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### Letter from Katherine Strong to Mildred Persinger, February 5, 1975

Katherine Strong

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World Young Women's Christian Association  
Alliance Mondiale des Unions Chrétiennes Féminines  
Weltbund Christlicher Verbände Junger Frauen  
Asociación Christiana Femenina Mundial

President: Mrs. A. Tsouderos Athanassiou

General Secretary: Miss Elizabeth Palmer

Telegrams: Soromundi, Geneva  
Telephone 32 31 00

Headquarters:  
37, Quai Wilson, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

KS/cim

February 5, 1975

Mrs. Paul McClellan Jones,  
27 Hotel Drive,  
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

Mrs. Richard B. Persinger,  
26 Judson Avenue,  
Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522

Dear Mildred and Mildred,

Elizabeth has suggested that it might be helpful if I send you some notes on a couple of the meetings I have attended recently of the Geneva NGO Conference committees. Obviously some of these facts you know already, but it will be interesting for you to see what we here have discussed. *- see Congo*

... For your convenience I attach these to this letter so that you can file them separately if you wish to do so.

We are all very proud that you, Mildred P., have agreed to take on the parallel activities for NGOs around the Mexico IWY Conference; - proud, but very much aware of what a terrific job it will be, and concerned for you. I only hope you have all the help you need !

Mrs. Sipilä gave us a briefing here yesterday on IWY and explained the process by which NGO representation will be screened for the Mexico Conference : i.e. (1) letters asking NGOs if they want to be invited; (2) ECOSOC to determine which of those shall actually receive invitations at its April session ... (I'm sure you know this.) To me this is important as it may greatly affect the nature of the pre-Conference NGO Seminar, if they are very restrictive. You will note in the attached notes that our Geneva NGO Sub-Committee on the Status of Women spent a lot of time discussing what should be the agenda for this.

Mrs. Sipilä was pressured during the question period as to whether NGOs will be given a chance to react to the draft of the World Plan of Action which is being prepared for consideration at the Mexico meeting. She obviously hadn't considered the question before and at first was quite negative. However Mrs. Bruce was here with her and whispered her some suggestions, so she finally agreed that the draft which is now being worked on here in Geneva will be given to Mme Gluriati, who will let some of us at least have it and can then send our reactions to Mrs. Sipilä before the meeting of the Administrative Consultative Committee, which will be meeting in New York on March 3rd-14th. I don't know what they'll do about it in New York, but I suggest you ask Molly Bruce, who seems to me to be more sympathetic to our request than H. Sipilä. If we do get a hold -of the draft I think it ought to be considered at the 2-day pre-Conference Seminar.

./..

Mrs. Sipilä was very eager that some NGOs make a contribution to the IWY Fund which was set up by ECOSOC Resolution 1850. So far only 10 governments have contributed and no NGOs. She is trying to get every woman in Finland contribute 1 Finnish mark (25 c.) which, she says, would pay for the implementation of all of the Africa - Regional Plan of Action (see report of the Addis Ababa Seminar on integration of women in development).

The IYNGOs have sent a letter to Mrs. Sipilä requesting (1) that NGOs be given an opportunity to react to the Draft World Plan of Action for IWY; (2) that machinery be clarified to insure that NGOs are invited to send representatives to Regional Seminars set up by ECOSOC bodies. This has been very poorly and inconsistently carried out.

Mildred J., I look forward to having a talk with you when you are here in Geneva for the officers' meeting.

Warm greetings to you both,

Katherine S. Strong

Encl.