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UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Women's participation in the strengthening of international
peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism,
racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and
occupation and all forms of foreign domination

Report of the Secretary-General

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ANNEX

Quantitative data provided by Governments on women's participation in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 32/142 of 16 December 1977 on "Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination". In paragraph 6 of that resolution, the Assembly, inter alia, invited the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its thirty-fourth session, a report on the implementation of resolution 3519 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 on the same subject.

2. Paragraphs 1 to 5 of resolution 3519 (XXX) read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Reaffirms the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975;

"2. Reaffirms that the strengthening of international peace and security, co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, based on the principle of peaceful coexistence, and the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, alien domination and foreign aggression and occupation are indispensable for the safeguarding of the fundamental human rights of both men and women:

"3. Calls upon all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and women's groups, to intensify their efforts to strengthen peace, to expand and deepen the process of international détente and make it irreversible, to eliminate completely and definitely all forms of colonialism and to put an end to the policy and practice of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and foreign domination.

"4. Urges all Governments to take effective measures towards bringing about general and complete disarmament and convening the World Disarmament Conference as soon as possible;

"5. Expresses its solidarity with and its assistance for women who contribute towards the struggle of the peoples for their national liberation."

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3. On 29 January and 5 February 1979, the Secretary-General invited States, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to furnish information relevant to the subject-matter. 1/

4. As at 31 July 1979 substantive information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) had been received from nine Governments, 2/ three specialized agencies 3/ and 22 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. 4/ The report is based on these replies. Use was also made in the preparation of the report of relevant information submitted by Governments, as at 31 July 1979, in response to the questionnaire on the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year circulated in January 1979, section III.3 of which dealt with women's participation in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace. 5/ Furthermore, data on women's attendance at relevant United Nations meetings was extracted from official United Nations records.

1/ The invitation also requested views and proposals on the nature and content of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29 of 5 May 1978. A report will be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session containing views and proposals forwarded to the Secretary-General.

2/ Australia, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Mali, Mauritius, Nepal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United Arab Emirates.

3/ International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank.

4/ Category I - International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women's International Democratic Federation.

Category II and Roster - Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Amnesty International, Baptist World Alliance, Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development, Ford Foundation, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of University Women, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, International Social Service, International University Exchange Fund, Lutheran World Federation, Socialist International, Socialist International Women, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Association, World Union of Catholic Women's Organization, World Young Women's Christian Association.

5/ Replies to the questionnaire will be used in the preparation of the report on review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session and to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

A. Measures taken to implement General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX)

5. The replies received from Governments regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) during 1978 and 1979 are reproduced below:

AUSTRALIA

/Original: English/
/30 April 1979/

Implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) has continued in Australia in accordance with the direction outlined in the comprehensive report submitted by the Australian Government prior to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/
/30 May 1979/

1. The provisions of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), the decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and, in particular, the provisions of the 1975 Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, as also the decisions of the World Congress for the International Women's Year, which took place in Berlin in 1975, are specifically reflected in the consistent peace-loving policy of the Soviet State and of the other countries of the socialist community, a policy directed towards ending the arms race, achieving general and complete disarmament and consistently implementing the principle of the peaceful coexistence of States with differing social structures.

2. Involved as they are in the peaceful constructive work of building a communist society, the Byelorussian people firmly advocate peace and social progress. The adoption in April 1978 of the new Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR was a major event in the political life of the Republic. Article 28 of that Constitution states: "War propaganda is prohibited in the Byelorussian SSR".

3. In his address delivered at a pre-election meeting of the voters of the Baumansk electoral district in Moscow, Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, observed on 2 March 1979: "Our aim is lasting peace and security for the Soviet people, and lasting peace and peaceful co-operation among all the States of the world. We shall struggle untiringly to achieve this aim, sparing neither effort nor energy".

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4. Guided by the peace-loving principles of the foreign policy of the Soviet State, and also by the aims of the Programme of Further Struggle for Peace and International Co-operation and for the Freedom and Independence of Peoples adopted at the Twenty-Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR, which this year observed the sixtieth anniversary of its formation, is taking an active part in strengthening international peace. The women of Byelorussia are playing an important part in these activities. Like the Soviet people as a whole, they are well aware that lasting peace is necessary for the implementation of plans for further economic and social development and for a happy future for their children.
5. The women of the Byelorussian SSR, while noting with satisfaction the considerable successes which have been achieved in the struggle to avert a new world war and to promote détente, recognize that the threat of such a war has still not been eliminated. The arms race continues, and there is a continuing accumulation of vast reserves of materials intended for destruction and devastation and for the annihilation of life itself.
6. In these circumstances a special urgency attaches to the proposals of the Soviet Government for a simultaneous halt by all States to the production of nuclear weapons, together with a gradual and synchronized reduction in the already accumulated stocks of such weapons, culminating in their complete elimination, for a joint decision not to manufacture the neutron bomb and for the prohibition of all types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, for a complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, and for limitation of the trade in conventional weapons. Also of particular urgency are the important proposals put forward at Moscow in November 1978 by the socialist States parties to the Warsaw Pact.
7. The Byelorussian people have also given their support and approval to the initiatives of the Soviet Union regarding cessation of the arms race and progress towards general and complete disarmament which were put forward at the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament and at the Assembly's thirty-third session. At the special session on disarmament the Soviet astronaut V. V. Nikolaeva-Tereshkova, Vice-President of the Women's International Democratic Federation and Chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women, spoke on behalf of millions of women in an urgent appeal for general and complete disarmament. The women of the Byelorussian SSR warmly support that appeal.
8. Byelorussian women are deeply conscious of the vital necessity of implementing the Soviet Union's proposal for the reduction of the military budgets of the States permanent members of the Security Council and of using part of the resources released to help the developing countries in solving many social problems, such as the elimination of illiteracy, poverty and hunger, and of dangerous diseases from which millions of people, women and children in particular, are suffering.
9. Together with all the progressive people of the world, the women of Byelorussia support the full implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence, the enhancement of détente and its extension to the military sphere,

the cessation of the arms race, and the consistent implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. In this context special significance attaches to the proposal set forth in a statement made by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev on 2 March 1979 on not being the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons and on the non-aggression pact between the States participating in the all-European Conference.

10. The part played by Byelorussian women in strengthening world peace and security takes many forms. The voice of Byelorussian advocates of peace is heard at the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and at various international forums of those struggling for peace. Women constitute two thirds of the members of the Committee for the Defence of Peace of the Byelorussian Republic. The aims of this Committee are the safeguarding of peaceful relations, the preservation of world peace and the establishment of links with organizations of advocates of peace in other countries. The members of the Committee hold mass rallies and meetings devoted to current international problems; they receive delegations from abroad and peace and friendship trains visiting the Republic, and they travel to other countries as members of delegations. Among the events organized by the Byelorussian Committee for the Defence of Peace may be mentioned a youth meeting in support of the patriots and democrats of Chile, a public meeting dedicated to International Peace Day, a rally for solidarity with fighting Viet Nam, and public meetings on disarmament problems and against the neutron bomb.

11. One important form of participation by Byelorussian women in activities for strengthening peace and international security is the role they are playing in various campaigns directed towards the achievement of this end. For example, hundreds of thousands of Byelorussian women took part in a collection for the Peace Fund.

12. In 1978 regional congresses of women were held in the Republic at which there were discussions of the questions of the struggle for peace and international co-operation and for the freedom and independence of peoples. Every year in the Republic a "Rally of Soldiers' Mothers" is held, the main theme of which is the struggle for lasting peace and security and peaceful co-operation among all States of the world. At a meeting of women of different generations held this year, there was a renewed appeal to women to join forces in the struggle for the preservation of peace, for an end to the arms race, for disarmament and the deepening of the process of détente and against the production of the neutron bomb.

13. Byelorussian women are making a considerable contribution to the cause of bringing up young people in a spirit of peace and mutual understanding among peoples. Substantial work in this field is being done by the "Women Comrades in Arms" club of women veterans of the Great Patriotic War, set up under the War Veterans' Council. Members of the club address young people and arrange meetings of war veterans, their comrades in the common struggle against fascism.

14. Byelorussian women are taking an active part in rallies and meetings held in connexion with such occasions as the Week of Solidarity with the People of Chile, the International Week of Solidarity with the People of Southern Africa, the

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International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Disarmament Week and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

15. Byelorussian women were roused to anger and indignation by China's aggression against heroic Viet Nam and the provocative actions of China against Laos, which constitute a flagrant violation of all norms of international law and a blatant infringement of the sovereignty of independent States. At meetings of protest against China's naked aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Byelorussian women supported the Declaration of the Soviet Government of 19 February 1979 and stated that, at a time when the efforts of the international community must be directed towards the implementation of the noble aims of the International Year of the Child, the Chinese aggressors were killing children and women and were destroying kindergartens, hospitals and schools in Viet Nam. Joining with all the progressive forces of the world, Byelorussian women condemned the criminal aggression of China's armed forces against socialist Viet Nam and demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnamese territory.

16. Like millions of other people in the world, the women of the Byelorussian SSR are deeply disturbed by dangerous plans to create a neutron weapon and to deploy it in the territory of Western Europe. They took part in a Week of Action Against the Neutron Bomb, which was held on the initiative of the World Peace Council. At meetings of protest against this frightful lethal weapon they resolutely demanded a ban on the creation of neutron bombs.

17. Byelorussian women also participate in the struggle for international peace and solidarity with peoples striving for independence, democracy and social progress through such organizations as the Trade Union Council of the Republic and the Byelorussian Committee of Youth Organizations.

18. An important role in developing mutual understanding between peoples and in strengthening friendly relations between voluntary organizations is played by the Byelorussian Association for Friendship and Cultural Links with Foreign Countries, in whose activities Byelorussian women are taking a very active part. The Association maintains friendly contacts with some 400 organizations in 72 countries at the present time.

19. Byelorussian women took part in the preparation and work of the Eighth Congress of the International Federation of Resistance Movements, which took place at Minsk in May 1978. The Congress focused its attention on such questions as the struggle for peace, détente and disarmament, and the struggle against neo-fascism and neo-nazism. Speaking at the Congress, Mr. P. M. Masharov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Byelorussia, said: "The lessons of the struggle against fascism, the imperishable memory of the millions who died in the last war and the conscience of humanity demand that no one should stand aside from the great and just struggle for a world without weapons, for a world without wars".

20. The women of Byelorussia are firmly determined to make every effort to promote the struggle to avert war, to strengthen world peace and security and to develop peaceful and equitable co-operation and mutual understanding between peoples.

CUBA

/Original: Spanish/

/31 May 1979/

A. Implementation of paragraph 3 of resolution 3519 (XXX)

1. The Federation of Cuban Women, established on 23 August 1960, has a membership today of more than 2.2 million, or some 80 per cent of the female population over 14 years of age. Its fundamental objective is to raise the cultural, political and ideological level of women and increase their active participation in the country's economic, political and social life.
2. The Constitution of the Republic of Cuba of 24 February 1976 recognizes, protects and promotes social and mass organizations such as the Federation of Cuban Women and the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions. Such organizations represent specific interests of the various sectors of the country and involve their members in the work of building the new Cuban society.
3. With regard to international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace, within the Federation of Cuban Women there is a Secretariat for Solidarity, which is responsible for promoting activities aimed at developing a broad movement of solidarity, providing an outlet for the internationalist sentiments of women and helping to increase their knowledge of the history and situation of the peoples making up the international community.
4. It thus promotes steadfast support for the struggle being waged by women in various countries of the world to win their economic, political, social and cultural rights. By way of example, the following paragraphs have been excerpted from Cuba's presentation at the Meeting of Women's Organizations of Socialist Countries held in Havana in April 1978:

"... In considering the situation of children, especially those in under-developed countries, we note with anguish that each year some 350 billion dollars is spent on armaments.

"... World peace, détente and international co-operation are factors of prime importance to our struggle to ensure the harmonious and integral development of all the children of the world.

"In Africa, a continent of tremendous wealth and natural resources, peoples are languishing in wretched conditions, and they are daily besieged by hunger, malnutrition, poverty and illiteracy, and this situation is becoming increasingly critical and acute for children.

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"We should like to stress, in particular, the sub-human living conditions of South African children who each day bear the full brunt of apartheid.

"In connexion with the International Year of the Child, we must condemn and vigorously denounce the horrendous and disgraceful plight of the black children of South Africa."

5. In addition, the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Federation of Cuban Women, whose purposes are, inter alia, to establish and strengthen relations with women's organizations in the world and promote the movement of solidarity between Cuban women and women who are engaged in other countries in activities to win and defend national sovereignty, independence and social progress, has been very active in recent years, as evidenced by the following statistics:

6. Between 1977 and 1978: 60 Cuban delegations had bilateral contacts with counterpart organizations; 83 Cuban delegations participated in international events and conferences; and 118 delegations of women were received in Cuba as a result of bilateral contacts with counterpart organizations.

7. At the present time, when we are witnessing one of the most repugnant, most cowardly and most sordid events, namely, the vile aggression of the Chinese leadership against the heroic people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the President of the Federation of Cuban Women stated in an open letter to the President of the Union of Vietnamese Women that "the Federation of Cuban Women joins its voice in the universal outcry of peoples, and condemns this aggression which has compelled the valiant Vietnamese people once again to take up arms to defend their territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty".

B. Implementation of paragraph 4 of resolution 3519 (XXX)

8. With respect to measures towards bringing about general and complete disarmament and the convening of a World Disarmament Conference as soon as possible, the Republic of Cuba has carried out the following activities:

(a) It supported and co-sponsored resolutions concerning the convening of a World Disarmament Conference and the prohibition of chemical and nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Cuban delegations have made statements on disarmament issues in various international forums;

(c) It has participated in the preparation of the final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which provided for the convening of a world conference;

(d) It has acceded to international instruments in the field of disarmament such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their

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Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques;

(e) It has become a member of the Disarmament Committee, the multilateral negotiating body working to achieve tangible progress in this field.

MALI

/Original: French/

/31 July 1979/

A. Introduction

The National Union of Malian Women (UNFM) is the only national association of Malian women. It makes no distinction as to race or creed and comes under the control of the authorities of the Party, the Union Démocratique du Peuple Malien (UDPM). Its activities are part of the more comprehensive activities of the Party and the Government. Its involvement in the struggle to strengthen international peace and security is clearly expressed in one of the articles of its statute: "Firmly committed to the noble ideals of peace, justice and human brotherhood proclaimed by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, the women of Mali are determined to support all liberation movements in Africa and throughout the world and to use every means possible to safeguard peace and justice and ensure friendly understanding among all the peoples of the world".

UNFM subscribes to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of OAU, the United Nations Charter and the principles of non-alignment.

B. Past and present activities

Contribution of Malian women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination

As part of the over-all programme of the Government of Mali and of all democratic organizations, the National Union of Malian Women:

(a) Propagates the ideals of peace among the population throughout the entire territory of Mali;

(b) Ensures the active participation of women in all activities related to the struggle for peace;

(c) Maintains relations of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity with all peoples devoted to peace and justice;

/...

(d) Participates in the implementation of government programmes in Mali;

(e) Co-operates closely with the Malian peace movement, the Afro-Asian movement, the Association for Friendship with the People of Korea, the Association for Friendship with the People of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Association for Friendship with the People of Cuba, and the Malian United Towns Committee;

(f) Participates actively in international meetings dealing with all peace-related issues:

- The National Union of Malian Women was well represented at the World Conference at Mexico City in June 1975 and then at the World Congress at Berlin in October 1975. Our representatives at these impressive gatherings emphasized that the concepts of national independence, peace and progress were inseparable and that the developing countries could not attain the major objectives of development in the absence of peace. They denounced the continuing arms race, which jeopardizes international détente and the establishment of a climate of peace and security;
- At the world conference of young women at Moscow in October 1975, the representative of the women of Mali stated that the people and youth of the developing countries had inherited a heavy burden from colonialism in the form of economic backwardness, illiteracy, ignorance, disease and false, reactionary ideas about the role of women in the home and in society. She argued that all those social evils existed in places where colonialist and neo-colonialist dependence and oppression were still present and that only the struggle of the people and youth of the developing countries against the imperialist policy of neo-colonialism could guarantee third-world women a decent role;
- We participated in the Helsinki world conference on disarmament and détente. The representative of Mali warmly commended the participants and expressed the hope that the results of the conference would help to preserve international peace and security;
- In February 1977 at Conakry, UNFM, through its representatives at the International Women's Seminar organized by WIDF, the Pan African Women's Organization, the Federation of Arab Women and the Revolutionary Committee of Guinean Women, appealed to the women of Africa and the entire world to join forces in order to:
 - Eliminate apartheid, racism, colonialism and zionism which are a disgrace to the human race;
 - Promote disarmament and peace;
 - Support the liberation movements in their just struggle for national independence;

- In February 1977 at Berlin, an international meeting to follow up the work of the World Congress for International Women's Year was held with the participation of 26 organizations, 51 national bodies and United Nations representatives. The representative of UNFM made a cogent statement on peace, disarmament and halting the arms race. She endorsed the idea that women should play a major foreign-policy role and supported the observance of an anti-war day in connexion with the commemoration of Universal Children's Day. The participation of the UNFM representative was appreciated by all. The discussion focused primarily on questions relating to educational efforts on behalf of peace, freedom for all and solidarity. The UNFM representative supported the proposal for a day of solidarity with child victims of régimes of aggression;
- In May 1977, a delegation from the executive office of UNFM participated in the work of the conference on disarmament convened by the World Peace Council;
- With a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of Mali and China, a representative of UNFM visited China in response to an invitation extended to the women of Mali by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Other Countries;
- In October 1977, we were represented at the festivities marking the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the movement of Korean women resident in Japan. All the delegations attending the ceremonies expressed their hopes for the peaceful reunification of Korea;
- In May 1978, the Council of WIDF held a session in Moscow. UNFM was represented by a delegation headed by its President. The discussions all centred on the campaign against armaments and war and the struggle to achieve peace and eliminate all forms of discrimination as well as hunger, unemployment and illiteracy;
- In Mali in 1978, in observance of International Anti-Apartheid Year, UNFM mobilized the country's women in full force for the successful implementation of the programme for the Year prepared by the Government;
- They organized a large meeting at which the President of UNFM explained in the national language, Bambara, the meaning of apartheid and the abhorrent manner in which it is applied to the subject peoples;
- UNFM participated in a march organized in Bamako in May 1978 in support of the people of Soweto;
- It has made a number of appeals for support for the oppressed peoples struggling for the liberation of their country;
- UNFM has hailed the heroic contribution of women to the historic victory of the peoples of Viet Nam and Angola over the imperialist forces.

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C. Future action

Mindful of the increasing role of the masses of African women in bringing about the important, far-reaching changes taking place on the continent of Africa, the women of Mali are determined to do away with the vestiges of the colonial system of oppression. They therefore firmly and unswervingly support:

- The oppressed peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and southern Africa;
- The elimination of the racist régimes; this poses a most acute international problem which is quite properly a matter of concern to the women of Mali;
- As to the Palestinian problem, UNFM endorses and supports the Government's call for:
 - The exercise by the Palestinian people of their national rights, including their right to self-determination;
 - Israel's immediate withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied by force, including the Holy City of Jerusalem;
 - Guarantees for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the States of the region, which have an equal right to live in peace within legitimate frontiers;
 - The participation in the peace process of all the interested parties, including PLO, the sole and authentic representative of the Palestinian people in the negotiation of a comprehensive settlement.

The women of Mali express their sympathy with the women of Palestine, reaffirm their militant solidarity with them and assure them of their steadfast support until total victory is won.

- The question of women in Iran is receiving our full attention.

With respect to family planning, UNFM endorses the position of the Government of Mali in favour of birth spacing and against rigorous birth control.

- UNFM protests against the frantic arms race, which is confronting mankind with the threat of nuclear disaster and is resulting in the systematic waste of natural and intellectual resources which the people of the world need in order to combat hunger, disease and illiteracy.

D. Conclusion

Brought together within UNFM, which is an integral part of the Union Democratique du Peuple Malien, the women of Mali are paying special attention to the obstacles barring the way to a stable peace. They are expressing their firm belief

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in the need for international solidarity in order to ensure the freedom and independence of peoples. They will therefore spare no effort to tighten the bonds of friendship and comradeship with all women in Africa and throughout the world who are devoted to peace, justice and freedom.

MAURITIUS

/Original: English/
/10 May 1979/

From the consensus of opinion expressed so far in the course of forums and social gatherings by members of the women's associations functioning under the Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Social Security of Mauritius, it is felt that, like men, women of Mauritius are interested in seeing that measures are taken to construct a healthier society, to foster peace and to strive for better living conditions, all of which are related to the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against all forms of domination. On the other hand, the Government of Mauritius recognizes the importance of the role which women can play in such a struggle. Lastly, it would be important to underline this struggle, which is meant to support the claims and rights of a section of the world population, whose conditions of living have not by far reached a standard acceptable to human dignity.

NEPAL

/Original: English/

1. The Nepal Women's Organization is one of the important and active class organizations functioning in the country, under the partyless panchayat system. The Nepal Women's Organization affirms that women of Nepal, like those elsewhere, aspire to create an environment of freedom where men and women can work together in harmony, wiping out the vestiges of injustice, exploitation and inequalities that have weakened the very foundation of our society. The Nepalese women in authority, however, are engrossed in their own domestic problems of raising the consciousness of the women masses, of liberating them from the shackles of age old traditional superstitious beliefs and of making them aware of their status in society and their equality with men. Their main problem at hand is the fulfilment of these ideals rather than explaining to the ignorant masses about the women's participation in international peace and security, struggle against racism, racial discrimination etc. On international forum, His Majesty's Government is doing its utmost to voice the above-mentioned ideals and is also creating a favourable atmosphere for women's development.

2. Since its inception, the main objective of the Nepal Women's Organization has been to improve the status of women in the society through the promotion of education, (only 5 per cent of Nepalese women are literate), the adoption of legal and socio-economic measures, that are useful in rooting out social injustice,

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economic exploitation and all sorts of inequalities. In regard to this, the Nepal Women's Organization has launched numerous welfare activities that are spread throughout all the villages and districts of the country. Some of its defined objectives are eradication of illiteracy among women; creation of a conscious society by imparting social, economic, educational and political consciousness among women; and creation of the spirit of self-reliance among women through the improvement of their economic condition.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/27 September 1979/

1. Since the earliest days of its existence, the organs of power and administration as well as public organizations in this socialist State have attached great importance to the involvement of women in the political life of the country and in efforts to solve the most crucial problems of the contemporary world.
2. A question of great historical significance has been solved, for the first time anywhere, in the Ukrainian SSR: complete equality for women has truly been established, constituting one of the outstanding achievements of Soviet power, which has found its legislative confirmation and development in the new Ukrainian Constitution of 1978.
3. Today in the Ukrainian SSR, every encouragement is given to the involvement of women in active work for the strengthening of international peace and security. Ukrainian women in many forums stress that, at the present stage, this noble goal can be achieved only by the adoption of measures to avert the danger of nuclear war and end the arms race, strengthen the political and international legal guarantees of peace, and deepen the process of détente and extend it to all regions of the world.
4. The women of the Soviet Ukraine, like the entire Ukrainian people, are actively engaged in implementing the Programme for the Further Struggle for Peace and International Co-operation and for the Freedom and Independence of Peoples, adopted at the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and are continuing to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the sweeping socio-economic programme set out by the Twenty-fifth Congress of CPSU and the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party.
5. Participation by Ukrainian women in the many public campaigns for the protection of peace is co-ordinated by the Ukrainian Republican Committee for the Protection of Peace, in whose governing body, the Presidium, women comprise 25 per cent of the membership. Branches of this organization, in which women also play an active role, are operating in almost all regions of the Republic. The Ukrainian Society for Friendship and Cultural Contact with Foreign Countries, a Republic-wide public organization, plays a leading part in the strengthening of

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friendship, good-neighbourly relations and co-operation with the peoples of dozens of countries throughout the world as well as in the development of international cultural ties. Within the Society, a section devoted to work among women has been in operation for a number of years. Every three months the section holds special meetings devoted to discussion of "the struggle for peace at the present stage".

6. As international peace and security are strengthened, Ukrainian women increasingly recognize that the struggle for complete equality for women in a number of countries in the world and for their economic, social, political and other rights is connected in the most direct manner with the final elimination of colonialism, racism, all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

7. They are accordingly taking part in campaigns of solidarity with the peoples struggling against colonial domination, racism and apartheid. Women of the Ukrainian SSR participated in all the events held in the Republic in 1978 in connexion with International Anti-Apartheid Year. Every year, Ukrainian women take part in activities connected with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Africa Liberation Day, the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa, etc., during which they demand the elimination of the shameful system of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa, the termination of the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racists and the granting of the right of self-determination to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, the Arab people of Palestine and the peoples of other colonial and dependent Territories. Women of the Republic take an active part in the campaign of solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Chilean patriots against the fascist junta and for the release of all prisoners of the illegal régime.

8. The women of the Soviet Ukraine, like the entire Soviet people, attach great importance to strengthening fraternal solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people. At solidarity meetings they have expressed their political and moral support for the fraternal people of Viet Nam and have denounced the barbaric behaviour of the Chinese aggressors towards the peaceful population, including women, children and old people. Voluntary extra work days have taken place on the initiative of members of many workers' collectives in the Republic, and the money earned on those days goes to the Peace Fund for Assistance to the Children of Viet Nam.

9. In 1978-1979, as in previous years, eminent women specialists from the Ukrainian SSR took part, as members of the governmental delegations of the Republic, in the work of the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the twentieth session of the UNESCO General Conference, and sessions and conferences held by UNIDO and other international organizations.

10. The exchange of delegations and tourist groups, and international meetings of representatives of women's organizations of various States, are an important factor in strengthening friendship and mutual understanding among peoples. In the period 1977-1979, the Ukrainian SSR was visited by representatives of women's organizations from nearly every continent and many Ukrainian women travelled to different countries as members of specialized delegations.

11. In the Ukrainian SSR, the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination enjoys the full support of the Republic's State and public organizations, for such participation is in harmony with the principles of Ukrainian foreign policy.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

/Original: Russian/

1. Soviet women, like the Soviet people as a whole, fully support the consistent peaceful foreign policy of the Soviet State, which finds legislative support in the USSR Constitution (chapter 4 - "Foreign policy"). Article 28 of the Constitution states, inter alia: "The USSR steadfastly pursues a Leninist policy of peace and stands for strengthening of the security of nations and broad international co-operation." Soviet women, who constitute over one third of the total number of deputies in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and in the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics, take an active part in the preparation and adoption of decisions on the basic issues of the Soviet Union's foreign policy, which is aimed at strengthening peace and security, preventing of wars of aggression, achieving universal and complete disarmament, supporting the struggle of peoples for national liberation and social progress, and consistently implementing the principle of peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, speaking at a pre-election meeting of voters of the Baumannsky electoral district of Moscow on 2 March 1979, stated: "Our aim is to secure lasting peace and security for the Soviet people and lasting peace and peaceful co-operation among all the States of the world. In order to achieve that aim we shall fight tirelessly, sparing no efforts or energy." Guided by the peaceful principles of the foreign policy of the Soviet State and by the objectives of the Programme of Further Struggle for Peace, International Co-operation, Freedom and Independence of Peoples, adopted by the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Soviet women are, together with the entire Soviet people, waging a tireless struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and firmly oppose colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

2. In the international women's movement and at international, regional and national forums and meetings, Soviet women are represented by the Soviet Women's Committee. Expressing the interests and wishes of Soviet women as a whole, the Soviet Women's Committee actively helps to give effect to the Soviet Government's peaceful foreign policy, firmly and consistently favours the implementation of the principle of the peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems, the strengthening of a just peace and co-operation among peoples, and supports the national liberation movement and those fighting to combat fascism and to promote democracy and social progress. The Committee takes part in the activities of international women's public organizations that form part of the general struggle of peoples for peace, democracy and social progress, which are the most important prerequisites for the equality of women and the well-being of the younger generation.

3. The Committee carries out its day-to-day work in close co-operation with other Soviet public organizations, such as the Soviet Peace Committee, the Soviet Peace Fund, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and

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Africa, the Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation, the Committee for Solidarity with Chilean Patriots, the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the United Nations Association in the USSR and other organizations.

4. Soviet women, while welcoming the positive changes that have occurred on the international scene and the significant progress achieved in the struggle to avert a new world war and to attain the aims of genuine disarmament, are aware that the threat of a world conflict has not yet been removed. The arms race continues and the development and manufacture of new, more sophisticated types and systems of weapons of mass destruction proceed; these include neutron weapons, which pose a threat to the very existence of humanity. In these circumstances, there is particular urgency in the peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union taken at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and in the important joint initiatives taken by the socialist countries in November 1978 at the Moscow meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the countries members of the Warsaw Treaty. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, has stated that "Putting an end to the arms race and averting the threat of a world nuclear war have now become the most pressing, the most burning task for mankind". The Soviet Union and other socialist countries are sparing no effort in the struggle to achieve these aims. The Soviet people, including women, engaged in peaceful, constructive work, clearly recognize the full importance and urgency of disarmament with a view to abolishing wars from the lives of present and future generations. Soviet women, like all the Soviet people, hate war. The wounds sustained by every Soviet family during the most recent war have not yet healed; in our country alone, that war wiped out almost one third of the national wealth, demolished and reduced to ashes over 70,000 towns and villages, shattered 20 million lives and rendered homeless hundreds of thousands of orphaned children.

5. Soviet women participate in all national and international activities designed to achieve disarmament, lasting peace and mutual understanding among peoples. The Soviet Women's Committee, which devotes particular attention to issues relating to the struggle for peace, gives all possible support to the efforts of the international women's public organizations, the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), the World Peace Council and other international organizations and movements, aimed at halting the arms race and bringing about disarmament, averting the threat of a world nuclear war, prohibiting production of the neutron bomb and its deployment in Western Europe and deepening and broadening the process of détente. A plenary meeting of the Soviet Women's Committee held in February 1978 was devoted to these problems; it discussed the question of the Committee's activities for the implementation of the programme of further struggle for peace and disarmament at the present stage. Soviet women played an active part in celebrating the international week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament, held in accordance with the decision taken at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly. That important international activity was also the subject of a special meeting of the Presidium of the Soviet Women's Committee, which adopted an Appeal to the women of the world.

6. In recent years a number of important international public forums have been convened at which support was given to peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union and the other members of the socialist community aimed at achieving universal and complete disarmament and strengthening peace and security among peoples. The Soviet Women's Committee played an active part in the preparation and work of those forums. Among the most recent activities of that kind, mention should be made of the World Congress of Peace Forces, held in Moscow in 1973; the first and second sessions of the Brussels Assembly of public forces for European security and co-operation; the campaign for the collection of signatures for the new Stockholm Appeal for an End to the Arms Race and for Disarmament; the World Conference to End the Arms Race, for Disarmament and Détente (Helsinki, September 1976); the World Forum of Peace Forces (Moscow, January 1977); the World Assembly of Builders of Peace (Warsaw, May 1977); the International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on Disarmament (Geneva, February 1978); and the International Conference to ban the Neutron Bomb, convened at the initiative of the World Peace Council (Geneva, February 1978).

7. The year 1975, which the United Nations proclaimed International Women's Year (IWY), occupies a special place in the international activities of Soviet women. Representatives of Soviet women took part in the preparation and holding of the most notable events of IWY, namely, the United Nations World Conference held in Mexico City and the World Congress devoted to IWY held in Berlin. These representative forums greatly influenced the further involvement of women in the struggle for the strengthening of peace and mutual understanding among peoples. At the present time Soviet women are doing considerable work to translate into practice the decisions of the Congress and the documents of the Conference, and to develop various kinds of co-operation with international women's organizations that support peace, democracy and social progress.

8. In recent years international and national women's organizations are including more and more questions relating to the struggle for peace and disarmament in the agenda of the congresses, conferences and seminars which they convene and in which Soviet women play an active role. Thus, a significant response in the international women's movement was given to the international seminar "Women and general disarmament" (Vienna, 1978), convened at the initiative of WIDF and of the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, with the participation of women's international organizations representing various shades of opinion (The International Council of Women, The World Women's Christian Temperance Union, The World Young Women's Christian Association, and others). Disarmament questions were also considered at the UNESCO international symposium on the participation of women in political life, held in San Francisco in October 1978. At that symposium the Soviet Women's Committee submitted a special report on the subject "The role of women in the struggle to achieve disarmament and a lasting peace". Much attention was devoted to disarmament problems at the session of the Council of WIDF, held in Moscow in May 1978. The discussion of these questions demonstrated the heightened political awareness of women and their understanding that the struggle for disarmament is the most vital task of all public forces and an essential prerequisite for the solution of urgent social problems. The Council of WIDF adopted an appeal to the United Nations General

Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament. At a plenary meeting of that special session, V. V. Nikolaeva-Tereshkova, Vice-President of WIDF and President of the Soviet Women's Committee, speaking on behalf of millions of women throughout the world, issued an urgent appeal that all possible should be done to avert a new world war and to achieve universal and complete disarmament.

9. In 1977 and 1978 the problems of peace and disarmament were reflected in a number of regional activities of WIDF, namely, a seminar held at New Delhi on the theme "The present situation of children in Asia"; a seminar held at Budapest on the problems of working women in Europe; and a "round table" meeting held at Luanda on the theme "The strengthening of solidarity with the children, women, and peoples of southern Africa in the struggle for independence". Those meetings, in the preparation and holding of which the Soviet Women's Committee participated, took place on a broad basis with the participation of representatives of public organizations of various shades of political opinion.

10. For the women of many countries of the world, an event of great political and practical significance was the convening in Moscow in 1977, as part of the celebration of the sixtieth jubilee of the Great October Socialist Revolution, of the international meeting "Women and socialism", at which much attention was given to the consideration of questions relating to the participation of women in the struggle for peace and disarmament and for national and social liberation.

11. In addition, considerable attention was given to questions concerning the participation of women in the struggle for peace and disarmament in the bilateral exchange of delegations with women's organizations in the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan, Italy, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries. These questions were the subject of a Soviet-Finnish meeting held in Moscow in 1978, in which representatives of the women's organizations of the main political parties of Finland took part.

12. On the basis of their understanding of the close mutual link between disarmament and development, Soviet women, like the Soviet people as a whole, steadfastly support the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII) on reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries, including the needs of women and children. Since the practical implementation of that resolution has been delayed, the Soviet Union took a new initiative at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly aimed at reaching agreement on a reduction by States possessing large economic and military potential, of their military budgets not by percentage but in absolute terms, all by the same amount - a reduction that would begin already in the current financial year and cover a three-year period. Ten per cent of the funds released by the reduction would be allocated to increased aid for developing countries. The implementation of this proposal could assist not only in strengthening peace and security among peoples, expanding and deepening the process of détente and improving the international situation, but also in improving the socio-economic situation of the developing countries, including the situation of women and children. Consequently, at all international meetings and forums, Soviet women invariably appeal for all possible assistance in putting those initiatives into practice.

13. Soviet women are devoting particular attention to the questions of strengthening peace and security and promoting comprehensive co-operation in Europe. The Soviet Women's Committee is one of the founder members of the Soviet Committee for European Security and takes an active part in all the efforts of Soviet public organizations to that end. Public organizations, including women's organizations, assisted in the convening of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and are currently seeking to promote the steadfast implementation of the Final Act of that Conference. Of great significance for the period of preparation for the Madrid meeting of States which participated in the Conference is the support given by the women of the world to the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union that States should not be the first to use nuclear or conventional weapons, and concerning the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the participants in the All-European Conference.

14. Lasting ties of international solidarity unite Soviet women with women in all continents. Their international links are extensive and the forms of co-operation and contact with women in other countries are of many kinds. In upholding the right of peoples to an independent existence, Soviet women oppose any acts of aggression in whatever region of the world they might be perpetrated. They show unswerving solidarity with the liberation struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The aggression by China against heroic Viet Nam and China's provocative actions against Laos, which constitute a violation of the norms of international law and of the sovereignty of independent States, have aroused the ire and indignation of Soviet women. The Soviet Women's Committee has become actively involved in the powerful campaign of solidarity with the struggle of the Vietnamese people against Chinese aggression. Soviet people are combining moral and political support for the Vietnamese people with material assistance. True to their international duty, they decided to transfer a major part of the resources earned during the Lenin subbotnik /day of voluntarily given labour/ held on 21 April 1979 to a fund for assistance to heroic Viet Nam suffering in consequence of Chinese aggression. Together with women's organizations from many countries around the world, the Soviet Women's Committee took part in the creation in Hanoi of a maternity and child care centre.

15. Activities in support of the just struggle of the Arab peoples for national independence, the eradication of the consequences of Israeli aggression and the restoration of peace in the Middle East occupy a large place in the international activities of Soviet women. Significant assistance is given to the All-Union of Palestinian Women, which is campaigning for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of a national State. In addition to participating in international campaigns of solidarity with the struggle of the Arab peoples against Israeli aggression, for a comprehensive peaceful settlement to the problems in the Middle East and against a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal, the Soviet Women's Committee provides significant material assistance to women's organizations in the Arab countries. This assistance is intended primarily for women and children living in camps for Palestinian refugees. Buses, cloth, medical supplies, children's clothing and food have been sent to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, where most of the refugee camps are located.

16. Over many years, Soviet women have supported those fighting for the national liberation of Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique and the Cape Verde islands. At the current time, supporting the efforts by women of those countries to eliminate the consequences of colonialism and strengthen the independence of their countries, Soviet women are sending these countries specialist physicians, instructors to give lectures and pass on practical knowledge about health care for mothers and children, creating children's institutions, eliminating illiteracy, etc. Teaching and writing materials, cloth, sewing machines, etc. are sent to women's social centres. The Soviet Women's Committee has initiated the commemoration in the USSR of many dates associated with the struggle by the women of Africa for their rights and for the independence of their countries. African Women's Day (associated with the establishment of the Pan African Women's Organization, which groups women's organizations from more than 40 African countries and with which the Soviet Women's Committee co-operate on a broad front), Guinean Women's Day, Angolan Women's Day, Mozambican Women's Day, and the Day of Solidarity with the Women of Southern Africa are observed annually in the Soviet Union.

17. Soviet women, developing co-operation with the women of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, willingly share with the women's organizations of young developing countries their experience in dealing with the question of women, eradicating illiteracy, and organizing health education, which they have built up during the years of existence of the Soviet State. Seminars and bilateral meetings are held for this purpose. For example, in Moscow a seminar for representatives of women's organizations from Asian and African countries was held on the theme "Experience in resolving the women's question in a multinational State". In accordance with the wishes of women from those regions, the Committee of Soviet Women organized, in 1975, within the framework of the International Women's Year, a seminar in Alma-Ata (USSR) for women from Asian countries on the problem of women's participation in the economic development of their countries and their role in educating the younger generation. Soviet women have taken part in the preparation and holding of many regional meetings and seminars on education, vocational training for women, etc. The Soviet Women's Committee, which attaches great importance to assisting women's organizations in countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the training of national cadres, annually awards scholarships to girls from these countries. At the present time, more than 600 girls from 51 countries are studying at various higher and secondary educational establishments in the Soviet Union with scholarships from the Committee.

18. Soviet women, realizing that colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid are dangerous sources of international tension and conflict, firmly support the struggle by the peoples and liberation movements of southern Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia for national independence and against apartheid and racism. They also provide all possible assistance to the young African States which have won their independence but are continuing to combat the consequences of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Soviet women take part in all measures in support of the peoples of those countries organized on the initiative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization and Soviet public organizations. In its statements in the press,

on the radio and in protests, the Soviet Women's Committee roundly condemns racism in all its forms and manifestations and exposes the policy of apartheid. Soviet women engage in wide-ranging acts of solidarity with those fighting against colonialism and racism. Expressing solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa for their liberation, they provide material assistance to women's organizations of the region. Medical supplies, all-purpose medicine kits, and foodstuffs have been sent to the Women's Secretariat of the African National Congress (South Africa) and to the women of Zimbabwe and Namibia. Solidarity with the women of countries struggling for national independence and against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, aggression and foreign domination, has been the focus of important international meetings in recent years: the International Seminar on the subject "The role of women and their organizations in the struggle against colonialism and neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid" (Guinea, 1977); the international meeting on solidarity with the children, women and peoples of southern Africa in their struggle for national liberation, independence, democracy and peace (Angola, 1978); a session of the Council of the Pan African Women's Organization (Madagascar, 1978); and the session of the Council of the Women's International Democratic Federation (Moscow, USSR, 1979), where a special meeting was held on apartheid, at which a documentary film exposing the true face of colonialism, racism and apartheid in southern Africa was shown. The Soviet Women's Committee has taken an active part in the work of all these important international forums.

19. Soviet women support the struggle to eliminate fascism and promote democracy and social progress. Demonstrations in support of the struggle by the peoples of Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Nicaragua for freedom and independence occupy an important place amongst their acts of solidarity. The Soviet Women's Committee draws on the Soviet Peace Fund (of which it is a founder), made up of voluntary contributions by Soviet people, for the resources needed to organize all these activities and to provide material assistance. Women play a most active role in replenishing the Fund.

20. In the interests of peace and mutual understanding among peoples, the Soviet Women's Committee maintains links with 250 national, regional and international women's organizations in more than 120 countries around the world. Among them one could mention the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, the Pan African Women's Organization, the Pan-Arab Women's Organization and many others. The Committee has been a member of the Women's International Democratic Federation since its inception and takes an active part in all its activities directed towards maintaining and strengthening peace, national independence, democracy, social progress, the attainment of equal rights for women, and child welfare.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

/Original: English/

/29 March 1979/

The position of the United Arab Emirates has been expressed on many occasions during the discussion of the said item in the Third Committee, the Economic and Social Council and different other conferences.

B. Obstacles to continued progress

6. In the following paragraphs, an analysis is presented of the comments forwarded by States regarding the major obstacles to greater participation by women in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace, received as at 31 July 1979, in reply to the questionnaire on the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. 6/ Quantitative data provided on the participation of women in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace appear in the annex.

7. Most Governments acknowledged either explicitly or implicitly that women's participation in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace should be increased. A few Governments indicated that there were no obstacles to such participation (Belgium, Ireland, Mauritius and Sierra Leone), or no formal/legal or direct obstacles (Iceland, Norway, Senegal, Spain and Sweden). However, most Governments emphasized that the general obstacles which hamper women's advancement in all fields of society also apply to this area. A number of these referred to the social, cultural and traditional values which prevent women's participation in public life and in international co-operation (Colombia, Singapore, Spain and Sri Lanka). Others made mention of the attitudes and traditions which still place the responsibility for the home and children on women and which impose a double burden on them when they take up employment or engage in political activities or assume public office, thus placing a restriction on the time and energy they can devote to activities outside the home (Iceland, India and Sweden). In some instances it was noted that issues relating to international co-operation and peace have been traditionally the exclusive preserve of men (Honduras and Paraguay), and that women were victims of prejudice in this field (Senegal and Togo). In this connexion it was stated in one reply (Belgium) that "certain countries have made it known that they do not wish to have women occupy high diplomatic posts in their delegations or in international co-operation for development".

6/ Information was provided by the following States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo and United States of America.

8. The passivity shown by women was specifically mentioned in one instance (India), and in another the lack of and thus the need for greater communication among women and men and between women across national boundaries and in professional and other organizations was cited (United States of America).
9. Some Governments stressed the general lack of training and education of women, in particular, the lack of experience in the field and the lack of an international outlook, especially in the rural areas. Ignorance of foreign languages is also a hindrance (Egypt, Honduras and Togo).
10. A few Governments noted that sometimes, in addition to other general obstacles, working in the international field entails travelling and in many cases the necessity to spend long periods of time outside the home country. This often creates problems for the family (Austria, Greece and Sweden). Lack of funds for the purpose of travelling abroad to attend appropriate conferences dealing with peace was cited as a specific obstacle to the greater participation of women (Botswana and Kenya).
11. A number of Governments noted a positive trend towards greater participation of women in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace due to women's increasing awareness of the role they can play in this crucial field, as a result of a deliberate policy of encouragement by Governments (Australia, Greece and Jamaica). In this context, reference was made to the role played by national women's organizations, which could be further strengthened and expanded in order to stimulate local networks of women to achieve their economic, health, educational and political needs (Canada, Singapore and Sri Lanka).

III. RECORD OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS

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English
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12. Tables A to D below provide recent examples of the rate of women's participation in United Nations policy making concerning international peace and security, colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination. The record of attendance, at the particular sessions of the meetings selected, does not purport to represent a complete overview of women's participation but it is closely indicative of current trends. 7/

A. Meetings concerning international peace and security, foreign aggression and occupation

| <u>United Nations body or meeting</u> | <u>No. of members or participants</u> | <u>No. of women included</u> | <u>States represented by women</u> | <u>Source and date of information</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament | 559 representatives 323 alternates | 20 women 32 women | Angola (3), Australia, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, Guyana, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica (2), Japan (2), Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mongolia, New Zealand (2), Nicaragua (2), Norway, Pakistan (2), Sierra Leone, Singapore (3), Somalia (2), Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (3), Zambia | ST/SG/SER.C/L.571 16 June 1978 |
| Total | 882 | 52 women | | |
| First Committee of the General Assembly | 254 representatives 202 alternates | 6 women 12 women | Angola, Bahamas, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Denmark (2), Dominican Republic, Gambia, Jamaica (2), New Zealand, Samoa, Sweden (3), Tunisia, Venezuela (2) | A/C.1/33/4 16 October 1978 |
| Total | 456 | 18 women | | |
| Disarmament Commission | 189 representatives | 5 women | Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand | A/CN.10/INF.1 10 January 1979 |
| Committee on Disarmament | 212 | 13 women | Australia, Cuba, Mexico (3), Sri Lanka, Sweden (3), United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (2) | CD/INF.2 1 February 1979 |
| Security Council | 63 | 2 | United States of America and Zambia | ST/SG/SFR.A/244 March 1979 |
| Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies | 27 | 0 | | ST/SG/C.1/R.5 22 November 1978 |
| Group of Experts on the Feasibility of an International Satellite Agency to Monitor Disarmament Agreements | 8 | 0 | | DC/1144 7 June 1979 |
| Group of Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and International Security | 10 | 1 | United States of America a/ | SG/A/221 DC/1121 16 April 1979 |
| Group of Governmental Experts on Regional Disarmament | 10 | 0 | | DC/1154 18 June 1979 |
| Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development | 25 | 1 | Sweden a/ | DC/1080 10 January 1979 |

a/ On advisory and expert bodies, members do not formally represent their Government.

7/ Government advisers, representatives of the specialized agencies and delegates of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended some of the meetings.

B. Meetings concerning colonialism

| <u>United Nations body or meeting</u> | <u>No. of members or participants</u> | <u>No. of women included</u> | <u>States represented by women</u> | <u>Source and date of information</u> |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Special Committee of 24 b/ | 70 | 5 | China, India, Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania | A/AC.109/INF.17 10 April 1979 |
| Trusteeship Council (forty-fifth session) | 32 | 4 | France, United Kingdom, United States of America (2) | T/1793 1 June 1978 |
| United Nations Council for Namibia | 80 | 5 | India, Indonesia, Liberia, Turkey, Venezuela | A/AC.131/INF.7 21 March 1979 |

b/ Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

C. Meetings concerning racism and racial discrimination

| <u>United Nations body or meeting</u> | <u>No. of members or participants</u> | <u>No. of women included</u> | <u>States represented by women</u> | <u>Source and date of information</u> |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination | 410 | 40 | Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Colombia (2), Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Iran (2), Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica (2), Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama (2), Peru, Philippines, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia (2), Zambia | A/CONF.92/INF.2 5 October 1978 |
| Special Committee against <u>Apartheid</u> | 54 | 2 | Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago | GA/AP/928 12 January 1979 |

D. Meetings concerning foreign domination

| <u>United Nations body or meeting</u> | <u>No. of members or participants</u> | <u>No. of women included</u> | <u>States represented by women</u> | <u>Source and date of information</u> |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Commission on Transnational Corporations, Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct: first session | 118 | 5 | Ecuador, Spain, United Kingdom (2), United States of America | E/C.10/AC.2/INF.1 24 June 1977 |
| sixth session | 101 | 5 | Cuba, Jamaica, United States of America (3) | E/C.10/AC.2/INF.5 9 March 1979 |

IV. SUMMARY OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

13. The following is a summary of material supplied by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 32/142 of 16 December 1977. 8/

14. The replies received from non-governmental organizations are presented in four sections. A distinction is made between the portion of replies that relate to women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security (subsection A) and women's participation in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination (subsection B). A further division is made into summaries of (a) replies received from organizations in Category I and (b) those in Category II and Roster.

A. Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security

Category I

15. The International Alliance of Women stressed the importance of women assuming responsibility in the family of nations, not only in the biological family. It was noted that few women are members of national delegations to the United Nations and that, both nationally and internationally, they command very little direct political power. Women's organizations were urged to work for a change in this situation. Higher levels of education for women and Government policy to promote women were seen as vital prerequisites for the change. While advocating equal parental responsibility between mothers and fathers, the organization expressed the view that women have special attributes for the promotion of international peace. These include the opportunity to inculcate in their children a spirit of conciliation in human relationships and the ability to cross political and ideological barriers. It was felt that women would assume their international duties more readily if they were aware that in the absence of peace there is danger to human beings everywhere, as well as to all other forms of life on the planet.

16. The International Federation of Business and Professional Women drew attention to the dual aims of the organization since its foundation 50 years ago. These aims have been the advancement of the position of women and the building of peace. Hence the organization supported the emphasis placed at the 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year on the important role that women must play in strengthening international peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The organization gave several examples of the manner

8/ For the list of non-governmental organizations, see foot-note 4 above.

in which its objectives are being implemented by national affiliates. Women are included in national federations of business and professional women without discrimination regarding creed, colour or nationality. Activities are similarly undertaken to foster international co-operation and understanding. This non-partisan nature of organizations was seen to be fundamental in the promotion of international understanding and peace.

17. The Women's International Democratic Federation stressed the support by national organizations affiliated to it of all United Nations activities in favour of peace and disarmament, especially those associated with the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the subsequent thirty-third session. It was stated that a lasting peace would require the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons, prohibition of the production of the neutron bomb and the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, the achievement of disarmament and the advancement of the process of political and military détente. Like the other two non-governmental organizations in Category I which made submissions under this heading, the Women's International Democratic Federation regarded the quest for a lasting peace as constituting a vital problem for all humankind and deemed the fullest participation of women in this endeavour to be indispensable. Further, it was stated that women's equality is inseparable from the strengthening of peace and that the process of solving women's problems is closely linked with improved relations between States regarding equal rights, respect for national sovereignty and non-use of force or threat of force and with implementing the principles of peaceful coexistence. It was asserted that in a number of countries war preparations have led to a further worsening of the situation of women, including increased unemployment and inflation due to the growth of military spending. The organization also adverted to the existence of forces hostile to the solving of the vital problems of humanity, that entail the menace of nuclear war. An International Committee for the United Nations Decade for Women has been set up consisting of representatives of international, regional and national non-governmental organizations in co-operation with the United Nations in its specialized agencies. One of the four main activities of the Committee has been to help in the promotion of peace and disarmament. Concrete programmes to these ends were being implemented. The first was the organization of a World Conference "For a Peaceful and Secure Future for All Children", to take place in 1979 during the International Year of the Child.

Category II and Roster

18. The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization warned that world peace is not possible while half of the world's population is relegated to the margin of history and progress. Social disparity based on sex, among other attributes, presented an obstacle to international peace and security.

19. The Baptist World Alliance expressed the belief that attempting to settle international disputes by resort to war is contrary to the Christian religion.

20. The Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development expressed the view that both professional and non-professional women have been prominent in efforts to halt the arms race. However, members felt that their numbers in the fields of research and political participation should be increased. They concurred with the other organizations that advocated women's inclusion in greater numbers in international bodies concerned with the negotiation of military and security issues. They urged that women should be enabled to become politically significant and effective in these matters and that their leadership should be perceived as such by other leaders and by the public alike.
21. The Ford Foundation was of the opinion that the struggle of women for peace and security is related to the struggle for the betterment of low social and economic status associated with poverty.
22. The International Association of Democratic Lawyers advised that during 1979 they will hold an international seminar on "Women's Situation: Law and Reality" with the purpose, among other things, of promoting peace and security.
23. The International Council of Jewish Women has been working to strengthen the role of women, particularly in matters relating to international peace and security. As in the case of many other organizations, the aim of having women appointed or elected to policy-making positions at all levels, including world forums, has been prominent in their endeavours. The submission made the point that women in policy-making positions should not be surrogates but should carry the authority to exercise their own judgement. Also, women's expressions of support for peace should be given prominence by the mass media.
24. The International Federation of University Women has made a special effort to encourage qualified women to seek policy-making positions at all levels. Several member organizations established registers of qualified women to be recommended for leading positions, including membership of delegations to the United Nations.
25. The International Humanist and Ethical Union has concentrated on supporting United Nations initiatives for disarmament. The organization has been particularly supportive of education for peace for girls and boys without discrimination.
26. The International Social Service also conveyed its members' conviction that women should participate in all phases of the effort to ensure peace.
27. The Lutheran World Federation deplored the outlook according to which disarmament is a domain reserved for men. In order to reverse this attitude, it was suggested to make both men and women aware that it is necessary for women to participate in these matters. Women are needed not only as additional people but as the transmitters of important human values. It was emphasized that the exclusion of feminine peace-loving values from international decision-making is not only due to women's physical absence from the relevant institutions but occurs also because feminine values are not sufficiently respected

by society as a whole. Therefore a reassessment of social attitudes, so as to incorporate feminine values, would greatly contribute to the struggle for international peace.

28. The Socialist International Women and the Socialist International, two affiliated organizations representing the parties of democratic socialism from all continents, have regarded the work for peace and stability to be among their foremost objectives. They seek to achieve these through the method of dialogue and co-operation. Resolutions that have been carried at Socialist International Women's Conferences have been adopted at Socialist International Congresses, which usually follow immediately afterwards. The tenth Conference of Socialist International Women in 1978, held at Vancouver, on the theme "Violence in Society", included an exchange of ideas concerning the effect of the arms race and military expenditures. The subsequent fourteenth Congress of the Socialist International further elaborated that theme. In a wide-ranging policy statement it was declared that détente must be understood as a dynamic concept, not one that maintains the status quo, and that the peaceful resolution of conflict demands an acceptance of realistic compromise and stage-by-stage progress.

29. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations appealed to all people to implement a system of education towards peace and to increase and deepen the process of international détente.

30. The World Young Women's Christian Association reported that its affiliates are deeply committed to the strengthening of peace and the furthering of disarmament as the result of their Christian faith. The organization's Executive Committee recommended in 1978 that these matters be given high priority by members. As a result, they have set up a working group to identify the issues involved in militarism. The work of the United Nations in promoting international co-operation is closely monitored and reported to affiliates, which are urged to base their national policies on such awareness.

B. Women's participation in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination

Category I

31. The International Alliance of Women expressed the view that women's contribution is essential in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation, and all forms of foreign domination. Especially in the domestic sphere, women have the opportunity to inculcate in their children an understanding of the equal value of all races. The organization proposed that women should request their Governments to introduce positive teaching, at all levels of education, on the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of international understanding.

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32. The International Council of Women reported that during its 90 years of uninterrupted activities the Council, with its affiliated National Councils of Women, has demonstrated the principle of equality and equity among peoples of all races, creeds and nations. This has been ensured by its constitution and the constitutions of the affiliated National Councils, by the composition of the membership and by the methods of work practised by all Councils. Even in countries where discriminatory status among citizens is lawful, National Councils of Women have brought into their membership, discussions, work and representation, women of all ethnic origins, creeds and circumstances of life.

33. The International Federation of Business and Professional Women has maintained the policy and practice of non-discrimination in all of its activities, membership and concerns, internationally, nationally and locally. It has contributed to the creation of an atmosphere which has helped to eliminate discrimination. In a survey it was found that most of the affiliates continue to oppose the policy of apartheid. Some individual members of the organization have supported the fund for victims of apartheid and racial discrimination and some clubs have offered the victims scholarships.

34. The Women's International Democratic Federation stated that during recent decades, women have actively participated in the liberation of a number of countries from foreign and colonial domination. Several countries and peoples, however, committed to a road of independent development, are threatened by the intervention of forces interested in obstructing the construction of their new free and independent life. The organization urged that the role women are playing in these struggles, as well as the rights of these women and peoples to defend their independence and the sovereignty of their countries, should be emphasized and actively supported. It was noted that colonialism, foreign domination, racial discrimination, apartheid and oppressive régimes, where women are the first victims, represent the main obstacles to the development of peoples. Particular concern was expressed regarding the situation of women in those countries where democratic freedoms and the rights of the individual have been trampled under foot, where the régime of racial discrimination and apartheid deprives the majority of the population of all rights, and where fascist and dictatorial régimes continue to exist. It has been deemed necessary to intensify actions in solidarity with the women's organizations of countries fighting for their national independence; with all the fighters against fascism and reaction, for democracy and social progress; and to support the young States that have taken the road of independent development through efforts to establish a new international economic order, based on justice, that would give the women of many countries more opportunities to participate in all spheres of the life of society. It has also been sought to expand, at the national level, the mass campaign for the economic, social, political and cultural rights of women and to urge Governments to implement the recommendations contained in the World Plan of Action. The organization has pursued the programme of the United Nations Decade for Women 1976-1985, "... to secure the fullest possible participation of women in the struggle for the final elimination of all forms of colonialism and racism, for the achievement and consolidation of national independence". It was recognized that the achievement

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of women's equality is inseparable from the strengthening of national independence, social progress, a favourable international situation and non-interference in the international affairs of States. Various international and regional seminars were held by the organization, including one at Conakry in 1977, on the role of women in the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid, for national independence, democracy and peace. A round-table meeting took place at Luanda in 1978 on the intensification of solidarity with the women and children and the peoples of southern Africa in their struggle for national liberation, independence and development.

Category II and Roster

35. The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization made the point that more than three fifths of all working women live in less developed countries under direct colonial systems or under new independent systems. This imposes a double burden of exploitation on women. It was felt that, in newly independent States, women should be included in decision-making circles, as they had in the recent past shared in the struggle of liberating their countries. In many countries, despite improvements in women's development, women have remained not only outside the framework of social development but removed from the national struggle as well.

36. Amnesty International has worked for women who have become prisoners of conscience, have suffered detention for long periods without trial, have disappeared or have been tortured or threatened with execution. The organization's experience has demonstrated the extent to which women are involved in all the political, economic and social causes that lead to repression in today's world. In addition, women are frequently beneficiaries of relief programmes for the families of prisoners. Where women are not the bread-winners of their families, they and their families often suffer when husbands have been imprisoned for political activities.

37. The Baptist World Alliance stated its belief in dignity and justice for every individual. Prejudice, intolerance and discrimination on the ground of sex, race or colour were thought to be inconsistent with the gospel and wrong in the sight of God.

38. The Ford Foundation explained that colonialism entails the imposition of foreign interests and values. Women have been even more victimized by colonialism than men, it was suggested, because men who colonized were not only male-biased but carried with them attitudes about women that were thoroughly alien to most of the countries colonized. One of the most important ramifications has been the undermining of women's productive roles and therefore their status within their families. Similarly, racism and racial discrimination have often meant that women have suffered double discrimination and sexual exploitation. The social dislocation, especially changes in family structures and economic hardship associated with racism, have increased the number of women heads of households and the number of women who are the sole supporters of their families. These women not only suffer racial discrimination and sexual

exploitation but also bear inordinate economic burdens that jeopardize their health and well-being. It was also asserted that foreign occupation has often been accompanied by rape.

39. The International Council of Jewish Women advised that it places particular emphasis on women's participation in the movement against racism and racial discrimination. It has supported the local activities of women's groups in all countries. These groups strive to move national Governments towards the goal of respect for human rights and human dignity.

40. The International Humanist and Ethical Union planned to conduct an international summer school of humanistic studies in the Netherlands, which will include discussions on the responsibility of the individual, living with minorities, tolerance and non-discrimination, and human rights. The organization reported that its Geneva representative prepared a written statement for the Commission on Human Rights on the draft Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (E/CN.4/NGO/215). It also supported the statement by Non-Governmental Organizations on Women in Science and Technology for Development, presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. The statement condemned the foreign domination of transnational corporations and the resulting adverse effects on the status of women.

41. The International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and People is mainly composed of women and conducts activities primarily among women. It has participated on a regular basis in meetings on racism and racial discrimination, the Apartheid Committee and the Commission on Human Rights. Members were present at the Special Committee against Apartheid and made statements at the World Conference against Apartheid and the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Concerning the participation of women in the struggle against colonialism, the organization worked closely with the Special Committee of Twenty-four. During the struggle which led to the mutual liberation of the people of Portugal and of Portugal's long-held territories in Africa, it served as a vehicle of communication. An informal structure was required, since the circumstances prohibited direct contact between persons who needed to have their hopes kindled by the knowledge that each believed the enemy to be a system, not a people. Some members have made immense sacrifices for the sake of non-violent self-determination in Africa. Concerning foreign domination, the organization has participated regularly in meetings dealing with the subject of transnational corporations. It has kept its constituency advised of the impact upon women of the transfer of technology and the activities of transnational corporations.

42. The International University Exchange Fund reported that it promotes, through educational and development assistance, the liberation of countries and peoples under colonial or minority oppression. Many of the persons assisted through the programmes are women. Women refugees often suffer from double oppression - that which forced them to become refugees and further discrimination due to their sex. The organization has also worked extensively in South Africa, where black women suffer from double discrimination. Firstly, they are discriminated against because of their race. They are denied most of

the rights and privileges which normally apply to women. Secondly, they are discriminated against because of their sex. In South Africa, blacks are paid substantially lower salaries than white workers having the same qualifications and the same job. But black women in South Africa receive even lower pay than black men. It was reported that family units are constantly being split up, usually entailing mothers and children being deported to bantustans, or "homelands", where they do not have suitable work or adequate nutrition, housing and education. Women in bantustans are often legally considered as minors for their entire lives, having no right to own land or to marry whom they wish. Labour and housing laws also discriminate against black women.

43. The Lutheran World Federation submitted the view that the eradication of colonialism, racism, social discrimination and foreign domination will not be achieved without the participation of humankind as a whole, including women and men, young and old, people of all races, religions and political beliefs. A woman whose socialization process led her to believe that she is inferior, that she is incapable of achieving great things and that her field of action is limited to the private sphere, will find great difficulties in entering those processes which shape our societies. In order to facilitate women's participation in the struggle against all kinds of oppression and domination, it will be necessary to build social institutions which acknowledge the full humanity of women instead of denying it and which encourage women to develop their entire potential. In order to achieve this, appropriate educational institutions, mass media, political and economic structures, religious and ideological beliefs will have to be developed. It was also suggested that a reassessment of value systems and a reaffirmation of human values assigned to women would in itself greatly contribute to the struggle for more humane societies without racism, colonialism and oppression.

44. The Socialist International advised that it seeks to defend and promote the rights of minorities, of women and of youth. It is opposed to racialism in every form and to exploitation within and between nations.

45. The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations reported that the Executive Committee of the World Alliance, at its 1978 meeting, set as one of its operational goals during the period leading up to the next World Council meeting in 1981, to increase the participation of women at all levels of leadership. This is to include an effort to strengthen the motivation of women themselves to strive for leadership positions. Women's increased co-operative responsibility will be encouraged within local affiliates as well as within national movements and at the international level.

46. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations urged that an appeal should be made to everyone to respect the dignity of all people regardless of their race, nationality, sex, religion or political beliefs and to respect the fundamental rights and freedom of each human being and of all people. Education should promote tolerance and ethnic, religious, social and political pluralism. Actions should be taken to fight against all that produces oppression and torture, to promote the struggle to eliminate all injustices and the struggle against the intolerable discriminations that engender racism and apartheid at the local, national and international levels.

47. The Young Women's Christian Association reported that the organization and its affiliated associations are deeply involved in international and national activities designed to combat racism and racial discrimination. A world policy on discrimination against racial and ethnic groups has been formulated and resolutions on racism and racial discrimination have been endorsed.

V. SUMMARY OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

48. The International Labour Office stated that in order to facilitate women's participation in the struggle to strengthen international peace and security, a greater involvement by women in the decision-making process is necessary. The attitude of the International Labour Office to this issue was laid down in the Declaration on Equal Treatment of Women Workers, which incorporates the general principles applicable to the subject under consideration. Promotion of women to all levels of decision-making would be assisted by the proposed elaboration of new international standards regarding equal opportunities and treatment to be accorded to women and men in the professions and in employment generally. These would supplement the existing international instruments as recommended by the International Labour Conference in 1975.

49. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization reported that at the twentieth session of its General Conference, in October-November 1978, it was decided to develop a specific programme on women and peace. Research is being undertaken to be presented as a report to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980. It will focus on women's contribution to the strengthening of world peace and the involvement of women specialists in the organization's general programme dealing with peace and disarmament. The submission recommended that the close interrelationship between equality, development and peace should be emphasized and should be taken into account whenever local, national, regional or international action is contemplated. The programme is to include training and education at all levels, so as to develop women's political consciousness and awareness of the issues of peace, disarmament, international co-operation and human rights. This could be further facilitated by providing university training, including courses in international human rights, disarmament, peace research and international humanitarian law. It was noted that the historical importance of women's contribution to the promotion of peace and international understanding should be more fully documented, that research should be promoted on issues of peace, disarmament and international co-operation concerning their relationship to women's rights, roles and responsibilities and that financial and technical support ought to be provided for women specialists in these fields. Emphasis should be placed on the responsibility of women and women's organizations to act for peace. Measures were needed to promote the participation of women in policy-making bodies and forums dealing with issues of peace, disarmament and international co-operation. Special protection of women and children in situations of armed conflict must also be ensured. The implementation of the organization's programme began in 1979-1980. It has comprised studies concerning the effect of apartheid structures and of the colonial policies of Rhodesia on women's economic, social and political participation. The programme has also included studies of methods

for assisting women in national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity. It is further proposed to examine women's contribution to national liberation struggles generally, means of ensuring their continuing active participation in the post-independence period and preventing the so-called "fall back phenomenon". The effects of apartheid and racism on women and measures that should be taken in support of women in national liberation movements are also to be studied. The organization advanced the opinion that women should be called upon to increase their involvement in the struggle by choosing action of a type where they could be more effective than men, such as preparing children for the role they will have to assume later in life, fighting colonialism, racism, etc.

50. The World Bank expressed the view that development contributes to the strengthening of international peace and security by reducing inequality between countries as well as population groups within countries. Therefore, the organization's policy of ensuring effective participation of women as contributors to and beneficiaries of the development activities of its member countries has promoted the objectives of women's participation in the struggle to strengthen international peace and security.

ANNEX

QUANTITATIVE DATA PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENTS ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
PEACE a/

1. Officials in departments of foreign affairs at higher levels b/

Argentina - 1.4 per cent ambassadors, counting the delegate to the
Inter-American Commission of Women who has the rank of
ambassador

1.72 per cent first class ministers

2.90 per cent second class ministers

Australia - 3.6 per cent in 1975; 3.8 per cent in 1979 c/

Austria - 8.1 per cent in 1975; 9.9 per cent in 1978

Belgium - 10 per cent in 1975; 12 per cent in 1978

Botswana - 3 per cent in 1975 and 6 per cent in 1978

Colombia - 1975, one under-secretary of economic affairs in the
foreign ministry; 1978, none

Denmark - 8.8 per cent in 1975; 10.2 per cent in 1978

Dominican Republic - 36 male and 0 female extraordinary and plenipotentiary
ambassadors in 1975; and 28 male and 0 female at same rank
in 1979; 1 male and 3 female ambassadors (75 per cent
female) in 1975; and 8 male and 4 female ambassadors
(33 per cent female) in 1979; 9 male and 4 female cabinet
ministers (30.7 per cent female) in 1975; and 8 male and
4 female (33.3 per cent female) in 1979; 31 male and
3 female consuls (34 per cent female) in 1975; and 18 male
and 2 female (10 per cent female) in 1979; 15 male and
2 female vice-consuls (11.8 per cent female) in 1975; and
11 male and 6 female vice-consuls (35.3 per cent female)
in 1979; 7 male and 4 female councillors (36.4 per cent
female) in 1975; and 1 male and 1 female (50 per cent
female) in 1979.

a/ From the replies of Governments to the questionnaire on the implementation
of the World Plan of Action, received as at 31 July 1979: information was
requested on percentages of women out of the total of women and men.

b/ Malaysia indicated that no information was available.

c/ Australia also reported that the recruitment of women to the professional
ranks of the Foreign Service has increased from 16 per cent in 1971-1975 to
24 per cent in 1976-1979.

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| Egypt | - 1 per cent in 1975; 4 per cent in 1978 |
| Finland | - 13 per cent in 1975 and 15 per cent in 1978 both at the level of attaché and above |
| Greece | - 6.8 per cent in 1975; 15 per cent in 1978, diplomatic higher administrative personnel |
| Iceland | - none in 1975 and none in 1978 |
| India | - 3 per cent (approximately) in 1975; 6 per cent (approximately) in 1978 |
| Ireland | - 16.7 per cent in 1975; 12.2 per cent in 1978 (Third Secretary, First Secretary, Counsellor, Assistant Secretary, Minister Plenipotentiary, Secretary) |
| Jamaica | - 10 per cent in 1975; 25 per cent in 1978 |
| Kenya | - 5 per cent in 1974 and 9 per cent in 1978 |
| Lebanon | - 4 women in the consular and administrative body in 1975 |
| Mauritius | - 4.5 per cent in 1975; 10 per cent in 1978 (at the level of administrative officer/second secretary) |
| New Zealand | - 14 per cent in 1975 and 18 per cent in 1978 |
| Norway | - Head of Division or higher 1975: 0.0 per cent; 1978: 0.4 per cent |
| Paraguay | - Two women consuls |
| Peru | - 1 ambassador |
| Philippines | - 31.42 per cent (total number of women officers is 70) in 1975; 27.27 per cent (total number of men and women officials is 77) in 1978 |
| Sierra Leone | - Very small percentage in 1975 and in 1978 |
| Singapore | - None in 1975 and none in 1978 |
| Sri Lanka | - 1 per cent in 1975; 1 per cent in 1978 |
| Sweden | - None in 1975 and none in 1978 |
| United States of America | - 8.2 per cent in 1975; 9.3 per cent in 1978 |

2. Officials in diplomatic service at the level of first secretary and above b/

- Argentina - 4.57 per cent counsellors; 10.08 per cent first class secretaries; 28 per cent second class secretaries; 21 per cent third class secretaries
- Austria - 5.3 per cent in 1975 and 8.1 per cent in 1978
- Belgium - 2 per cent in 1975 and 4 per cent in 1978
- Botswana - 3 per cent in 1975 and 3 per cent in 1978
- Canada - 4.1 per cent in 1975 and 5.1 per cent in 1978
- Colombia - 3 first secretaries and two plenipotentiary ministers in 1975; 5 ambassadors and 5 first secretaries in 1978
- Denmark - 3.4 per cent in 1975; 5.5 per cent in 1978
- Dominican Republic - 9 male and 4 female first secretaries or 30.7 per cent female in 1975, and 8 male and 3 female or 27.3 per cent female in 1979; 37 male and 18 female attachés or 32.7 per cent female in 1975, and 2 male and 12 female attachés or 85.7 per cent in 1979; 8 male and 1 female alternate delegates and advisers or 11.1 per cent female in 1975, and 2 male and 1 female or 33.3 per cent female in 1979
- Egypt - 5 per cent in 1975; 11 per cent in 1978
- Finland - 3 per cent in 1975 and 5 per cent in 1978
- Greece - 0 per cent in 1975 and 1 per cent in 1978 d/
- Honduras - ambassador in 1974; 4 first secretaries of embassy who are lawyers or have a degree in diplomacy; 43 women in the consular sector; 50 women cultural, civic, commercial attachés
- Iceland - None in 1975 and 3 per cent in 1978
- Ireland - 10.8 per cent in 1975; 10.9 per cent in 1978

d/ Among the junior diplomatic personnel (attachés, third and second secretaries), 1.8 per cent were women in 1975; the percentage was 6 per cent in 1978.

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| Jamaica | - | 22 per cent in 1975 and 28 per cent in 1978 |
| Kenya | - | 1 per cent in 1974 and 5 per cent in 1978 |
| Lebanon | - | 4 women in 1975 |
| Mauritania | - | one woman first secretary |
| New Zealand | - | 12 per cent in 1975 and 11 per cent in 1978 |
| Nicaragua | - | Women occupy posts of counsellors, consuls and cultural attachés in the diplomatic service |
| Norway | - | 1.2 per cent in 1975 and 1.6 per cent in 1978 |
| Paraguay | - | 19 female staff at the official level in the diplomatic service since 1975 |
| Peru | - | 44 diplomatic functionaries |
| Philippines | - | 10.25 per cent (total number of men and women officials is 78) in 1975; 14.70 per cent (total number of men and women officials is 102) in 1978 |
| Romania | - | Recently, 3 women ambassadors |
| San Marino | - | 3 per cent in 1975 and 7 per cent in 1979; and at the level of political directors, 3 per cent in 1975 and 10 per cent in 1979 |
| Sierra Leone | - | Very small percentage in 1975 and in 1978 |
| Singapore | - | 8 per cent in 1975 and 8 per cent in 1977 |
| Spain | - | 1 per cent in 1978 |
| Sri Lanka | - | 1 per cent in 1975; 1 per cent in 1978 |
| Sweden | - | 3 per cent in 1975 and 5 per cent in 1978 |
| Togo | - | None in 1975 and none in 1978 |
| United States of America | - | 4.7 per cent in 1975; 5.1 per cent in 1978 |

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3. Delegates to regional organizations meetings e/

- Argentina - One delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women
(Rank of Ambassador)
- Australia - Women officers regularly attend such meetings from
Australia and from Australian missions overseas
- Botswana - 20 per cent in 1975 and 30 per cent in 1978: International
Council of Women, European Economic Community and
regional meeting, United Nations Decade for Women
- Canada - None in 1975; in 1978, of three delegates one was a
woman
Pan American Sanitary Conference - Grenada
- Colombia - 2 delegates, one to the United Nations and the other to the
Organization of American States, both in 1975 and in 1978
- Denmark - 11.1 per cent in 1975; 11.0 per cent in 1978
- Egypt - Many in 1975; increasing in 1978
- Honduras - 3 delegates (permanent and alternate representatives) to the
Inter-American Commission of Women; 2 alternate
delegates to the United Nations; 1 delegate to Technical
Secretariat of the Economic Planning Council (CONSUPLANE);
1 delegate to the Economic Commission for Latin America
- Iceland - None in 1975 and 11 per cent in 1978
- Kenya - 20 per cent in 1974 and 25 per cent in 1978
- Lebanon - 10 per cent in 1975 to the League of Arab States
- Libyan Arab - None in 1975; 1 in 1978
Jamahiriya
- Mauritania - The number of women delegates has risen
- New Zealand - 13 per cent in 1975 and 27 per cent in 1978: EEC, OECD
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs only)
- Norway - United Nations, Council of Europe, Nordic Council - in 1975,
approximately 3 and in 1978, approximately 4
- Paraguay - There has been one female delegate to the Inter-American
Commission of Women

e/ Ireland and Malaysia indicated that no information was available.

Philippines - No data available

Romania - Women regularly participate

Sierra Leone - Very small percentage in 1975 and in 1978

Singapore - None in 1975 and none in 1978

Spain - Less than 0.5 per cent in 1978

Sri Lanka - 2 per cent in 1975; 2 per cent in 1978

Sweden - None in 1975 and none in 1978

Togo - None in 1975 and none in 1978

United States of America - 7.96 per cent in 1975; 15.25 per cent in 1978

4. Delegates to regional and interregional meetings aimed at the strengthening of international peace

Australia - In 1979 women constituted 28 per cent of the professional conference staff at Australia's major international conference posts in New York and Geneva

Austria - 1.8 per cent in 1975 and 1.8 per cent in 1978

Colombia - None

Egypt - Several in 1975; increasing in 1978

Ireland - Information not available

Kenya - 25 per cent in 1974 and 40 per cent in 1978

Lebanon - 2 per cent in 1975

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya - 9 per cent in 1975 and 15 per cent in 1978

New Zealand - 18 per cent in 1975 and 17 per cent in 1978 (based on number of women accredited to United Nations missions only)

Norway - 1.5 per cent female in 1975 and 1.5 per cent in 1978

Singapore - None in 1975 and none in 1978

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- Spain - Less than 0.5 per cent in 1978
- Sri Lanka - 2 per cent in 1975; 2 per cent in 1978
- Sweden - Between 1962 and 1973 Mrs. Alva Myrdal was Head of the Swedish delegation to the United Nations Disarmament Conference in Geneva. She was succeeded by Mrs. Inga Thorsson, who still holds this post. In 1975 the Swedish delegation to the United Nations General Assembly consisted of 38 men and 7 women. In 1978 the corresponding figures were 49 and 10
- Togo - None in 1975 and none in 1978
- United States of America - 5 per cent in 1975; 9.1 per cent in 1978
