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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Dr. Theodore Marris

FROM: Pat Lindh

For your information _____ X

For appropriate handling _____

Per your request _____

Remarks:

December 6, 1974

File

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. FORD
FROM: ANNE ARMSTRONG
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR



UN Activities

In adopting the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1970, the General Assembly listed as one of its objectives the encouragement of the full integration of women in the total development effort. To extend and accelerate action for the advancement of women, the U.N. General Assembly on December 18, 1972 proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year to be devoted to intensified action to promote equality between men and women; to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort; and to recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and cooperation among the States and the strengthening of peace.

Under the leadership of Patricia Hutar, our delegate to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, a resolution calling for an international conference for International Women's Year was proposed and accepted by the Commission and the U.N. Economic and Social Council. Originally the conference was to be held in Bogota, Columbia. Due to financial difficulties, the conference will now be held in June in Mexico City.

US Initiatives

The United States was the first member nation of the U.N. to recognize 1975 as International Women's Year, as a Presidential Proclamation was issued on January 30, 1974 during the meeting of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

President Ford in his August 22nd Women's Equality Day Proclamation mentioned 1975 and the International Women's Year, calling upon Americans to deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women

in our nation's life. In his meetings with women appointees and the September 6th meeting with leaders of national women's organizations, he reiterated his commitment to INY.

The US Center for INY was established in September, 1973, by a grant from the Department of State to a private foundation, Meridian House International. The Center Serves as a clearinghouse of information on INY. It also coordinates the voluntary efforts in the U.S. for the observance of the Year.

Plans for the establishment of a National Commission for INY have been underway for over 19 months. Such a commission would be composed of citizens from the private sector who would promote the observance of INY in the United States - in the government sector, as well as, the private sector. The latter function to be coordinated with the Center. The Commission will also prepare a plan of action to be presented to the President for implementation in 1976 - the Bicentennial and the decade ahead.

1975 Activities

January 10th: The D.C. Commission on the Status of Women is planning a seminar at the Department of Labor.

January 11th has been selected as the launching day for their INY activities of the U.S. Center. In cooperation with the Ninety-Nine's (an association of women pilots) and Zonta International (one of the women's service clubs), a banquet is being planned at the Washington Hilton to salute women in aviation and to honor Amelia Earhart.

In April, 1975 the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is planning a UN Disarmament Seminar at the UN.

Letters have been sent from the Center suggesting to college and university presidents that they select women for honorary degrees during 1975.

Many national women's organizations will highlight INY at their national and state conventions. They are encouraging their local groups to plan activities in their own communities which will emphasize the goals and objectives of INY.

Suggestions for your participation

1. Serve as Honorary Chairman of the National Commission; or both you and the President serve as Honorary CoChairman to envision the idea of partnership.



2. Participate in the National Commission's first meeting to be held in January, which could initiate the national observance of IWY. A full day's seminar could be planned inviting the Commission members and the presidents of the major men's and women's national service and vocation organizations. The morning session, which you could open, might include specific discussions of the three themes of IWY - equality, development and peace. Then after lunch the group could divide into these three areas with Commission members leading the discussion. This session would give all participants a chance to discuss definite U.S. goals to be accomplished in 1975-76 and the decade ahead. Social events to conclude the day's activities could include a reception at the State Department or an embassy, followed by a White House Dinner for the Commission and non-governmental leaders - men and women. Such a dinner would be a first for these groups.
3. If the Equality Task Force of the Commission agrees, a meeting could be scheduled under their leadership at Seneca Falls, N.Y., the place of the first women's rights convention in 1848. Suggested date for this meeting, which could serve as launching point for the ERA, is February 15, Susan B. Anthony's birthday. You could be the keynote speaker and the spark to ignite this ratification effort.
4. When the ERA is ratified in 1975 (hopefully) there will be a massive celebration. One idea for the First Family's participation is for the President to certify the ERA as the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution at a signing ceremony at the Sewell-Belmont House, recently established as a national historic site, and the home of the National Woman's Party, the prime sponsor of the ERA since 1919.
5. After the Mexico City conference and as a beginning for our Bicentennial, a briefing session could be scheduled to debrief the national men's and women's organizations interested in IWY on the world plan of action at this international conference.
6. You could invite the women delegates to the UN to Washington, or you could travel to New York and hostess an event for them. Perhaps a seminar could also be held for non-governmental organizations with UN observer status. The UN General Assembly meets from September to December.

KK:nam



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File Copy

Date

7/8

TO: Pat Linnick

FROM: DR. THEODORE C. MARRS

For your signature _____

For your coordination _____

For your information _____

Per our conversation _____

Other:

Pat - please take

care of this one if you can

Bill

If not, please advise.



THE ALABAMA FEDERATION OF

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, Inc.

P.O. Box 1965

Montgomery, AL 36103

International

Women's year

June 27, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



Dear Mr. President:

As President of the Alabama Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, it is my pleasure to invite you to speak to our members during the statewide observance of International Women's Year on Saturday, November 22, at a luncheon in Montgomery.

Because of the interest and support demonstrated by both you and Mrs. Ford in behalf of women, we would be honored to have you speak to us on this occasion.

Should your commitments preclude your acceptance on November 22, we offer two alternate dates of November 1 and December 13. In the event you are unable to attend on either of these dates, we cordially invite Mrs. Ford to be our speaker.

We appreciate your efforts to expand the role of women and I hope that you can find time in your busy schedule to visit us during this observance.

Respectfully yours,

Margaret L. Ball
(Mrs.) Margaret L. Ball
Alabama Federation President



THE ALABAMA FEDERATION OF

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, inc.

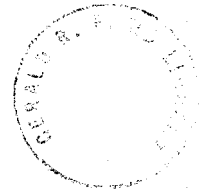
P. O. BOX 1965

PHONE 264-9315

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, 36103

June 19, 1975

Dr. Theodore C. Marrs
Special Assistant to President for Human Resources
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500



Dear Dr. Marrs:

A few days ago Mrs. Vi Pitts telephoned you in regards to the possibility of having the President speak to the Alabama Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs. The occasion will be a special program in which to climax our observance of 'International Women's Year'.

You suggested to Mrs. Pitts that we write a letter of invitation to the President and direct it to your attention. However, it is at the suggestion of Dr. Morris Capouya that I personally write you and enclose the letter of invitation. Any assistance and support, Dr. Marrs, that you can give our invitation for special consideration would be greatly appreciated. It would be beyond words to describe the distinguished honor the Alabama BPW members would experience should the President accept our invitation.

Our program is tentatively planned for November 22, however, we have given the President two alternate dates for consideration. In the event that the President or Mrs. Ford cannot accept, we would be delighted to have Mrs. Patricia S. Lindh, whom you have recommended. Should Mrs. Lindh need a special letter of invitation from the Federation, please let me know.

From Dr. Capouya, warmest regards are sent to you and your family, and from me (I'm the Shirley in his office), please accept my sincere thanks for your attention given to our letter of invitation to the President.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Shirley Kelly, Chairman
International Women's Year
Alabama Federation BPW Clubs
234 South Hull Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104