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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, INCLUDING THE PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NEED
FOR ACHIEVING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND TO WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ATTAINMENT OF THE GOALS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
DECADE, TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND OF
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATES

Note verbale dated 13 July 1975 from the Permanent Mission of Zaire to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the programme of activities undertaken at the national level in Zaire during the first six months of 1975 on the occasion of the celebration of International Women's Year.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire requests the Secretary-General to circulate this report as an official document of the General Assembly under items 76 and 77 of the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session.

* A/10150.

ANNEX

Programme of activities undertaken on the occasion of the
celebration of International Women's Year

In making arrangements for the celebration of International Women's Year, Zaire did not wish to fall behind other Members of the United Nations.

Accordingly, 1975 was proclaimed "International Women's Year" by the National Executive Council of Zaire and the text of the proclamation was read by Citizen Lutayi Kanza, a woman who is a permanent member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Movement, the Political Bureau being the supreme organ of the Party and the Zairian State as well as the body in which all Zairian policy is conceived.

The celebration of International Women's Year was initiated by the Founder and President of the People's Revolutionary Movement and President of the Republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, who toured the entire country in order to converse with Zairian women about these problems in particular and politics in general. This presidential tour lasted almost three weeks, during which over 600 questions were posed.

Zaire celebrated Women's Day on 20 May 1975, a date which coincided with the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the People's Revolutionary Movement.

On the initiative of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Movement, Zairian women met at N'Sele from 13 to 16 May 1975 for a national seminar on the theme "The role of Zairian women in their country's development in the past, present and future".

The following Zairian women leaders and cadres took part in this seminar:

- Political representatives (Members of the Political Bureau)
- State representatives (Minist'ers)
- Regional representatives (Governors)
- Representatives of the people (Deputies)

and other cadres from all levels of the Party as well as business representatives. In all 1,200 women took part.

Resolutions of a political, social and economic nature were adopted at the end of this seminar. a/

a/ The texts of these resolutions have been deposited with the secretariat of International Women's Year.

Also within the framework of International Women's Year, Zaire acted as host to a symposium on "Women's Contribution to the Strengthening of the Policy of Frankness, Understanding, Détente and Good-neighbourliness" from 18 to 20 May 1975.

Several foreign delegations replied to the invitation sent to them by the People's Revolutionary Movement, namely the delegations of Algeria, Belgium, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Libyan Arab Republic, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The seminar and symposium were held under the high patronage of the wife of the President, Citizen Maman Mobutu Sese Seko. A declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the work of this symposium. b/

Shortly before these meetings were organized, the National Executive Council had decided to establish two new departments to be headed by two women:

Department of the Portfolio;

Department of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism.

The membership of the National Executive Council has been increased by two, both women, making a total of three women from the following departments:

Trade;

Arts and Culture;

Department of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism.

The membership of the Political Bureau has been increased by two, both women, making a total of three women in the Political Bureau, the one with the most seniority having been promoted to the rank of permanent member of the Political Bureau (permanent members, who work directly with the President, must be available at all times).

The National Executive Council decided to revise the Civil Code, particularly the chapter on the family, placing particular emphasis on the protection of women and children against abuse under certain customs (for example, upon her husband's death a woman was deprived of all possessions).

b/ The text of the declaration is deposited with the secretariat of International Women's Year.

The National Executive Council has appointed a liaison officer responsible for co-ordinating United Nations International Women's Year activities and national activities. The liaison officer is a woman, Citizen Sekela Kaninda, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire to the United Nations in New York.

Finally, the National Executive Council of Zaire decided to free all women detained in prisons.
