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Mildred Emory Persinger As a Representative of the World YWCA

Mildred Emory Persinger

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MILDRED EMORY PERSINGER

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As a representative of the World YWCA, at work in 92 countries, and previously the U.S. YWCA, Mildred Persinger has been closely associated with the non-governmental organization (NGO) community at the United Nations. On behalf of the World YWCA she has helped carry assignments as Secretary of the Conference of NGOs, board member of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and Vice-president of the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

She headed the organization and management of the 1975 NGO "Tribune" at the first of the UN-sponsored World Conferences on Women in Mexico. As follow-up, she initiated and served as president for six years of a new NGO, The International Women's Tribune Centre, a communication and training network serving women in 150 countries. She also took part in the planning for subsequent NGO forums in connection with UN World Conferences at Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing.

Elected to represent the YWCA of the USA at quadrennial World YWCA Council meetings in Ghana and Greece, Mrs. Persinger also attended Vancouver and Singapore Councils as World YWCA UN Representative. Previously, she had chaired the Conference of US/UN Representatives associated with the UN Association of the USA. Beginning in 1944, she held leadership positions on the US YWCA National Board, national boards of the UN Association, International Social Service, OEF International, the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace and the US National Committee for UNIFEM. These activities have required participation in White House and other national conferences, preparation of policy papers, articles for publication, speeches and testimony before the US Congress.

Two US presidents have appointed her to national commissions on international affairs. As a member of the National Commission for International Women's Year, she chaired the international committee for the 1977 National Women's Conference of IWY which brought 20,000 American women and several hundred international guests to Houston, Texas. Other international NGO events in which she has been active include the 1974 World Population Conference and Tribune in Bucharest, where she represented the World Federation of UN Associations, and international NGO conferences on disarmament, development and environment.

Her husband, Richard Burwell Persinger, is a New York lawyer. They live in Dobbs Ferry, New York, where their three children grew up.

Recipient of the Eleanore Schnurr award for exceptional service to the United Nations; elected honorary member of the YWCA National Board, named outstanding alumna by Hollins College.