

Having consultative status does not permit ACWW to vote at conferences but it does allow representation, at them as well as at council meetings, as observers, to present statements on matters of concern to ACWW or any of its numerous member societies, and in some cases to speak to an issue which touches on ACWW spheres of interest. Representatives from the U.N. Committee regularly attend meetings of UNESCO in Paris, FAO in Rome, and ECOSOC and its Commissions in New York or Geneva. I was most fortunate in 1969 to represent ACWW at a meeting of UNESCO in Paris in three of the working parties set up by the NGO's in consultative status with UNESCO — working parties on peace and international understanding, youth, and visual aids. Apart from a vivid picture of Paris and the modern UNESCO headquarters, I brought back a better understanding of the working of ACWW and UNESCO.

The duties of having consultative status with UNESCO and FAO involve ACWW in the compilation and presentation of information on such subjects as lie within its scope, i.e., literacy among women, rural development, child care and nutrition. ACWW also disseminates to its member societies information about the work of the specialised agencies. In fact there is a continuous flow of information between all to their mutual benefit. There are also certain privileges attendant on consultative status. ACWW has, in the past, received sums of money as grants toward the travel expenses of women going from the developing countries to the developed countries for periods of instruction or observation. Under these travel grants women from Guyana, the Philippines, Lesotho, and Ceylon have been able to visit Canada where the Canadian Women's Institutes have given them hospitality and planned training sessions. The hope is that when these women have visited a country and observed how the women there work and live, how they organise themselves for the betterment of their families and the community, they will return home fired with a desire to do likewise. Both UNESCO and FAO have recently, as in the past, given financial backing to seminars which member societies of ACWW have organised. In 1968 backing was given for a seminar held in Karachi and organized by the All Pakistan Women's Association. This seminar, on literacy, was attended by women from India, Ceylon, Iran, Nepal, East and West Pakistan and Australia. Here even Indian and Pakistan women met together to discuss mutual problems. This year a seminar to be held in Jamaica and organised by one of ACWW's members is being given UNESCO backing. These seminars provide an opportunity for women from

different countries to meet and work together in small groups to share experiences and pool knowledge in solving mutual problems.

UNESCO and FAO also have the Gift Coupon Scheme by which organisations can elect to contribute money to specific projects which bear numbers. The agencies undertake to receive the money and channel it into the chosen project. Mrs. Rand, Area Vice-President for Canada at that time, mentioned in her report to the 12th Triennial Conference in Lansing, September 1968, Gift Coupon 367 through which \$20,000 was contributed for work among the Indian and Eskimo women of Canada's Northland. Another, Gift Coupon 390, has been supported generously by the American and Canadian organisations, to provide along with FAO and UNICEF, a Child Care and Home Improvement Centre in Villa Maria, Colombia, South America. UNICEF deals with the long term problems of child care. Its projects are carried through by means of help from voluntary organisations plus FAO and UNESCO, with emphasis on the training of mothers as a direct help to children.

The Freedom from Hunger Campaign (FFHC) was organised by FAO and money was raised for many projects throughout the world. My own Women's Institutes in England and Wales raised thousands of pounds during this campaign, some of which was used to buy two landrovers for use in Africa as a means of taking talks and demonstrations to women in rural areas which were far apart and difficult of access. Yet another part of the money was spent to build an agricultural training centre in Africa where men and women can come to take short courses in farming methods to improve their standard of living.

These practical examples of how individual members of ACWW can work with the UN organisations, or how ACWW can do so, provide concrete proof of the benefit which can accrue from the interrelationship of ACWW and the UN. Nor must we forget the two-way traffic in information which is possible because of this relationship. Each gives to the other and receives something of value in return. This must surely justify the existence of the UN agencies. In conclusion, here is a quotation from a speech made by Mrs. Anderson, when she addressed delegates attending the seminar on ACWW and the UN at the Lansing Conference. She said, "The image of the U.N. on television is so often the image of bitter debate and polemical conflict but the best image of the United Nations, and the image which is often the real one, is of men and women working together for the good of the greater community of mankind."