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Letter from Grethe Vaerno to Mildred Persinger, July 24, 1979

Grethe Vaerno

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Grethe Værnø
p.tø. Arendal

remarkable ♀ -
one person lobby

Arendal 24.7.1979

Dear Mildred,

Thank you som much for your kind letter. Right now I am "enjoying" my summer residence, trying to keep my fingers warm by typing. Well, thank you, we would still very much like to have 200 copies of your latest issue, whatever it is - send by the least expensive methode. (My husband's: Oscar Vaerno, Foreign Ministry, Oslo Dep, Oslol) However, that is to be used only if you can get the Mission to do it for us.

Trouble with the NGO question is that there is no one in parti- cular in the Foreign Office who handles these matters - there is no expertice~~x~~ who cares, and the FSO's therefore fall easily prey to all the "proxy argumentation". These days, however, I am writing to the Ministry to sharpen them up a bit, if it helps. There is also a movement underway to get a person responsible for NGO matters in the ministry, so let us hope.

As for the "Tribune" in Copenhagen - the last I heard is that the National Council of Denmark has invited the views of the women's organizations in developing countries, and are planning something probably prior, just prior to the conference itself.

Meanwhile we are going ahead with all kinds of things - putting considerable pressure on the Foreign Ministry for a more active international women's policy. The National Council awarded the Xantippe prize to the Ministry as a reward and a reminder that "angry women watch". We have asked for more funds for women's international activities etc. The Development Information Service held a seminar on development questions, among them the question whether there was any progress on the integration of women in the thinking, planning and implementation of development efforts. Obviously this stimulated the Foreign Ministry - and they are now starting a separate study on women's perspective on the new IDS. We also cosponsored a seminar on women's perspective on UNCSTD, where we managed to get the Foreign Minister to open up. Seems that the prep. kommittee in Norway really have tried hard on the women's issue. The NC, that's me, also tried to influence the gang, lead by agricultural people, who went to Rome, but I don't know..

By the way, I was elected president of our National Council last May. Now we are going to ICW triennial in Nairobi - pushing for a resolution on female circumcsision! Please note: probably two women from the NC will go to UN during firsthalf of session, both vice presidents.

Kjellang Skogen and Liv Ekeneson.

Gutelle.

Very best regards from Foreign Office

P.S. I shall try again to direct the attention of the Foreign Office to your needs - and similar kinds of projects. They support the FDA-group quite generously.
Love J!

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p.tø. Arendal

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Grutte.

Very best regards from Foreign Office

P.S. I shall try again to direct the attention of the Foreign Office to your needs and similar kinds of projects. They support the FDA-group quite generously.
Love J!

Sorry to leave you
with this. I s there
time to write her -
She's on our advisory
cttee - must be
going to meeting
in Wash. you are.
What to do?