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خطاب افتتاحي لرئيسة لجنة النساء السوفيتيات

افتتاحي لرئيسة لجنة مادة مطبوعة باللغة الانجليزية، تتضمن خطاب.
النساء السوفيتيات

WIDF Council Meeting
Moscow, USSR
15-19 May 1978

OPENING ADDRESS OF VALENTINA NIKOLAYEVA-TERESHKOVA,
PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET WOMEN'S COMMITTEE AND VICE-
PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC
FEDERATION, AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE WIDF

Moscow, May 15 1978

Dear friends,

I have the pleasant duty to greet the participants in the Council meeting of the Women's International Democratic Federation on behalf of the Soviet Women's Committee, all Soviet women and the inhabitants of the capital of our Homeland, the Hero City of Moscow.

We regard it as a great honour that the Federation has accepted the invitation of the Soviet Women's Committee to convene this major forum in Moscow. Fifteen years have passed since the World Congress of Women, sponsored by the WIDF, took place in Moscow, but the Muscovites still keep in their memory the impressions of the exciting meetings with delegates from all continents. Today we are heartened by the opportunity to accord hospitality to the representatives of women's organisations from many countries, both delegates from national organisations of the Federation and guests of the Council meeting.

We are glad to see in this hall representatives of international organisations, including the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

As a host country, we will try to do everything we can to justify your expectations and provide good conditions for the work of the Council.

Dear friends,

Comrades,

A few days ago progressive humanity marked Victory Day, a significant event in the history of many countries and peoples which were fighting against fascism. In that far-away year of 1945 the Women's International Democratic Federation was born on the crest of the victory; it was an

embodiment of the desire of women from different countries to unite in seeking common goals, namely, peace on the earth, independence for the peoples, equality for women and happiness for children.

Since the first day of its existence, the Federation has been attracting broad masses of women because the objectives and tasks of the Federation have been in accord with their cherished aspirations. Millions of women all over the world came to see the Women's International Democratic Federation as the protector of their interests and a militant international organisation, affording them an opportunity to effectively work, side by side with women from all continents, for furthering the vital interests of the peoples and, above all, for achieving a lasting peace in the world.

Today the struggle for averting the threat of nuclear-missile war from humanity is becoming a particularly important element in the activities of all public forces. The arms race is becoming virtually global, posing a threat that has no precedent in history. "The most substantial and pressing task nowadays is to further scale down the threat of war and to stem the growth of armaments," said Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in his speech at the Eighteenth Congress of the Young Communist League. Today all peoples are aware of this. They no longer want to live on the powder keg, which poses a threat to the very existence of all humanity. So the Women's International Democratic Federation is trying to make its contribution to the accomplishment of the great historical task, that of preventing another world war, stemming the arms race and achieving disarmament.

The Federation has travelled a great road since its establishment. Suffice it to cast a look at the people sitting in this hall to realise the extent to which the Federation has grown and its prestige in the world increased.

We believe that it would not be an exaggeration to say that the emergence of the WIDF marked a new stage in the history of the world women's movement. The strength of the Federation has always consisted in the fact that it regards the problems of the situation of women in a broad political

and social context and closely links them to the problems facing the peoples and the world as a whole. The Federation has become a school of solidarity for millions of women; it has helped women from different countries to become aware of their role in society and to find their place in the joint struggle of the peoples for peace, freedom, independence, democracy and social progress.

The principles underlying the activities of the Federation have stood the test of time. We think it essential to point out that the Federation has been organizing its activities with due regard for the interests of women from different countries and regions and that in this sense its programme has always been truly universal. It is this fact that has enabled the Federation to become the largest and the most broad-based international women's organisation, uniting today 126 national organizations in 110 countries.

Given the largely varied political and ideological views of its members, the Federation has worked out a platform for pooling the efforts of all women in the world for the sake of attaining common objectives. It is consistency, fidelity to the principles of a democratic mass organisation, ability to get its message across to broad sections of women, willingness to cooperate with other mass organisations that have enabled the Federation to become a politically mature, efficient and active organisation, a veritable vanguard of the democratic women's movement.

Soviet women were among the founders of the Federation and have been actively participating in its work ever since.

Faithful to their internationalist duty, the Soviet women are making their contribution to the development of the international women's movement, vigorously supporting all the actions launched by the Federation to promote peace, social progress and democracy and to oppose all forms of social and national oppression, racialism and fascism.

We assure you that we will continue to give every support to the Women's International Democratic Federation in its noble activities.