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Letter from Mildred Persinger re Fundraising, 1977

Mildred Emory Persinger

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1st draft

Since last spring when the first year's report and proposal for support of the IWY Tribune Project were submitted to you, the demand for IWY/TP services has increased steadily. We hope this letter and its enclosures will update the original request and facilitate early consideration of assistance to this project.

The project has, in fact, become an International Women's Tribune Centre, a name we are beginning to use. The demand for services is no longer confined to requests from governmental and non-governmental participants in the Mexico City meetings. From every region, women involved in developmental activities are seeking information on plans for the United Nations Decade for Women, and consultancy help with communication skills, material resources, project proposals and other urgent needs.

For this constituency, the International Women's Tribune Centre is in many ways bridging the gap between the World Conference of IWY in 1975 and proposed international institutions yet to be established. This experience indicates to us that a non-governmental project of this kind enjoys certain advantages over official agencies. It can be more flexible, more available to respond to crises and more productive in working with groups on resource materials which do not fit into predetermined categories. Due to physical proximity and a cooperative relationship of long standing with the United Nations secretariat, we have been able to act as intermediary at crucial points for women's developmental projects in the low-income countries and project personnel funded by UN agencies.

The office has a constant stream of visitors from all over the world, not all of whom attended the IWY Tribune in 1975. They are sometimes sent by the United Nations, sometimes by non-governmental organizations and governments. Some come on their own. We serve them in a variety of ways, but primarily by putting them in touch with resources-human, technical and financial.

Through the exercise of extreme thrift, the participation of volunteers, donations of office space by the Carnegie Endowment (a situation which is shortly to come to an end), and equipment, it has been possible to stretch a small budget to cover a solid programme which we are told is meeting a development need.

As requests for services continue to grow, project personnel have been hard-pressed to find the time to seek funds to assure the continuation of this work. We are therefore writing to those who have the IWY Tribune Project proposal under review to ask for your attention at the earliest possible date.

You will note from the attached report on the status of funding requests that the Canadian International Development Agency has agreed to add \$15,000 for 1977-1978 to its 1976-1977 initial grant of \$50,000. Their contribution is subject to the securing of the remainder of the project funds which amount to \$84,500. CIDA has further stipulated that their funds only be used for the printing and postage costs of the IWY Tribune Project Newsletter. (See copy of CIDA letter enclosed). Officers in other agencies have assured us that we can expect their support after meetings to be held in September and October.

This time-table suggests that we ought to be already considering the possibilities of support for the office during the 1978-1979 period. It is generally felt that the project should continue until the 1980 United Nations Mid-Decade World Conference for Women, designed to assess progress on the advancement of the aims of the World Plan of Action. Would you prefer to receive a three-year proposal? We would be happy to project the work for that period.

The most pressing need at the moment is that we receive some indication of your interest in this project so that we might make arrangements to proceed with our planned and current activities. If you feel that a personal visit from one of our professional staff would be beneficial to the furtherance of our grant proposal, this could be arranged. Our director, Dr Anne S. Walker of Fiji, hopes to be in Europe later in the year, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the project with you.

This comes with our deep appreciation for your interest in our efforts to work for the greater integration of women in the development of their countries. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any other information or assistance that we could help with.

Yours sincerely,

Mildred Persinger
Chairperson
IWY Tribune Project Committee

enc.