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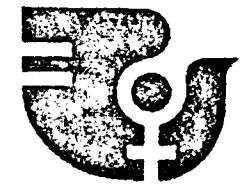


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WORLD CONFERENCE
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
MEXICO CITY, 19 JUNE TO 2 JULY 1975

UN/SA COLLECTION

Letter dated 20 June 1975 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference by the Head of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

In my statement today to the plenary of the World Conference of the International Women's Year I said that the United Kingdom Government had decided that it was in principle prepared to contribute to the United Nations, subject to the consent of Parliament, £200,000 a year for three years beginning 1 January 1976 to be used specifically to help women in the poorest countries, and especially rural women. These funds would be spent inter alia on new projects in such fields as health, education and nutrition and particularly on small innovative "grass roots" activities. The detailed conditions are set out in the attached annex. I very much hope that other delegations will consider joining with us in this enterprise and I look forward to discussing with you the next steps.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter to all delegations accredited to the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

(Signed) Shirley SUMMERSKILL

Annex

(a) Necessary conditions. Projects would be:

- (i) only in countries having an annual per capita income of less than \$US 400;
- (ii) those costing up to a maximum of \$US 100,000 in all;
- (iii) primarily in rural areas;
- (iv) only within the categories in the list of eligible projects below.

(b) List of eligible projects

- (i) Research designed to elucidate economic, social and technical problems faced by women in the third world;
 - (ii) Co-operatives operated by women (but not excluding those jointly operated by women and men);
 - (iii) Non-formal education/agricultural extension projects, especially additions to institutions designed to deal with the special needs of rural women (e.g. an existing agricultural extension institution which did not cater for women would qualify for support if it were proposed to add special facilities for women);
 - (iv) Formal education, especially additions to institutions designed to deal with the special needs of girls and women in rural areas;
 - (v) Appropriate technology, especially that benefiting rural women as workers and home makers. (This area could cover support of research capability, institutional development, equipment, etc.);
 - (vi) Health development (with particular reference to maternal and child health, family planning and preventive health measures that will benefit women in the context of family welfare, especially in the rural areas);
 - (vii) Nutrition, especially projects aimed at rural women and enlarging projects already in existence;
 - (viii) Development of technical capability in the United Nations Headquarters Secretariat and in the Regional Economic Commissions for dealing with small-scale projects in fields (ii)-(vii) listed above.
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