



**A.C.W.W. 15th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
NAIROBI, KENYA, OCTOBER 11-21, 1977  
THEME: BUILDING FOR TOMORROW**

### **Mrs. Herb Maluske**

In the forty-seven years since A.C.W.W. was founded, this was the first time a conference was held on the African continent.

While in Kenya we spent time among the friendly, independent people who were quick to respond to gestures of goodwill and proud to show us their unbelievably beautiful country.

The pace of Kenya these last fifteen years has been geared to receiving world visitors. From the nomad tribesman in the desert regions, to the civil servant in Nairobi, Kenya's people are encouraged to maintain their own traditions as well as respect those of their visitors.

Nairobi, meaning city in the sun and known as city of Sunshine is literally a crossroads of the world, a cosmopolitan centre. There we saw a beautiful modern city with wide, tree-lined avenues, bazaars, pavement cafes, superb hotels and modern high rise buildings. It is a "with it" city vibrant with new ideas reflecting the zest of a new developing nation.

We met in the magnificent Kenyatta Conference Centre, the place famous for the finest facilities for large or small international conferences. The Plenary Session Hall has a seating potential for 4,000 and with tables it can still accommodate 3,200. There are various other meeting rooms and an amphitheatre which are all equipped with simultaneous interpretation systems, public address systems, microphone and tape recording facilities. Pressing the button and waiting for your light to come on before you could speak to the committee meeting members, was a new experience for most of us.

A special treat for many was having lunch in the revolving restaurant on the 28th floor enjoying at the same time the exciting panoramic view of Nairobi.

Whenever you wanted to be certain to meet someone, the usual instruction given was, "Meet me beside the elephant" a huge, stuffed one on the ground floor. It came to be known as "Meeting Place Temba" (Elephant).

The working language of the conference was English. However, outside we did learn a few words in Swahili, the native language.

### **ACWW STATISTICS**

181 Constituent Societies

26 Associate Societies

111 Corresponding Societies

located in 74 countries around the world, with a membership nearing the 8½ million mark. ACWW has 4,584 contributing members and 1,313 life members.

## **Review of A.C.W.W.**

### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD 1979**

Proclaiming the International Year of the Child the UN, through the Executive Director of UNICEF, Henry R. Labouisse—called upon Governments to participate in the preparations for the IYC (International Year of the Child) and to set up on the national level, special committees. He pointed out it was necessary to incorporate interested NGO's, (Non Governmental Organizations) as they could make an important contribution to the activities of governmental bodies.

In 1975 it was decided to form a joint committee of NGO's having a status with ECOSOC, UNICEF or UNESCO. Over 140 interested NGO's met at the UN in New York to form the NGO committee for the IYC.

The participants unanimously elected a co-ordinating group composed of 6 organizations that will be active as a leading body between the meetings of the committee, (to meet once a year and to be active to the end of 1979). Among the 6 member group is the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

In order to prepare for this special year NOG's can use the period preceding "The Year" to:

Examine existing child welfare practices.

Evaluate health, education and recreation programs.

Encourage governments at all levels to increase support for children's programs at home and abroad.

If we believe there is a future for every child we must work toward a permanent increase in the level of services benefiting children.

All countries—rich or poor—are encouraged to review their programs for the well-being of the children—especially young children.

Also to promote recognition of the vital link between programs for children on one hand and economic and social progress on the other.

### **FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY**

Mrs. Jane Mumbi Kiano, National President of The Maendeleo ya Wanawake, one of the hostess societies spoke at the Foundation Stone Laying ceremony for the new Maendeleo building.

The building will house the headquarters for the organization as well as the Women's Training Centre. "It is hoped the women and girls will not only learn skills which will improve life styles but will return to the rural areas to train others."

Contributions have been received from individuals, the Republic of Kenya as well as the Government of Belgium. Her Excellency, Mama Ngina Kenyatta, the first lady of the Republic of Kenya has constantly encouraged the members of the organization in their fund-raising efforts. Belgium has donated toward the completion and equipping of the training centre.

As a Constituent Society of ACWW, because of this building and its facilities, their aim is to help raise standards of living for all women and girls in Kenya.