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Summary of Preparations for 1975 IWY Tribune

Mildred Emory Persinger

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MP '79

SUMMARY OF PREPARATIONS FOR 1975 (IWY TRIBUNE)

Due to the short lead time, there was a general consensus that the 1975 IWY Tribune would follow the general purposes and approach of the 1974 Population Tribune in Bucharest. It would provide:the widest possible opportunity for exchange of information and views, open registration with emphasis on assuring Third World attendance, facilities available for organized or ad hoc groups to hold their own meetings around issues during or around the edges of a pre-scheduled program of simultaneous panels, a daily newspaper.

The activities noted below were initiated in the months designated, but carried on continuously. Fund-raising was also carried on throughout. Speed required seeking support from friends who were aware of the plans for Mexico and the potential rather than from those who had to be made aware.

JANUARY

Organizing a sponsoring committee. CONGO President Rosalind Harris appointed a representative of a broad-based women's NGO to chair the effort. Together they decided on the composition of the committee. As members were to act in their personal capacities, it was important to choose both representative individuals and organizations as widely related as possible. To achieve some measure of political balance, organizations which had no representatives in New York were to name members to the Committee who would function in Mexico.

myf

FEBRUARY

Numerous consultations with Mexican representatives in New York (men); negotiations on test of the preliminary announcement to be mailed out; organizing committee work on program; recruiting director and administrative officer who would deal with logistics as well as assist generally; visit by CONGO President and committee chair to Mexico to make initial arrangements.

+Mexico

MARCH

Staff of two on board;staff consultation on program (Independently they decided on same topics and format proposed by organizing committee.); Preliminary notice and rough of program mailed out to organizations and individuals on numerous lists; decision to plan two simultaneous sessions one issue-oriented, the alternate, project-oriented.

Maria Bravo
Linda Spitzer

APRIL

Final preparation of printed brochure and registration form (incredible disagreement among Spanish speakers as to how to say anything in Spanish) circulation of brochure to 12-14 thousand people and organizations; seeking recommendations on panelists in fields decided on; recruiting panelists from among UN delegations and secretariat, participants in pre-conference "encounter" and consultation wherever possible; contacting others actively involved in projects; decision to visualize projects and issues; contracting with Bettina Corke, Chris Shrinavasan and others to do short presentations with film and slide/tape related to actual projects as well as to plan exhibits; working with Jaqui Starkey on handcraft seminar, giving her minimum support in the beginning(more when travel funds became available); trip to Mexico by director and

APRIL (cont.)

administrative officer to complete arrangements; letter of agreement negotiated with Foreign Ministry's Conference Officer; recruiting staff for newspaper and special fund-raising effort for newspaper.

A. L. Gonzalez

Margaret Pearson, editor

MAY

Risisting pressures from officials, scholars, NGOs, performers and exhibitors to be part of the pre-planned program; decision to leave the last three days of the Tribune program open, to be planned in Mexico in response to demand from participants; receiving registrations; sending out letters of invitation to all registrants to enable them to obtain exit permission where necessary; negotiating dates and participation with panelists; cabling tickets, reserving hotel space for program and staff personnel; dealing with thousands of telephone calls (some from abroad) and letters to people wanting information and participation; reports on progress to NGO groups.

JUNE

Decision to cut off registration; letters informing late applicants ; mop-up on all of the above; staff to Mexico, including newspaper and media people; a week later, volunteers to Mexico; first meeting of organizing committee with new members; subsequent meetings at 8 a.m. daily; trouble-shooting; scheduling of ad hoc meetings for each day; working with newspaper staff; liason with Mexican officials; installment payments to program people for per diem due to excessive amount of money which had to be transferred into Mexican bank, necessitating at least two payments during the two weeks; etc.

JULY

Staff week in Acapulco; packing up and shipping necessities back to N.Y. negotiating bills, receiving funds promised but not available before the Tribune opened; thankyou letters, writing the report.

SUBSEQUENT MONTHS

Completing report and final accounting; audit.

MP
7/10/79