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Letter from Mildred Persinger to Arvonne Fraser, August 24, 1979

Mildred Emory Persinger

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
TRIBUNE CENTRE, INC.

305 East 46th Street
Sixth Floor
New York
N.Y. 10017
(212) 421-5633

24 August, 1979

Ms. Arvonne Fraser
Director
AID/WID
Room 3243 New State
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Arvonne,

Hearing about your travels and projects makes my head swim even more than it does trying to keep up with ours. News of your activities has come from various sources, including the Washington people who attended the National Women's Conference Continuing Committee meeting in Madison last weekend (many of your old friends) and Elizabeth Palmer who doubtless reported to you on progress of parallel activity plans for Copenhagen next summer. Otherwise I would bring you up-to-date.

From both of these sources, as well as from the YWCA I have learned that you are bringing together, as you told us you hoped to, women from the DAC countries in late September. You are to be congratulated, if my information is correct, on putting on for them a showcase of NGO efforts for women. I think it is often assumed that countries which have more authoritarian forms of government than some of the Western countries have no non-governmental organizations. True, many of the NGOs in those places are partially or largely supported by public (or royal) funds, but that is increasingly true everywhere. The only initiatives for women, in fact, come from these organizations in many instances, as you know as well as I.

If you want your guests to know what women are doing, what better source of information than the IWTC Newsletter? I enclose the latest issue, which has not yet been mailed out. If you would like to distribute it as one of your exhibits, please let us know how many you need (and any of the others you want). As you will note from the enclosed Mid-year Report, there are other productions you might want to use.

I appreciated so much the invitation which went to me at the YWCA to participate in the preparatory NGO meeting you are having for this event. How I wish I could be there to see how it comes out! But as we wrote, all of the YWCA leadership will be in Greece in dialogue with women from 84 countries, and I will be there too. But I am sure they have named a good substitute.

If there are any missions you wish me to accomplish at the YWCA World Council, please let me know. They are an active bunch, and truly decolonized.

All the best,

Mildred Mildred Persinger (no planning ahead)



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..a Women's development support resource..

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