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Letter from Mildred Persinger to Jan P. Pronk, November 7, 1978

Mildred Emory Persinger

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
TRIBUNE CENTRE, inc.

support resource.. 345 E. 46 St.
Room 815
New York
N.Y. 10017
(212) 687-0728

November 7 1978

The Hon. Jan P. Pronk
Member of the Labour Party Group
Binnenhof 1a
The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Pronk:

Your kind response to the Tribune Centre's mid-year report encouraged us all and was much appreciated. Enclosed for your further information is the Tribune Centre's full report and Project Presentation, along with a more detailed breakdown of estimated expenditure for two specific areas of the programme. Ms. Laetitia van den Assum of the Ministry of Development Co-operation, and presently a delegate to the General Assembly for The Netherlands, suggested that the area of technical assistance and training might be of particular interest to the Ministry.

Volume of work at the centre has almost overwhelmed this small group. When two of the three full-time staff were away last month, both assisting with regional projects, the office was almost completely staffed by volunteers. The projected growth in staff is essential if we are to continue to serve regional groups involved in women and development efforts.

You will note that the Ministry is being requested to support 35% of the total budget for 1978-1979, an amount of \$108,900. As you may recall, the 1977-1978 contribution of the Ministry was a generous 50% of the total budget for that year. We believe that your contribution was well used, and adhered closely to the 1977-78 estimated expenditure, (see attached financial statement).

For the present, it would appear that the on-going work of the Tribune Centre is somewhat dependent on the continued interest and support of the Ministry of Development Co-operation of The Netherlands. Early replies to the centre's Project Presentation have been received from DANIDA and CIDA, and both have indicated that their budgets have



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been severely curtailed and they will be unable to participate. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women, although strongly supporting the work of this centre, is under a mandate to provide funding only for women's projects based in the four Third World regions. We did receive support from the Fund, authorized last June, via ESCAP, for the production and publication of our resource book on the activities and scope of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development (a United Nations regional centre in Tehran, Iran). Tribune Centre Director, Anne Walker, spent five weeks in Iran in June, working with the staff of APCWD in the collating and presentation of the material. The only funds received so far in response to the enclosed proposal are the \$10,000 sent by the United Methodist Church of the USA.

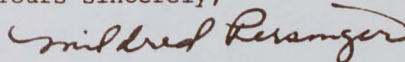
Visits of Ms. van den Assum to the Tribune Centre have been much enjoyed by all of us here. She has expressed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for our work and told us about the Ministry's promotion of the integration of women in development, and the newly appointed coordinators of women's affairs. We had been in touch with them earlier in the year. Ms. van den Assum will meet with the Coordinators on her return to the Netherlands in early December.

Knowing of your initiatives and interest in this area, we want to keep you in touch with our progress, not only in the event that questions are raised with you, but because we want you to know how well your confidence in this project was justified. We do hope you will have occasion to visit New York soon, and that your visit will include some time with us here at the centre. You will then be able to see first-hand some of the results of your past highly-valued assistance.

With best personal wishes,

I am,

Yours sincerely,



Mildred E. Persinger
President

enc.

Copy of letter to:
The Hon. Jan de Koning
IWTC Project Presentation
Financial Submission to:
The Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation
Statement of Receipts and Expenses for the Year Ending September 30, 1978
Status of Funding Request