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"The Role of Women in Economic Development and the Education of the Younger Generation", an Article

Printed in English, this document shows an article entitled "The Role of Women in Economic Development and the Education of the Younger Generation".

C O M M U N I Q U E

1. A seminar of representatives of women's organizations in Asian countries devoted to the subject "Role of women in economic development of their countries and in upbringing of young generation" was held in Alma-Ata, capital of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, July 15-20, 1975. The representatives of 40 women's organizations from 26 countries and of 5 international organizations as well as the UNO, UNESCO and ESCAP took part in this Seminar.

2. The Seminar convened on the initiative of the Soviet Women's Committee within the framework of the International Women's Year has made it possible for women of different political convictions and religious beliefs who represent countries with different social and political systems to highlight a wide range of problems relating to the status of women, their role in the economic development of their countries and in upbringing of the young generation. The Seminar has provided an opportunity for exchange of experience between women's and other public organizations, as well as between the national committees for the International Women's Year intended for attaining equality of women, enhancement of their role in the development of their respective countries, in strengthening of national independence, peace and cooperation between peoples.

3. The stay in Kazakhstan has made it possible for the participants of the Seminar to get acquainted with the ways of solving these problems in the Soviet Union.

With great interest they became acquainted with the working and living conditions of the Soviet women and noted the important achievements in implementing genuine equality for women in all areas of the life of society.

4. The participants of the Seminar highly appreciated the system of education and upbringing of the younger generation in the Soviet Union, which provides equal opportunities for all citizens, irrespective of their sex, nationality and social standing, and facilitates the development of the talents and abilities of each person for the benefit of the entire society.

5. The speeches made by the Seminar participants testified to the increasing role and responsibility of women in the countries of Asia in solving the problems facing the peoples of this region. Special emphasis was placed on the contribution of women to the struggle for attaining and strengthening national independence, for asserting the right of every people to decide their own destiny.

6. Many of the speakers emphasized that genuine equality of women and the creation of favourable conditions for upbringing the younger generation requires profound social and economic transformations of progressive nature, the success of which depends on the full participation of women on a par with men.

7. The participants of the Seminar expressed their confidence that peace, security and national independence are a necessary prerequisite for attaining the total equality of women. At the same time the achievement of these goals depends upon the greatest possible participation of women.

8. The participants of the Seminar pointed out that present-day international development is characterized by important positive events. Detente is being strengthened. The conference for European Security and Cooperation is successfully drawing to its close. To put an end to the arms race is becoming an ever more realistic perspective. A most dangerous hotbed of tension in Asia has been liquidated; the peoples of Indochina and, in the first place, the heroic people of Vietnam, with fraternal support from the socialist countries and other progressive forces of the world, have won a historic victory in the struggle for their national independence.

9. In these conditions, the participants of the Seminar believe, a real possibility is provided for concrete steps on the way of ensuring, through the joint efforts of the Asian countries, peace and security for the peoples in this region.

10. At the same time many speakers pointed out that hotbeds seriously threatening world peace and the sovereignty of many nations, continue to exist. The danger of nuclear holocaust still hovers over mankind.

11. It was emphasized that colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid, foreign occupation and aggression constitute flagrant violation of fundamental human rights.

12. In this connection the participants of the Seminar resolutely raised their voices for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories and for the settlement of the Middle East problem in the shortest time possible in the spirit of respect for independence and

sovereign rights of all the countries and peoples in this region, particularly the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination.

13. They also stressed the necessity for a just settlement of the crisis in Cyprus without foreign interference in the internal affairs of the country.

14. The participants of the Seminar supported the idea of proclamation of the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and liquidation of foreign military bases in this region.

15. Realizing the danger of aggravation of the situation in the Gulf region, the Seminar participants expressed their solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Oman.

16. Having stressed the significance of the International Women's Year for integrating the efforts of the governments and public opinion towards attaining its major goals - equality, development and peace, - the participants of the Seminar expressed their support for the resolutions of the United Nations International Women's Year Conference which was held in Mexico City, June 19 - July 2, 1975.

17. The Seminar participants expressed the hope that international intergovernmental organizations, in particular, the United Nations, UNESCO and ESCAP, and non-governmental organizations would intensify their efforts to contribute to progress and peace and to implement the long-term World Plan of Action adopted by the Mexico-City Conference for the advancement of the status of women and for their full participation in the social and economic development of their countries on equal basis with men.

18. Recognizing the great significance of the forthcoming World Congress for IWY to be held in Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic, the participants of the Seminar expressed their total support for this initiative which will serve as an important contribution to the attainment of the main goals of the Year.