, are only the latest in a growing list of indications that about this, as about so much else, the feminists are wrong.

The 10,000 delegates and observers from 140 countries who have gathered in Nairobi are presumably there as women and out of a shared and overriding concern about the plight of women. But even before the conference officially opened, women from Iraq and Iran were at each other's throats over the war between their two countries.

A woman belonging to the Polisario guerrilla movement clashed with a woman from Morocco on the question of sovereignty over Western Sahara.

There was the inevitable exchange of angry words between Palestinian and Israeli women. There was an exhibit staged by the wonderfully named "Soviet Women for Peace, Laos and Cambodia."

Several American feminists were so distressed by such antics that they were moved to protest against turning the proceedings into "a staging ground for nationalism." Even the normally raucous Bella Abzug was upset. "We must not," she declared, "make the mistake of talking about our concerns in the same way the men running our governments do."

Evidently, however, the "sisters" from the Third World and the Soviet Union disagreed. They spoke primarily not as women but as Iranians, Iraqis, Moroccans, Russians, or as members of revolutionary movements fighting — often by means of straightforward terrorism — to win control over Northern Ireland, El Salvador, Israel.

What we see here is reminiscent of what happened in 1914, when Marxists who had believed that workers everywhere had common interests transcending all other loyalties discovered to their horrified amazement

as World War I broke out that national passions were stronger than proletarian internationalism. For instead of refusing, in compliance with Marxist theory, to participate in a war between rival capitalist imperialisms, French workers proved only too eager to kill German workers, and German workers were just as happy to return the favor.

As Nairobi again demonstrates, women are no more willing to play their assigned role in a feminist fantasy of international solidarity than the proletariat was in the prototypical Marxist scenario.

To be sure, at the conclusion of the Nairobi conference, the delegates will finally put aside their national differences to pass certain resolutions.

When they do, however, it will be not as women in solidarity with other women throughout the world but as representatives of regimes most of which are in solidarity, whether voluntary or coerced, with the Soviet Union. (As U.N. officials themselves have admitted, virtually the whole section of the official conference document dealing with peace and disarmament is "Soviet-inspired.")

Indeed, the only women in Nairobi this week likely to repudiate national feeling and to go against national policy are those unofficial observers, mostly Americans and Israelis, who side with the enemies of their own countries on issues such as disarmament or a Palestinian state, which have nothing to do with women as such.

But what about women within their respective societies? It is true that French workers see themselves as French in relation to German workers, but it is also true that in relation to their French bosses they see themselves as workers. Therefore they are willing to join together in labor unions to fight for their common economic interests. Might not something analogous be the case with women?

Here again the evidence suggests otherwise. Take the United States. In contrast to the fierce and often bloody resistance mounted against the unions at a comparable stage in their history, the organized feminist movement in America has enjoyed an enormous amount of sympathy, encouragement and favorable publicity.

Yet it has so far succeeded in recruiting only a minuscule proportion of American women. Thus the National Organization for Women, the largest and most respectably mainstream feminist group in America, still claims only about 250,000 members (to put things into perspective, this is 120,000 fewer than belong to Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization).

Nor have American women rallied as individuals to the feminist cause. In New York a few years ago, a state version of the main feminist objective, the equal rights amendment, was defeated for lack of support by women, not men. (Can one imagine blue-collar workers in the 1930s opposing the Wagner Act?) Nor did women deliver the expected vote for Walter Mondale in 1984 despite the unprecedented choice of a woman as his running mate and despite Ronald Reagan's opposition both to ERA and to the other most important feminist issue, legalized abortion.

The inescapable conclusion is that women do not accept the feminist idea that they are a distinctive political class united by common interests.

Why should they? The only thing all women have in common is their difference from men. As people used to say before the feminists began driving everyone crazy (that much they can certainly be credited with), *vive la difference*. It makes for delight, it makes for romance, it makes for anguish, it makes for drama, it makes for babies — it makes for life.

But it does not make for politics. Those women who act as though it does are either misguided or, like the female operatives from the Soviet bloc and the Third World gathered in Nairobi this week, are pursuing other political interests — almost all of them inimical to America, its women emphatically included — in the name of women's rights.

Tradition binds African women to circumcision rite

By Blaine Harden
Washington Post

Mogadishu, Somalia
Hodan Adan, 8, feels cheated. Her girlfriends at school accuse her of not being a good Muslim. They call her a "pagan." She says she has been unfairly singled out by her mother, a nurse-midwife, in a way that shames her in the eyes of her father, her grandmother and all her friends.

Hodan Adan wants to be circumcised. She pleads with her mother nearly every day. "When is my time?"

A decade has passed since African women first dared speak publicly about female circumcision, which in Africa is a ritual and a way to control female behavior. For all who practice it, female circumcision is a rite of womanhood, for most it is a religious obligation and for many — men and women — it is believed to be a shield for the virginity of unmarried girls and a means to extinguish the "impure" sexual appetites of married women.

African women have written a handful of books describing and denouncing the practice, which affects millions of women in a belt of 20 countries that stretches from Mauritania on the Atlantic Ocean to Somalia on the Indian Ocean. The once-taboo subject is discussed in nationally controlled newspapers and on African radio. Official commissions have been appointed to study the issue and several countries, including Sudan and Kenya, have laws prohibiting female circumcision.

And yet tradition-bound women, sober-minded men and the anxious little girls of the continent, like Hodan Adan, perpetuate the practice.

Hodan's grandmother, a 65-year-old woman who grew up as a nomad near the Juba River in southern Somalia, nags at Hodan's mother nearly every day to consent to the procedure.

The grandmother argues that Somali women, as Muslims, have no alternative. Besides, she says, the traditional Somali circumcision — called infibulation, an operation that surgically excises the clitoris, labia minora and inner walls of the labia majora and sutures up the two sides of the vulva — "takes away nothing that she needs. If she does not have this done, she will become a harlot."

Hodan's father, Ibrahim, 40, a college-educated businessman, is not so adamant. Still, he says society gives Hodan no choice. "Yes, I know it is bad for the health of girls. But I don't want my daughter to blame me later on because she could not find a husband."

Specialists on female circumcision in Africa, many of whom attended seminars at a forum that preceded the U.N. Women's Decade Conference being held in Nairobi, say there has been little reduction in the past 40 years in the percentage of African girls who are circumcised.

There is strong research evidence from Sudan and Somalia showing that, except for a few urban and highly educated families, the most severe form of female circumcision, infibulation, is as common as ever, affecting more than 9 of 10 women.

A survey this year in five regions of Ethiopia found that 87 percent of the women surveyed had undergone some form of genital mutilation. It remains common for expatriate African families living in Europe to fly their daughters to Somalia, Sudan or Mali for the operation.

"I have never met a Somali woman who is not circumcised," said Raqiya Haji Dualeh, a vice minister in the Somali Ministry of Health and author of a book on female circumcision in Africa entitled "Sisters in Affliction."

Dualeh, with other women activists who have taken up the issue, sees female circumcision as a symbol of male dominance in Africa. Women bear more children in Africa than in other regions, do most of the farm work and are considered male property, like camels and goats. Female circumcision, which many Africans believe curbs aggressive female sexuality, helps guarantee male property rights, Dualeh said.

Yet, as Dualeh admits, it is women who perform most circumcisions, and it is women who instill in their daughters attitudes that perpetuate the practice.

Women have internalized this thing to the point where they cannot conceive of anything else," she said. They laugh when I tell them that most of the world's women didn't have to go through this.

The belief is so deep that even fathers who can see the damage the practice causes them (chronic infections, painful menstruation, complications at childbirth, sexual fear and more) are hesitant not to circumcise their daughters. The prestige of the father and the future of their daughter — the most important duty in a woman's life — marriage — depends on it.



Washington Post Photo by Blaine Harden

Hodan Adan, 8, of Mogadishu, Somalia. The question of her circumcision was debated between older and younger family members.

Faduma (who asked that her last name not be used) is a 23-year-old nurse in Mogadishu who was married eight months ago. She says her marriage and her attitude toward sex have been altered forever by the operation she underwent when she was 7.

The operation was performed in a hospital in Somalia. It was unlike most of the female circumcisions performed in the desert country where per capita income is \$250 a year.

In rural Somalia, the operation usually is performed by an old woman, called a *gedda*, who uses an unsterilized knife or razor and sutures the wound with catgut or acacia thorns. The operation is painful (the girl is usually held down by six or seven women) and is often complicated by infection.

Faduma was given an anesthetic and remembers that her operation did not hurt. She had no infection. As part of the ritual before her circumcision, she remembers being lavished with attention and gifts of sweets and new clothes. Her relatives congratulated her on becoming a woman.

As a teen-ager, she found that her period was often accompanied by extreme pain and nausea. A doctor told her he wanted surgically to widen her vaginal opening — which had been narrowed by her circumcision — to permit a freer flow of menstrual blood and relieve the pressure that caused her pain.

She refused. "I was afraid that my future husband might feel I was not a virgin," she said.

After her wedding, Faduma said it was two months before she and her husband succeeded in having sexual intercourse. Those two months, she said, were a time of pain and nightly bleeding.

"I was afraid more of the pain than anything else," she said.

"Whenever I go to bed with my husband, I am afraid of what will happen. There is no thought of pleasure."

The historical origins of female circumcision in Africa are murky. It is clear that the practice predates Islam in Egypt, Arabia and the Red Sea coasts. Some historians trace infibulation, which is common in Somalia, Sudan and Mali, to ancient Egypt.

Anthropologists believe female circumcision may be an ancient African puberty rite. It is practiced by Africans who are Catholics, Protestants, Copts, animists and nonbelievers.

Although many women in black Muslim countries believe the operation is mandated by the teachings of Islam, Islamic theologians say there is no doctrinal basis for that belief. The custom is not observed in Saudi Arabia, the cradle of Islam.

Circumcision continued on page 18A

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Circumcision Continued from page 17A

What is clear, however, is that female circumcision, especially the severest form, is a serious health problem for Africa. A report by the faculty of medicine at the University of Khartoum says complications arising from the operation include shock, infections, injuries to adjacent parts of the body and urine retention. Later complications include chronic pelvic and urinary infections, cyst formation and infertility. A fertility survey in Sudan found that 30 percent of Sudanese women have complications related to circumcision.

During childbirth, infibulated women must be opened surgically and afterward, according to tradition, they must be sewn up. Infibulated women often have especially painful labor. The University of Khartoum report says these difficulties can result in the death of the child or the mother.

A map of African countries that practice circumcision corresponds closely with a map of those countries having the world's highest rate of infant mortality.

Somalia, which is believed to have the highest percentage of circumcised women in the world, has the world's fourth highest infant mortality rate. A 1984 U.N. Children's Fund report says only half of Somali children live past the age of 5.

In Somalia, as in other Muslim countries where sexual matters are rarely discussed publicly, women campaigning against female circumcision say they can argue against the practice only on health grounds. It would ruin their credibility, they say, to mention sexual or psychological problems caused by mutilation.

"People in this country are not ready for the sexual aspect. I don't think we would get half as far if we spoke of organic problems," said Edna Adan Ismail, a Somali midwife who, in 1976, was one of the first women in the country to discuss the issue publicly.

"Maybe in the distant future we can talk about sexual pleasure, but not

now," said Raqiya Dualeh. "Men are suspicious that the reason this issue has come up is that girls want to do something bad before marriage, that girls will have illegitimate children."

An important justification for circumcision in Somalia, as in Sudan and Mali, is to guarantee the virginity of a bride. Women in Somalia are less restricted in their movement and dress than women in many other Muslim countries.

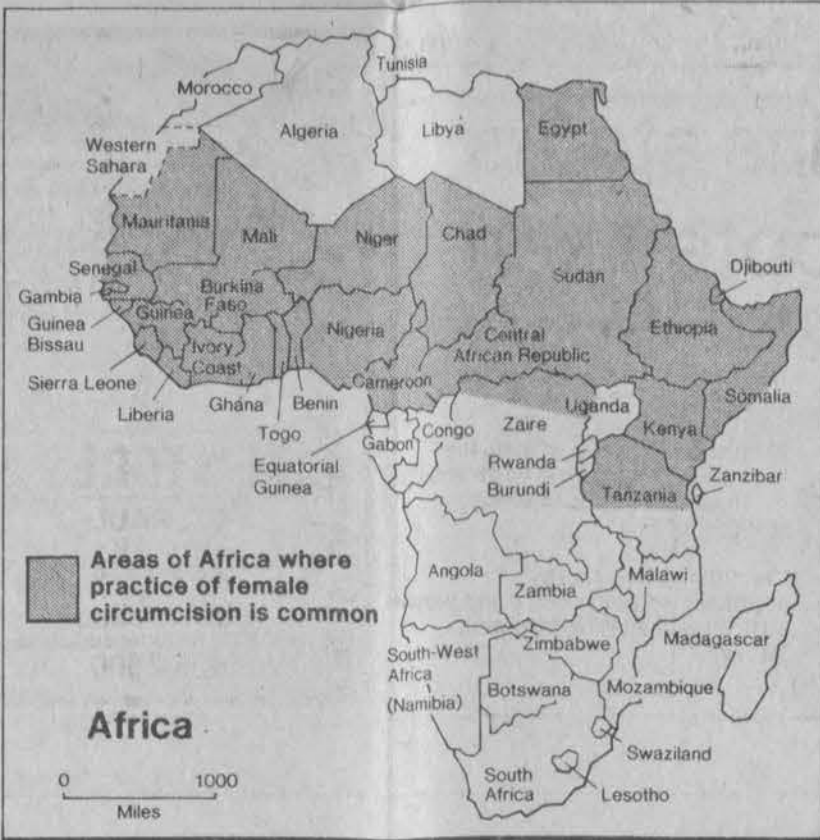
As nomads and pastoralists, they wear no veils and work with men constantly. Infibulation, Dualeh writes, was believed to be "the most effective means to keep the girls' virginity intact." Several men interviewed in Mogadishu said purity remains a priority in taking a wife.

"As far as Somali men are concerned, they want their girls to be virgins. That is a very important requirement," said Ibrahim Adan, father of Hodan Adan, the 8-year-old who wants to be circumcised. "Circumcision (infibulation) is the only way of knowing that your girlfriend has not slept with another man."

There has been very little research in Africa into how circumcision affects sexual desire in women. Most African women, researchers say, are too embarrassed to discuss the issue. Interviews with nurse-midwives in Somalia, all of whom were infibulated as children, indicate that sexual pleasure is, for most Somali women, a moot issue.

"When I was abroad in nursing school, all my friends talked of dreams for their husbands," a 33-year old nurse-midwife said. "But sexual desire I never felt. I missed my husband, but not for that reason. I have never looked forward to sex. It is the lack of sensation."

Europeans and Americans have been expressing revulsion over African female circumcision for at least half a century. In Kenya in 1929, the Church of Scotland mission forbade children to attend its school unless



their parents renounced the rite. Two years later, a conference in Geneva denounced the "barbarous" and "heathen" custom, demanding it be abolished at once by law.

But Western attempts to force Africans to abandon the practice have been largely unsuccessful. African nationalists, such as Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya, took up the cause of female circumcision as a way of protesting colonial efforts to manipulate Africans.

African women who are trying to abolish the practice say they, too, find criticism of it by Westerners to be patronizing and counterproductive.

"It makes me very angry when I hear Europeans and Americans calling it a 'cruel' or 'barbarous' rite," said Edna Ismail, the Somali nurse-midwife. "I tell these people to be only as horrified by female circumcision as they are by measles or cholera. We need to deal with this as a medical problem, and, as a medical problem, Western money can help us educate people."

"There is not quick fix for this. We are trying to change centuries-old attitudes of entire countries. It is a gradual process."

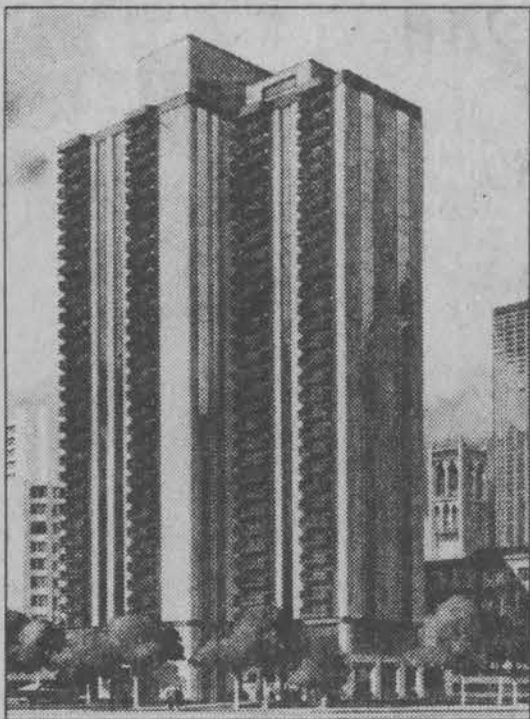
Hodan Adan will be circumcised. Her grandmother and father have agreed. As has her mother, Asli Adan, a nurse-midwife who has seen many of the medical problems caused by the procedure. Hodan, however, will not be infibulated.

Instead, her mother has persuaded her 8-year-old, her husband and her grandmother to accept a ritualistic circumcision that will only nick the girl's clitoris with a razor, cause a little bleeding, but no lifelong mutilation.

"It pleases the family," said Asli Adan, "and Hodan will thank me someday."

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Minneapolis feminist says U.N. document will give equal rights

Michele Chandler

Nairobi, Kenya

Arvonne Fraser of Minneapolis, a feminist who is participating in an international forum on women's issues in Nairobi, says a U.N. proposal called the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women will do exactly what the name implies: give women world-wide equal rights.

"Some people call the convention the most important document of the decade. It's an international bill of rights for women," said Fraser, a senior fellow at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Fraser is one of 10,000 women from around the world who have gathered in Nairobi to share ideas at Forum '85, an informal, nongovernment session offering of hundreds of workshops that overlap the U.N.'s official conference on the status of women.

Fraser, wife of Minneapolis Mayor Donald Fraser, is conducting a week-long series of workshops about the U.N. document. Since the convention was adopted in 1980, about 60 countries have ratified the agreement, which spells out measures that countries can use to eliminate discrimination against women in employment, education, health and other areas.

The U.S. has signed, but not officially approved the measure.

"The U.S. won't ratify it and we shouldn't waste our time," she said.

Formal approval in the United States is unlikely, Fraser said, because the convention focuses on laws on marriage rights and the family, areas that are constitutionally controlled by each state. But, she added, individual states could choose to adopt the document's antidiscrimination measures on their own and, in countries where few laws protect women's rights, the convention could be a force for positive change if its provisions are implemented.

"Marriage and family law is the basis of all other law," Fraser said. "If the first one is discriminatory, then every thing else is, too. With some things I think you just have to say these are wrong, period, and then educate people as to why they're wrong."

By making contact with women from all over the world, Fraser said she hoped to establish a network of people who can monitor and relay information on how the convention is working in their countries.

The workshops on the convention document are popular and sometimes controversial. On Tuesday, a group of women criticized the convention and urged the remaining governments not to adopt it, saying the document may give governments



Arvonne Fraser

too much power over family issues. But Fraser said the document "is really pro family."

At a session at the University of Nairobi early this week, almost 50 women crowded into a second-floor classroom. Among them were lawyers from Mauritius, Bangladesh and the West Indies as well as women from Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, Uganda and the United States.

Fraser's interest in women's rights has spread over most of the past three decades. She has served as adviser to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and in the 1970s was national president of the Women's Equity Action League. During the Carter administration, Fraser headed the Office of Women in Development at the U.N. Agency for International Development.

Fraser currently is director of the Women Public Policy and Development Project at the Humphrey Institute.

In addition to helping organize the Nairobi conference, Fraser was a delegate to the two previous conferences on the status of women held in Mexico City in 1975 and in Copenhagen in 1980. She said the women at the Nairobi conference "have a lot more determination to really make things happen."

"In Mexico City, they talked about the oppression of women, they asked governments nicely to make women equal and (now they're) not talking about oppression and all the reasons why we can't do things."

She also said the nongovernmental groups have changed dramatically. "Nongovernmental organizations used to be old volunteer types... Now they've converted to much more aggressive women's organizations."

"The important thing about this conference is that a whole lot of women got together to discuss issues. It really is history."

Fraser said that more than 60 women from the Twin Cities area representing groups as diverse as the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to day care centers attended Forum '85, which ends today. She said some of the women will report on the Nairobi conference at a meeting in Minneapolis next month.

(Michele Chandler is a free-lance writer based in Zimbabwe.)

Communist delegates at women's conference accuse U.S. of militarism

Associated Press

Nairobi, Kenya

Communist delegates filled the U.N. women's conference Wednesday with charges of U.S. imperialism and militarism. An American replied that the accusers brutalize their own and neighboring people.

Linda Chavez, deputy assistant to President Reagan for public liaison, spoke late on the third day of the 12-day final conference of the U.N. Decade for Women. Reagan's daughter, Maureen, is the leader of the U.S. delegation.

Chavez took the floor after delegates from Vietnam and Afghanistan accused the United States of militarism, and former cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, head of the Soviet delegation, said U.S. "imperialist" policies and research on a space-based defense system were major obstacles to women's progress.

Chavez said her delegation "categorically rejects the delegate of Vietnam's false assertion that the United States is responsible for aggression in Central America, the Middle East and the Pacific."

"I would simply point out that today

there are millions of refugees in Southeast Asia, the majority of whom are women and children, who are in that tragic condition as a direct result of Vietnam's brutal military occupation of Cambodia," she said.

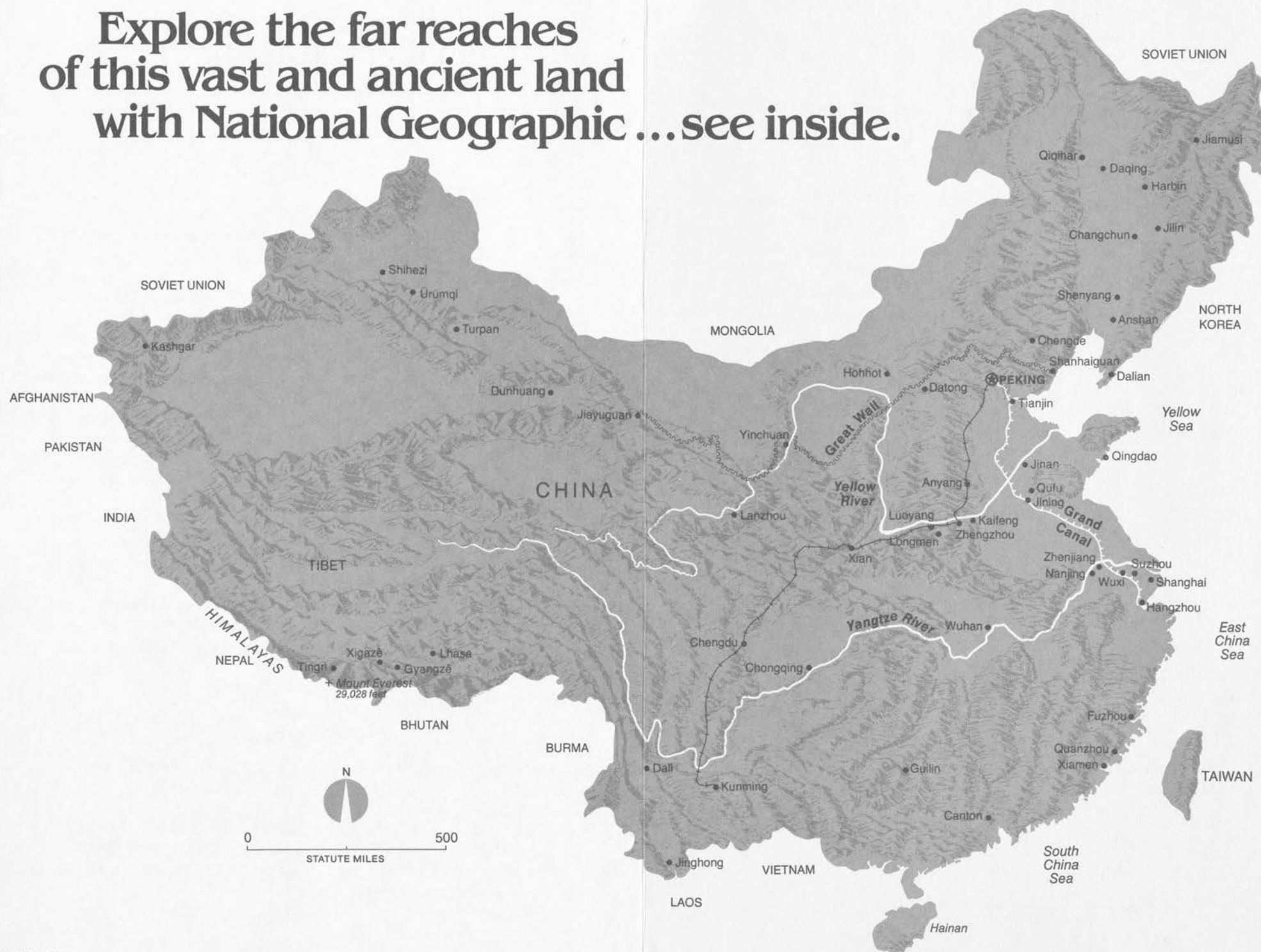
The Afghan accusations "are particularly absurd coming from a delegation whose government is at war with its own people," Chavez said. "There are today more Afghan refugees in neighboring lands than anywhere else in the world."

She contended that President Babrak Karmal's government survives only because more than 100,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan helping in the war against Muslim rebels.

Tereshkova, who in 1963 became the first woman to make a space flight, blamed the Western allies for a "run-away arms race." She said military expenditures divert resources from programs that would benefit women by combating poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy.

After the rebuttal by Chavez, in which she did not refer to the Soviet speech, delegates from China and Pakistan joined in denouncing the Afghan government.

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June 26, 1985

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MEDIA INFORMATION SHEET

Schilling Travel, Inc. sends three hundred and twenty-eight U.S. women to the U.N. Decade for Women NGO Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The Minneapolis-based company, specializing in public affairs tours, is serving national and Minnesota groups sending representatives to the international forum. Of the 328 women, 60 are from Minnesota.

Non-governmental organizations, ranging from the Ford Foundation In New York to small grass-roots organizations such as the Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press will be represented. Other national groups traveling with Schilling include:

- The Kellogg Foundation, Dearborn, Michigan
- The Population Council, New York, New York
- The Bangalore Group, New York, New York
- National Organization of Women: Legal Defense, Educational Fund
- World Council of Churches
- Church Women United
- Women of All Red Nations

Of the sixty Minnesota women, representing a similar great diversity of organizations, six have been awarded full or partial scholarships by The Travelers' Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation closely associated with Schilling Travel, which provides scholarships for travelers. One of the scholarship recipients is Michelle Little of Minneapolis, who is studying child-care systems. She hopes to bring back some new ideas from Nairobi to be implemented locally.

Other Minnesota women attending the forum include:

- Professor Barbara Knudson, University of Minnesota
- Arvonne Fraser, H.H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs
- Meridel LeSueur, poet and recent recipient of the Wonder Woman Award
- Catherine Warrick, Executive Director of the Chrysalis Center
- Mary Gates, Board President of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Girl Scouts

These women will contribute their perspectives to the meeting of 8,000 participants from worldwide countries and cultures. They will also have the opportunity to visit Kenya's ethnic cultural centers, climb Mt. Kenya, tour an appropriate technology center and visit community and social service agencies.

All field trips were organized by Schilling Travel (see attached sheet) and all participants were extensively briefed on culture-specific issues prior to their trip.

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NAIROBI FIELD TRIPS

(Tentative)

Registration for these trips will take place in Nairobi

- A. Nairobi City Tour - A three-hour tour of Kenya's diverse capital city. We will visit various types of residential neighborhoods, business centres and industrial areas. A comprehensive overview of the city.
- B. Nairobi National Park - In small safari vans we will explore this classically beautiful African park, home to such famous wild animals as lion, cheetah, giraffe and hippo. The park, consisting of wild plains and rolling grassland, is only a short drive from Nairobi.
- C. Isak Dinesen Tour - An opportunity to visit the coffee plantation home made famous in her book "Out of Africa". In addition we will enjoy a short hike atop Dinesen's beloved Ngong Hills, with fantastic views overlooking both Nairobi and the arid Great Rift Valley.
- D. Carnivore Restaurant - A short drive out of Nairobi brings you to this world famous first class dining spot, an open air affair with an exotic variety of meats roasting in a massive charcoal pit. A very tasty and memorable experience!
- E. Great Rift Valley - A four hour trip to see one of the great geological wonders of the world. The great rift is a spectacular valley of cliffs, volcanoes and lakes, cutting through the African continent.
- F. Tea/Coffee Plantation - A half day trip to the beautiful tea and coffee area in the highlands north of Nairobi. Participants will be able to walk around a plantation, learning first hand about Kenya's most important export industry.
- G. Undugu Society - A morning tour to see the crafts-oriented community development project of Nairobi's Undugu Society. Participants will visit cooperative shops, working with wood and fabrics. In addition, we will enjoy a traditional Ethiopian meal at a small local restaurant.
- H. Bird Walk - A three hour morning bird walk in one of Nairobi's parks. Under the direction of an experienced local birder, this walk will be an excellent opportunity for participants to view a wide variety of East African birds.
- I. Bomas - Traditional Dances - A short drive out of Nairobi, Bomas of Kenya is a cultural centre, offering in authentic settings, the traditional lifestyle, songs and dances of the country's sixteen ethnic groups.
- J. Nairobi Schools - An opportunity to observe the varied types of Nairobi area schools, meeting with students and staff.
- K. Children's Homes - A visit to at least two homes for orphaned children, including tours of children's workshops and discussions with staff.
- L. Eastleigh Community Centre - A visit to one of Nairobi's most active community centres, located in an urban residential neighborhood east of downtown. Eastleigh Centre has an interesting variety of community development projects including a community farm and a women's weaving cooperative.
- M. Kibera Community Centre - A visit to an integrated community centre, including development projects, social services and vocational training.
- N. Peace Corps Village Project - An opportunity to visit a Peace Corps volunteer in her/his village. Participants will be able to meet with local people and learn about the life and work of a volunteer.
- O. Appropriate Technology Centre - This tour will visit a demonstration site for economic-development projects that rely on indigenous resources and methods that fit local skills and abilities.
- P. Social Service Agency - A visit to a home for unwed teenage mothers or to another social service agency.

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6/28/85

MINNESOTA WOMEN ATTENDING N.G.O. FORUM IN NAIROBI, KENYA - JULY 1985

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Catherine Jordan
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History of Womens Conf. - The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. Themes were Equality, Development and Peace with subthemes of education, health and employment.

Goal was to approve the "forward-looking strategies" to set the agenda for the women's movement over the next 15 years. - The final document contained over 350 proposals to advance the equality of women on issues such as pay equity, day care and family violence.

~~36 member US delegation led by Margaret Reagan~~

It is a clear framework of what women believe to be the policies necessary to achieve their full recognition and participation in global politics and economy.

In fact there were two conferences - the official UN Conference with delegates from member nations and official observers - and the NGO Forum which was open to anyone who was interested.

CONFERENCES

The Triumphant Spirit of Nairobi

In the end, the United Nations Decade for Women avoids extremes

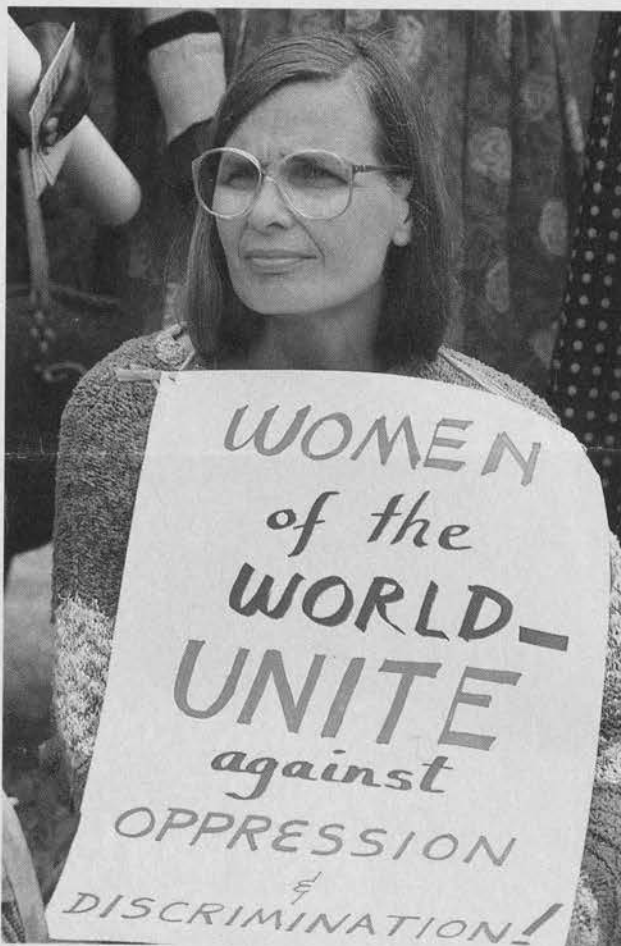
When the moment of agreement finally came at 3 a.m., bleary-eyed delegates erupted into whoops and cheers on the floor of Nairobi's cavernous Jomo Kenyatta International Conference Center. After almost two weeks of often bitter debate, delegations from 160 countries managed a relatively harmonious conclusion to a conference marking the end of the United Nations Decade for Women. A series of compromises enabled the conference to adopt unanimously a document of "forward-looking strategies" for women that avoided ideological extremes. "The U.N. won in spite of itself," said Delegate Rosario Manalo of the Philippines, "and it took women to do it."

Until the final hours last week, 13 of the document's 372 paragraphs remained unresolved, and it appeared that the conference was destined to become a replay of many U.N. meetings, including the Decade's contentious kickoff meeting in Mexico City in 1975 and its politically charged midpoint conclave in Copenhagen in 1980. But one by one, divisive issues were ironed out. One of the most sensitive of these was defused when the host Kenyan delegation succeeded in removing language equating Zionism with racism. "I said I was coming home with a document that did not have Zionism in it," said President Reagan's daughter Maureen, head of the 29-member U.S. delegation. "And I did."

In all, the U.S. delegation voted no on three sections of the document: one blaming women's unequal status on developed countries' refusal to redistribute the world's wealth, another calling for economic sanctions against South Africa, and a third criticizing Israel's occupation of the West Bank. These votes, coupled with abstentions by other Western countries, succeeded in changing only the first of the disputed paragraphs. But that may not have been the primary objective anyway. The trio of negative votes, shrugged one member of the U.S. delegation, "was for the people back home." The same issues kept the U.S. from signing the final document at the Copenhagen meeting. But in Nairobi, the U.S. seemed determined, if possible, to lend its imprimatur to the conference's concluding report. Said Delegate Reagan before the final vote: "My No. 1 concern is to have a document adopted by

consensus that will give a legacy for ten or 15 years."

Indeed, the delegates' almost frenzied effort to complete their work and not let the conference collapse in discord reflected the nearly universal feeling that the Nairobi meeting represented an important step toward an international women's movement. For most of the participants, the gathering created a synergy



In Kenya, a participant displays one of the multitude of posters

A sense of shared purpose and commitment to action back home.

that transcended the protests and the eye-glazing speeches. Women not only shared their common experience of oppression and inequity but reveled in positive personal qualities: determination, humor, intelligence. Many felt that it would only be a matter of time before "the spirit of Nairobi" would translate into action back home. "There has been tremendous change," said Chafika Sellami-Meslem, an Algerian who served as deputy secretary-general of the conference. "Women's issues can no longer be dismissed by the governments of the world, and it would not have happened without the Decade."

The Nairobi meeting, convened to review the accomplishments of the previous ten years and develop strategies for action to the end of the century, was really two overlapping conferences. The U.N. conference involved delegations appointed by member governments, often led by spouses or relatives of heads of state and sometimes featuring diplomats like Alan Keyes, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Economic and Social Council. The larger, unofficial gathering, called Forum '85, was attended by a loosely confederated group of about 150 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), such as the World Council of Churches and Amnesty International. While more than 2,000 delegates convened for the U.N. conference, about 13,000 participants flocked to Kenya for the forum, including such well-known American feminists as Betty Friedan and Bella Abzug. Most of the women had high hopes for a sisterly exchange. As it turned out, however, neither assembly was free of overheated rhetoric or polemics.

In early speeches at the U.N. meeting, South Africa's policy of apartheid took a drubbing from almost all the participating countries. Delegates from Iran and Iraq traded gibes over their countries' five-year war. When Israel's chief delegate, Sarah Doron, rose to speak, representatives from Muslim, Third World and East bloc nations marched out of the hall shouting "Zionist terrorists, go home!" As Washington had expected, speakers from Third World and Soviet-aligned countries trooped to the rostrum to rebuke the U.S. for its support of Israel, its military buildup and its policy of "constructive engagement" in South Africa. The U.S. in turn proposed that the conference's final document include a paragraph condemning an unnamed "group of outlaw states" for aiding international terrorists. The proposal, which was defeated, sparked indignation among many delegates, who said the U.S. was guilty of doing exactly what it had asked other countries to avoid: saddling the conference with political conflicts unrelated to women's issues.

The U.S. delegation came under fire from many of the 2,000 Americans across town at the NGO forum, who charged that the U.N. group reflected only the Reagan Administration's conservative views on



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STATEMENT BY MS. MAUREEN REAGAN,
HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION
TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW
AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN:
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE,
IN PLENARY, JULY 16, 1985

THANK YOU, MADAME PRESIDENT. ON BEHALF OF MY ENTIRE DELEGATION, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THIS CONFERENCE. UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, WE HAVE FAITH THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE BOTH PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU. KINDLY ALSO RELAY TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND ALL THE KENYAN PEOPLE OUR SINCERE THANKS FOR THE WAY THEY HAVE OPENED UP THEIR HEARTS AND WELCOMED US TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.

IT IS ESPECIALLY FITTING THAT THIS MAJOR GATHERING OF THE WORLD'S WOMEN SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AFRICA. AFRICA TODAY SYMBOLIZES THE UNIQUE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN SHAPING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF HUMANKIND. AFRICA IS A CONTINENT OF PAIN AND PROMISE, OF RICHNESS AND SCARCITY, OF INTENSE SUFFERING AND UNDYING HOPE. AT THE HEART OF THESE POIGNANT CONTRASTS, THE WOMEN OF THE CONTINENT TOIL. AT A TIME WHEN FOOD PRODUCTION IS CRITICAL, THEIR LABORS PRODUCE MOST OF THE CONTINENT'S FOOD CROPS. AT A TIME WHEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS CRUCIAL, THEY ACCOUNT FOR A LARGE PART OF AFRICA'S LABOR FORCE IN ITS MOST CRUCIAL ECONOMIC SECTORS. CLEARLY, THE GREAT PROMISE OF AFRICA WILL ONLY BE FULFILLED, IF, AS PRESIDENT MOI YESTERDAY DECLARED, WE KEEP FAITH WITH AFRICA'S WOMEN. SO THE WOMEN OF AFRICA REPRESENT AND SYMBOLIZE THE CRITICAL ROLE, THE PASSIONATE HOPES, THE STRIVING FUTURE OF US ALL.

THE US DELEGATION REPRESENTS OVER 100 MILLION WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUES THIS CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS. THEY HAVE ACHIEVED DRAMATIC PROGRESS DURING THIS DECADE FOR WOMEN, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK BRIEFLY OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

OF COURSE, IT IS EASY TO POINT OUT SPARKLING EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS. DURING THIS DECADE, THE US WITNESSED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST WOMAN JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE SPACE FLIGHT OF THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN ASTRONAUT, AND THE FIRST NOMINATION BY A MAJOR PARTY OF A WOMAN CANDIDATE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

BUT THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMERICA'S WOMEN DURING THE DECADE GOES FAR BEYOND THESE INDIVIDUAL CASES. BY THE END OF THE DECADE, WE HAVE SEEN THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES RISE TO OVER HALF. WOMEN NOW OCCUPY MORE THAN 1600 HIGH LEVEL POLICY-MAKING

POSITIONS IN OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE AT LARGE HAS GROWN FROM 40 TO 44% WHILE THE AVERAGE WAGE FOR WOMEN IS STILL LESS THAN THAT OF MEN, HERE TOO THERE HAS BEEN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE DECADE. WE NEED TO BUILD ON THIS PROGRESS, AND I HOPE THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS WILL WITNESS EVEN MORE IMPROVEMENT.

AT THE START OF THE DECADE, AMERICAN WOMEN HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL EQUALITY THROUGH LEGISLATION. WOMEN HAD THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND HAD OBTAINED LEGISLATIVE GUARANTEES PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AND PAY. DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING, CREDIT, AND EDUCATION HAD BEEN PROHIBITED. SINCE THE DECADE BEGAN, FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TAX LAWS, SOCIAL SECURITY REGULATIONS, PREGNANCY DISCRIMINATION, AND JOB TRAINING, AS WELL AS IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CHILD AND SPOUSAL ABUSE.

BUT WE ARE STILL NOT SATISFIED! WHILE ALL LEGAL BARRIERS TO POLITICAL EQUALITY HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN ELIMINATED, THERE STILL EXIST CULTURAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC BARRIERS. THESE ARE PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS, AND TO JOIN YOU, THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD IN FORMULATING STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THEM.

DURING THIS CONFERENCE, THE US DELEGATION WILL BE SEEKING TO FOCUS ON FOUR ISSUES OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO MY COUNTRY: WOMEN REFUGEES, WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. WE WILL BE HOSTING SPECIAL DISCUSSION GROUPS TO CONCENTRATE ON THESE ISSUES. THE UNITED STATES HAS INVITED A NUMBER OF THE DELEGATIONS HERE ASSEMBLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE GROUPS.

IT IS A TRAGIC COMMENTARY ON MODERN TIMES THAT MORE THAN 10 MILLION REFUGEES SUFFER DAILY FROM DEPRIVATION, DISORIENTATION AND DEGRADATION. SINCE 1975, THE UNITED STATES HAS ACCEPTED NEARLY ONE-HALF OF ALL THE REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. THE NEEDS OF REFUGEE WOMEN RESETTLING IN THE UNITED STATES VARY, DEPENDING FROM WHICH CULTURE THEY COME. THE MOST COMMON DIFFICULTY FOR REFUGEE WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, IS A BACKGROUND AND A TRADITION IN WHICH WOMEN DO NOT TAKE AGGRESSIVE ROLES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME, AND WHERE THEY ARE TAUGHT TO BE DEPENDENT UPON OTHERS. SELF-SUFFICIENCY SKILLS ARE CRUCIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION INTO AMERICAN LIFE. THEREFORE THE MAIN JOB OF OUR REFUGEE PROGRAM - BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE - IS TO HELP WOMEN FROM THESE TRADITIONAL CULTURES LEARN TO BE FULL PARTNERS IN OUR SOCIETY - WHETHER THEY WORK IN THE MARKETPLACE OR IN THE HOME.

LET US NOT FORGET, IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, THE ROOT CAUSES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT NEARLY 8 MILLION REFUGEES AND MANY MORE DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE WORLD TODAY - FAMINE, DROUGHT, WAR, AND PARTICULARLY THE WHOLESAL LOSS OF HUMAN FREEDOM. WHEN WE SEE THE SUFFERING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN REFUGEES IN THE WORLD TODAY, WE MUST DEPLORE THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH FORCE PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM.

FREEDOM IS ALSO AT THE HEART OF THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEIR TARGETS AND THEIR FIVE-YEAR PLANS. WOMEN HAVE DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS. OUR EXPERIENCE CONVINCES US THAT THE ABILITY OF WOMEN IS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN PATHS AND, THEREFORE, TO PARTICIPATE COMPLETELY IN ALL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL.

IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WOMEN PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THOSE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WHERE PRIVATE EFFORT AND INITIATIVE ARE VITAL. PARTICULARLY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THEY ARE THE FOOD FARMERS, THE MERCHANTS AND SHOPKEEPERS, THE BACKBONE OF THE LOCAL MARKET ECONOMY. THE EXPERIENCE OF OVER TWO DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AROUND THE WORLD HAS SHOWN THAT COUNTRIES WHICH PLACE THE EMPHASIS UPON THE PRIVATE ECONOMIC SECTOR ACHIEVE THE BEST DEVELOPMENT RESULTS. THIS MEANS THAT ESPECIALLY FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE WOMEN'S PATH TO DEVELOPMENT IS THE BEST PATH. EMPHASIS UPON THE PROBLEMS, CONCERNS AND CAPACITIES OF WOMEN IS THE BRIGHT HOPE OF THE DEVELOPMENT FUTURE.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS OFTEN THE WOMEN'S SECTOR. PARTICULARLY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR OFTEN MEANS THE ROLE OF WOMEN. COULD THIS BE ONE REASON PRIVATE SECTOR APPROACHES MEETS SO MUCH RESISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACIES?

WHILE GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND GOVERNMENT CONTROL HAVE NOT PROVEN TO BE THE KEYS TO DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENTS DO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES. OVER A DECADE AGO, THE US CONGRESS APPROVED REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDE PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO HELP WOMEN. THAT AGENCY IS ALSO REQUIRED TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN IN ALL ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SEVERAL UN PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, UNICEF, AND THE UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE DECADE FOR WOMEN, THE UNITED STATES HAS GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED TO THESE MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS THAT IN TURN HAVE SUPPORTED IMPROVING

THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING THESE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES THAT WILL FOSTER THE FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR NATIONS, AND THE WORLD. WE BELIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS CATALYST IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. IT HAS ALREADY DONE SO DURING THE DECADE FOR WOMEN, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

LITERACY IS ANOTHER AREA OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE US. WHILE BASIC ILLITERACY IS NO LONGER A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR US, ACHIEVING TRUE FUNCTIONAL LITERACY IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE. FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MEANS KNOWLEDGE THAT WORKS IN EVERYDAY LIFE. MEETING THIS CHALLENGE WILL ALLOW WOMEN TO FURTHER IMPROVE THEIR OWN LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES AND SOCIETIES.

FINALLY, AMERICAN WOMEN ARE INCREASINGLY COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY FAMILY VIOLENCE. SOME OF YOU MAY SEE THIS AS A CONCERN ONLY IN THE WESTERN CONTEXT. BUT VIOLENCE IN THE HOME, WHETHER BASED ON TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS OR SPOUSAL ABUSE, IS ALL TOO PREVALENT WORLDWIDE. FAMILY PRIVACY, GUILT FEELINGS OR EMBARRASSMENT HAVE OFTEN COVERED UP THIS WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON. HELP MUST COME FROM OUTSIDE THE FAMILY. THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEAL WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE IS TO RECOGNIZE IT AS A CRIMINAL ACT AND TO TREAT IT THROUGH THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THE LEGAL RESPONSE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE NATURE OF THE ABUSIVE ACT, NOT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND ABUSER. I HOPE THAT WE CAN SHARE INFORMATION ON PRACTICAL MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO MEET THIS WORLDWIDE PROBLEM, AND TO MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO ITS SOLUTION.

I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED THE FOUR ISSUES THAT ARE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES IN THIS CONFERENCE. THEY WERE CHOSEN BY OUR DELEGATION AS AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AND CONCENTRATION BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IN THESE FOUR AREAS IN THE COMING YEARS WILL HAVE THE GREATEST POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE CONDITION OF WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS MAY CONSIDER OTHER ISSUES TO BE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE. WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN TO THOSE CONCERNS. IN DOING SO, WE HOPE TO PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL WOMEN.

FOR EXAMPLE, MANY DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM AFRICA, BELIEVE THAT IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THIS CONFERENCE ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN DESERVES SPECIAL ATTENTION. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER, AND DOES NOT NOW, OBJECT TO THE DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES AT THE CONFERENCE.

APARTHEID IS ABHORRENT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION TO ITS DEMEANING AND DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON THE BLACK PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, ITS EFFECTS UPON WOMEN ARE ESPECIALLY SEVERE. THE FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES SHOULD ADDRESS WAYS TO OVERCOME THE EFFECTS ON WOMEN OF THIS EVIL AND INHUMANE SYSTEM.

SIMILARLY, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY DELEGATIONS FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS EFFECTS UPON WOMEN. WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THOSE DELEGATIONS IN A SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS-BUILDING TO ARRIVE AT RESULTS THAT ALL CAN ACCEPT.

I REALIZE THAT THIS CONFERENCE OFFERS TO MANY WOMEN A PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO SPEAK THAT MAY BE DENIED TO THEM ELSEWHERE. I AM BLESSED TO BE A CITIZEN OF A NATION WHERE WOMEN ARE FREE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS AND TO WORK WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM TO SEE THOSE VIEWS PREVAIL. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE. I WOULD NEVER DENY TO ANY WOMAN AN OPPORTUNITY SUCH AS THAT PRESENTED HERE TO USE THAT PLATFORM NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DISAGREE WITH HER POSITION.

WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED, IT IS TRUE, OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT GENERALIZED POLITICAL ISSUES WITH ONLY A NOMINAL CONNECTION WITH THE UNIQUE CONCERNS OF WOMEN MIGHT COME TO DOMINATE OUR CONFERENCE. THAT IS A RESULT THAT WE WILL WORK HARD TO PREVENT. WE WANT THIS TO BE REMEMBERED AS A CONFERENCE OF WOMEN, BY WOMEN, AND FOR WOMEN. I AM HOPEFUL THAT IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AND CONSENSUS THAT HAS MARKED THE OPENING OF OUR WORK HERE IN NAIROBI, THIS RESULT CAN BE ACHIEVED. THANK YOU.