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STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR DISARMAMENT SEMINAR

United Nations, New York, 9 May 1975

Over the past two days, 250 women from 26 countries on all the world's continents, representing many national and international Non-Governmental Organizations, reflecting different ideologies and points of view, have joined together at the United Nations to explore new ways of achieving global peace with justice and disarmament. This Seminar was convened by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Women's International Democratic Federation, and the Jane Addams Peace Association.

By declaring International Women's Year, the United Nations has acknowledged that equality and development are inseparable from peace and has recognised the vital role of women in achieving these three objectives.

It is significant that IWY coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the end of World War II. In the intervening years, a new climate of international understanding and detente has developed which has helped make this Seminar possible.

However, we are aware that there are still powerful forces working against peace. Among these forces are economic and social inequities, denial of human rights, racial discrimination, colonialism, segregation, and the upward spiral of the arms race which have led to numerous wars and local military conflicts.

According to UNDP figures, world military expenditures exceeded world expenditures for health and education; three trillion dollars have been spent on military goods and services between the years of 1951 to 1971.

The huge expenditures of the arms race must be directed instead to peaceful purposes. Scientific and technological achievements should be redirected for the benefit of humanity. That is why we are taking action for detente not only in the political and economic fields but also in the military field.

Recognizing our responsibilities to our own generation and to future generations, we present the following synthesis of Seminar findings from three working Commissions:

1. We support the UN Disarmament Conference and call for a Non Governmental Disarmament Conference to precede it in order to transmit its findings to the UN Conference. We call upon the UN to set a date for the Conference at the next UN General Assembly. We urge the delegates to the IWY Conference in Mexico to make this request in their report to this 30th General Assembly session.

These Disarmament Conferences, as well as all other world conferences, should have an equitable representation of men and women.

2. We call for the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution requiring a 10% reduction of the military budgets of the permanent members of the Security Council and the reallocation of a portion of these funds for aid to the developing countries. This should lead to a general reduction of military budgets of all nations.

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