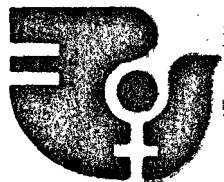




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Agenda item 8

THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
ELIMINATING RACISM, APARTHEID, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ALIEN
DOMINATION AND THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE

Statement submitted by the World Peace Council (Roster)

1. The struggle for women's equality is inextricably linked with the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.
2. The integration of women in political, economic and social life is not possible while people are not free, while they are victims of aggression and war, and suffer from social injustice, colonialism, racism and oppression.
3. Peace, security, democracy and development are unthinkable without women's equality which leads to their full participation in the life of their nation.
4. Women have made a great contribution to the defence of peace and the creation of a new international atmosphere of détente. Inevitably their contribution has taken the specific forms, most appropriate to them, yet, at the same time it has been a part of the great over-all struggle of the peoples for peace and national independence.
5. A large proportion of the 500 million signatures collected in 1950 on the Stockholm Appeal against the use of the atom bomb were collected by women. That Appeal carried great weight at that time, preventing the use of this weapon in the Korean war and the threat of using it on all occasions.
6. Women are particularly interested in disarmament. They understand better than anyone else that the arms race is a criminal waste of people's resources, which has a direct effect on their own daily lives and that of their families, thus affecting women's status in society.
7. Women's struggle for disarmament is in many cases combined with their agitation against inflation, high prices, unemployment and deteriorating living standards, because they understand that the colossal sums of money spent on both conventional and other arms are a major factor in reducing their standard of living.

8. The many and varied activities undertaken by women in the world peace movement, and in the movement as a whole, have helped to point out that an end to the arms race, with its highly dangerous and expensive missiles and nuclear weapons, would enable the release of huge sums for the solution of social problems including women's access to modern education, without which equal participation in economic, political and cultural life is unthinkable. Adequate social services could also be provided to give women the chance of reconciling their vocational and family obligations in the interests of the whole of society.

9. The successes of the national liberation movements and the accession of new countries to independence, with the valuable contribution of millions of women, are consolidating world peace and détente.

10. In Algeria as in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe where the national liberation movements have been forced to conduct an armed struggle, women spared neither blood nor suffering for the liberation of their country and in the same time for the triumph of freedom and peace.

11. Through their participation in bringing about the end of the biggest and most brutal war of aggression ever conducted by United States imperialism, the women of North and South Viet-Nam, won a victory for peace in Viet-Nam, but also for the peace in the world.

12. European women as a whole are aware that the relaxation of tension will favour their struggle for their basic rights and that the establishment of a system of collective security will favour the solution of social and cultural problems. They have consistently supported the proposal to convene an All-European Conference for Security and Co-operation and made their valuable contribution to the first successes of this Conference.
