

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 SPM-01 AID-20 RSR-01

L-03 H-03 TRSE-00 (ADP) W

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R 011543Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3045

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DEPT PASS LABOR

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOCI, UN

SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN: SEMINAR ON THE FAMILY IN A CHANGING SOCIETY,
JULY 18-31 - CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY - SEMINAR NOTED WORLD TREND TOWARD THE NUCLEAR
FAMILY AND AWAY FROM EXTENDED FAMILY. WOMEN NOW
ENTERING WORK FORCE IN GREAT NUMBERS WITH THE RESULT
THAT FAMILY SITUATION CHANGING AND TOTAL FAMILY
RESPONSIBILITY SHIFTING TO ALL MEMBERS. DRAFTED SERIES
OF RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO EASE TRANSITION AND
CHANGING PATTERNS TO PROVIDE GREATER EQUALITY BETWEEN
THE SEXES SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENTS AND UN HAD
RESPONSIBILITY TO UPGRADE COMMUNITY SERVICES, REVISE
LAWS, AND CHANGE ATTITUDES THAT WOULD PREPARE MEN AND
WOMEN FOR CHANGING ROLES.

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1. THIRTY-TWO COUNTRIES INVITED PARTICIPATE IN WORLD-WIDE MEETING. ALL PRESENT EXCEPT CHINA, TANZANIA, UPPER VOLTA. SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS NON-POLITICAL IN CHARACTER EXCEPT FOR EARLY REMARKS OF SOVIET DELEGATE WHO REFERRED TO DETENTE BETWEEN THE US AND USSR AND BENEFITS THAT COMMUNISM CONFERS UPON THE FAMILY NOT AVAILABLE UNDER CAPITALISM. PARTICIPANTS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN NEARLY EVERY INSTANCE CHANGES WERE TAKING PLACE IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOR PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AS A WHOLE, FOR HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING AND TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL.

2. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGING PATTERNS OF FAMILY LIFE WERE POPULATION GROWTH, EMIGRATION, ESPECIALLY TO THE MORE ADVANCED COUNTRIES, AND MIGRATION FROM RURAL TO URBAN AREAS IN SEARCH OF JOBS CREATED BY TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND INDUSTRIALIZATION. SEMINAR NOTED DEFINITE TREND TOWARD NUCLEAR FAMILY, WIDER ACCEPTANCE INDIVIDUAL'S BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRINCIPLE EQUAL RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN. EMPHASIS ON FULLER PARTICIPATION WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERED MAJOR FACTOR INFLUENCING FAMILY LIFE AND ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN. FAMILY PLANNING HAS FREED WOMEN FROM FREQUENT PREGNANCIES, PERMITTING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE AND ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF COUNTRY.

3. IN RURAL AREAS SEX ROLES REMAIN MORE CLEARLY DEFINED WITH WOMEN AND MEN TENDING TO PERFORM TRADITIONAL DUTIES. PARTICIPANTS CONCLUDED RURAL WOMEN SUFFER MOST FROM HEAVY BURDEN AGRICULTURAL WORK, CARE OF FAMILY, LACK OF EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, NON-ACCESSIBILITY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES SUCH AS MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE, FAMILY HEALTH CARE, AVAILABILITY PUBLIC UTILITIES, TRANSPORT, SHOPPING AND LEISURE FACILITIES, AND GUIDANCE RE LEGAL RIGHTS. CONCLUDED MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE WOMEN CAN BE CONSIDERED EQUAL PARTNERS IN MARRIAGE.

4. FOLLOWING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS NOTED:
A) GOVERNMENTS, EMPLOYERS, TRADE UNIONS, NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVE GROWING RESPONSIBILITY PROMOTE FAMILY WELL-BEING BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE THAT EASES TRANSITION AND ENABLES MEN AND WOMEN TO FULFIL CHANGING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN SOCIETY AND FAMILY;

B) ESSENTIAL THAT GOVERNMENTS REVIEW AND/OR ENACT LEGISLATION, ESPECIALLY IN AREA FAMILY LAW AND EMPLOYMENT, TO ENSURE CONFORMITY WITH RELEVANT

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. (ARTICLES 6 AND 10
DECLARATION ELIMINATION DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.)
C) ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO EASE IMPACT ON FAMILY OF
URBANIZATION, MIGRATION, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE
DECENTRALIZATION OF INDUSTRY, ADEQUATE HOUSING, RELEVANT
LITERACY PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS;
AVAILABILITY FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES TO ENHANCE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FAMILY WELFARE AND QUALITY OF
LIFE.

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D) EMPHASIS PLACED ON IMPORTANCE LEGISLATIVE REFORMS
THAT INSURE FOR BOTH SPOUSES EQUAL RIGHTS BEFORE, DURING
AND ON DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD
TO CHILDREN; ADEQUATE FAMILY COUNSELLING, ESTABLISHMENT
OF FAMILY COURTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING FAMILY
CONFLICTS, SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF FAMILY MEMBERS, AND

PROTECTION OF WOMEN LIVING IN COMMON LAW MARRIAGES.

E) SEMINAR NOTED INFLUENCE MASS MEDIA ON PUBLIC
OPINION AS WELL AS MEDIA'S MAJOR ROLE IN ACCELERATING
CHANGE AND MODIFICATION ATTITUDES RE SEX STEREOTYPES;
RECOMMEND MORE BALANCED IMAGE WOMEN, AND FAMILY IMAGES
WHICH PORTRAY RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION ALL MEMBERS.

F) SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO INSURE WELL-BEING
CHILDREN INCLUDED PRE-SCHOOL FACILITIES, MOBILE CRECHES,
PROVISION OF TRANSPORT FOR SMALL CHILDREN; SPECIAL
ATTENTION TRAINED PERSONNEL IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.

G) SEMINAR URGED IMPLEMENTATION ILO RESOLUTION 123
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RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT WOMEN WITH FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES
AND FOLLOW-UP ON THIS AS WELL AS ILO RECOMMENDATIONS
RE MATERNITY PROTECTION.

H) SPECIAL MENTION MADE OF NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO
MATURE WOMEN RE-ENTERING THE WORK FORCE IN FORM OF
UPGRADING SKILLS, CONTINUING EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONAL
GUIDANCE, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, EXPANDED EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES AND PENSION SYSTEMS.

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