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Communications concerning the status of women

Non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, as amended by Council resolutions 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950 and 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, the present report summarizes the communications received by the Division for the Advancement of Women during the period from 1 January to 30 December 1999 dealing with issues relating to the violation of women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. No communications were received on a non-confidential basis from other units of the United Nations Secretariat (including the regional commissions), other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

Summary of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

2. Two similar communications were received, regarding the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One, dated 6 January 1999, was received from Eastminister Presbytery in Ohio, United States of America; the second, undated, was received from the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, United States of America. The authors called upon the United Nations, in the year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to make a direct and bold public commitment to protect and promote human rights for all women, as recognized by the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in 1993 and the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. The authors state that very little has been done by Governments or the United Nations in this regard. The authors stress that, without respect for human rights for women, there cannot be security of human rights for all. The authors further call upon the United Nations to take the lead in this regard and to move towards gender parity in its operations. They also call on the United Nations to allocate sufficient resources for addressing women's rights and needs within the activities of all United Nations bodies and to take immediate steps to implement the Beijing recommendation for full integration

and mainstreaming of the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system.

3. Two similar communications, both dated 1 October 1999, were received from the Netherlands, on behalf of the women of Europe. It is asserted by the authors that for centuries the peoples of the world have suffered the terrible tragedy and insurmountable losses caused by the political, economic and social instability brought about by conflicts based on power struggle and ethnic and religious prejudices. The authors state that the lives of millions of soldiers and peaceful civilians have been lost, the lives of many more millions have been irreparably disrupted, and material, cultural and spiritual values have been destroyed. The authors declare themselves to be categorically against the use of aggressive military force and terrorist violence implemented by irresponsible factions, stating that it is unacceptable for their sons to be slaughtered on the battlefield by other young men who are a part of the world family. They request that the legal and executive powers of all nations, at all levels, take immediate action to stop the bloodshed and to resolve all conflicts by means of civilized and peaceful methods.
