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Letter from M. E. Galey to James F. Green, February 26, 1975

M. E. Galey

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MEMORANDUM

February 26, 1975

TO: Mr. James F. Green
FROM: M. E. Galey
SUBJECT: CSOP Report on the Status of Women:

After talking with Dr. Irene Tinker, Director of International Scientific Affairs, American Association for the Advancement of Science, today, I have learned a great deal about the preparations for the Conference on International Women's Year. This leads me to make several suggestions for the revision of our Preliminary Outline and the CSOP Report.

I. Activities of Existing Organizations in Preparation for the Conference in Mexico City, June 19 - July 2

1. There is to be a Conference on Women in Developed Countries (legal and political, economic and social rights) at Airlie House, Virginia, in May 1975. This will be sponsored by the U.S. AID and Tufts University, Fletcher School (Prof. Luke T. Lee, who is Director of Women and Human Rights Projects).
2. Dr. Tinker's office and staff are in the process of hiring consultants to do studies of women's (rural/urban) social and economic opportunities in developing countries, for the Pre-Mexico City Conference "Seminars."
 - a. Dr. Tinker's office is going to do analyses of Dr. Elise Boulding's data on women and make it available.
 - b. Dr. Tinker's office is sponsoring a 3-day session-- June 16, 17, and 18--of seminars for delegates to the Mexico City Conference. The purpose of the seminars will be to discuss the papers available from Airlie House and those that her people prepare and "to raise the consciousness of delegates" prior to the Conference.
 - c. Parallel to the Conference of Governmental Representatives, there will be held a "Tribune"--groups of women's NGO's at Conference. Mildred Persinger is involved in this.

3. UNITAR (Christina McDougall) and UNDP (?) are both involved in helping prepare reports on women in developing and developed countries.

II. Tentative Suggestions

On the basis of this new information, I believe we should cooperate with Dr. Tinker's office and the Tufts University/ U.S. AID effort to be held at Airlie House.

1. We should obtain papers and reports produced by these groups and use them as the basis for making recommendations on Part V (Re national governments and international organizations).
2. We should prepare a study (which is badly needed and would be a real contribution as it doesn't exist)
 - a. on the capacity of the UN Commission on the Status of Women
 - b. on any international instruments not covered in the UN Status of Women's Study of instruments.
3. Because papers/reports from Dr. Tinker and from Airlie House will not be available until late May, this presents problems on timing for the annual meeting of CSOP, etc. Some decision needs to be made here whether the Commission's Report should come out before the Conference or after it.
4. I strongly believe we should make use of the papers being prepared especially for the Conference, rather than try to find people to write such papers ourselves. It's duplication of effort. Given our difficulties in finding people willing to work on this from within as well as without the Commission's membership, I would again urge the use of materials already being prepared. Moreover, Dr. Tinker is willing to share papers, etc., as are (she thinks) U.S. AID/Tufts.
5. I recommend that the March 8 meeting be a discussion with someone from Dr. Tinker's office, Christina McDougall (UNITAR), Mildred Persinger, and whomever we can get from UNDP, perhaps Tufts University, and the Commission on the Status of Women.

cc: Dr. L.B. Sohn
Dr. L.H. Evans
Mrs. M. Persinger

*Typed from mee's notes
JM*