

Hollins University

Hollins Digital Commons

Mildred E. Persinger Papers

Manuscript Collections

1979

Letter from Mildred Persinger to Laetitia Van Den Assum, March 15, 1979

Mildred Emory Persinger

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.hollins.edu/persinger-papers>



Part of the [Women's History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Persinger, Mildred Emory, "Letter from Mildred Persinger to Laetitia Van Den Assum, March 15, 1979" (1979). *Mildred E. Persinger Papers*. 211.

<https://digitalcommons.hollins.edu/persinger-papers/211>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at Hollins Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mildred E. Persinger Papers by an authorized administrator of Hollins Digital Commons. For more information, please contact lvilelle@hollins.edu, millerjc@hollins.edu.

Trilene Centre

15 March, 1979

Ms. Laetitia van den Assum
Ministry of Foreign Affairs DIOSM
Casuari Str. 16
The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Laetitia,

My thanks for your letter of 1 March. You are right. Moving is quite involving. We are trying to do our regular work among the packing boxes and repair men. But the final result will be worth the effort and we are pleased that you expect to be in New York later on and will see what our creative team has wrought from a run-down loft. We are using industrial shelving; doors for desks, supported by the shelving and a small file cabinet. We found that we would save such a large percentage of the cost by not moving the delapidated sixth-hand steel ones we were using that it made sense to sell them and invest in the doors. Now I am trying to persuade a corporation to give us some file cabinets. You will be amazed.

The best news is that we have a letter from Karin Himmelstrand advising us that SIDA will make a grant of \$30,000, which she indicated was on its way. This gives a great boost to efforts with other sources and we are particularly glad that your confidence is shared. If you had not been so supportive, however, subsequent donors might not have materialized.

So things are moving full steam ahead despite the ~~moving~~ packing. One current project which may be of special interest to you in The Netherlands is a series of short slide/tapes on development issues and women now in the planning stage, although the photography has been done and some of the script written. But the series has not been finally designed. They are to deal with employment, health and education and could be useful in connection with the Copenhagen conference, as women begin to think about those themes. Tapes and scripts will be done in English, French and Spanish and could easily be translated into Dutch if there were a demand. We will send you a progress report on this project as it moves along.

We continue to receive requests for information about a possible parallel activity in 1980, but my guess is that the Danes are waiting for the NGOs to make some decisions about what the Conference of NGOs is going to do. They are meeting this week in Geneva, I think, but they may confine themselves to their participation in the Conference as observers. In Mexico they had an elaborate system of consultation and organized coverage and reporting of different issues.

Trilene Centre

15 March, 1979

Ms. Laetitia van den Assum
Ministry of Foreign Affairs DIOSM
Casuari Str. 16
The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Laetitia,

My thanks for your letter of 1 March. You are right. Moving is quite involving. We are trying to do our regular work among the packing boxes and repair men. But the final result will be worth the effort and we are pleased that you expect to be in New York later on and will see what our creative team has wrought from a run-down loft. We are using industrial shelving; doors for desks, supported by the shelving and a small file cabinet. We found that we would save such a large percentage of the cost by not moving the delapidated sixth-hand steel ones we were using that it made sense to sell them and invest in the doors. Now I am trying to persuade a corporation to give us some file cabinets. You will be amazed.

The best news is that we have a letter from Karin Himmelstrand advising us that SIDA will make a grant of \$30,000, which she indicated was on its way. This gives a great boost to efforts with other sources and we are particularly glad that your confidence is shared. If you had not been so supportive, however, subsequent donors might not have materialized.

So things are moving full steam ahead despite the ~~moving~~ packing. One current project which may be of special interest to you in The Netherlands is a series of short slide/tapes on development issues and women now in the planning stage, although the photography has been done and some of the script written. But the series has not been finally designed. They are to deal with employment, health and education and could be useful in connection with the Copenhagen conference, as women begin to think about those themes. Tapes and scripts will be done in English, French and Spanish and could easily be translated into Dutch if there were a demand. We will send you a progress report on this project as it moves along.

We continue to receive requests for information about a possible parallel activity in 1980, but my guess is that the Danes are waiting for the NGOs to make some decisions about what the Conference of NGOs is going to do. They are meeting this week in Geneva, I think, but they may confine themselves to their participation in the Conference as observers. In Mexico they had an elaborate system of consultation and organized coverage and reporting of different issues.

Your news of preparations for Copenhagen and that of other ministries has spurred me on to try to find out what is going on here. I enclose a letter which one of the women's organizations has written, although I believe it is probably one among many.

The situation in Iran has distracted many of the same people who are so interested in the 1980 Conference for the time being. You probably know that Simone de Beauvoir has gone to Tehran and that messages of support for the women of Iran can be sent to Carol Claude Servan-Schreiber, "F" Magazine, 26 Rue Poncelet, 75017, Paris, in case anyone wants to know. Women here are asking what they can do, but I am not sure that U.S. aid and comfort, even from the women in the street (there are rallies), is the most effective way to go at this stage.

It is hard to write an official letter under the circumstances. All around me people are sanding and varnishing the doors for the desks, as the shelving is to arrive at 8 a.m. tomorrow, and the team here is working to get the varnish dry before they have to be installed. Everyone seems to be most proficient at this, a far cry from our usual work.

So I will close by noting that I had written to Mr. Van Gorkom after receiving notice that the grant would be forthcoming, and sent you a copy. I will write again.

In case anyone wants a quick answer to the question of what we do, I am enclosing a list of services we are required to prepare along with financial reports for the public record here. Because it is so short, it may be useful.

The prospect of seeing you in August is splendid. Please let us know when and whether you will be working or vacationing. I hope the latter. We will be due for some time off by then. Maybe there are possibilities.

With best wishes from all of us,

Mildred Persinger

enc.

S Statement of Services Rendered
OEF/LWV letter to Vance