



## BETWEEN THE LINES

*Mrs. Keith Hiepleh  
President  
Federated  
Women's Institutes of  
Ontario*

Dear W.I. Members:

In 1953, the 7th Triennial Conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World was held in Toronto, with the Ontario Women's Institute members hosting the Conference. Thirty years later in 1983, it will be the very great honor for the Area of Canada to host the 17th Triennial Conference of ACWW in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia.

A world conference is a tremendous undertaking, requiring assistance with the arrangements and financial funding from all Canadian Constituent Societies. There are fourteen such societies in Canada involved in the 1983 Triennial: Cercles de Fermieres, Quebec; National Farmers Union; Women of Unifarm, Alberta; FWIC; and the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

The Honourable Martha P. Bielish, is Area Vice President for Canada to ACWW. She served as President of FWIC from 1976 to 1979 and has a long record of service in voluntary organizations at provincial and national levels. She became the first woman from Alberta to be appointed to the Senate of Canada.

The three women recognized as co-founders of ACWW are Lady Aberdeen, Mrs. Alfred Watt and Miss Elsie Zimmermann. These ladies were very remarkable. Lady Aberdeen had an outstanding personality, with a great capacity for work. She possessed charm, prestige and influence. Mrs. Watt, a Canadian, was different. She had a strong sense of duty, a brilliant intuition and was strong-willed. She was elected the first president of ACWW. Miss Zimmermann was quiet, very modest and never backed away from any task. It was these three women, with their vision and courage, that brought ACWW into being. Today, ACWW circles the world with nine million members in over sixty countries.

Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Mueller of The Netherlands, who has been a delegate to each of the last five triennial conferences, is ACWW's new World President. She speaks several European languages, including English, French and German and is dedicated to the aims of ACWW.

ACWW's aims are, briefly, to promote and maintain international friendship and understanding, and, to raise the standard of living of rural women and homemakers. Through its consultative status with the United Nations, ACWW is a voice for women in international matters.

As one of the Non-Governmental Organizations, ACWW can speak for them to the United Nations. ACWW has status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);

the Food and Agriculture Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

A booklet has recently been published by ACWW entitled, "Projects 1978-80". The aim of this booklet is to provide information about activities which have been undertaken within ACWW since the Conference in Nairobi in 1977.

Many countries still need a great deal of assistance of varying types to help equip them to help themselves. For example — in Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Women's Movement asked for help with the running of Day Care Centres in Freetown for approximately one hundred children under five. Their own membership provided accommodation, furniture, equipment, toys, clothing, food (one wholesome meal and one light meal) is provided and the parents pay a nominal fee where possible. Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have sent financial aid through the Project Committee to have a girl student from Sierra Leone take the Child Care Course at Ware College, England, and upon successful completion of this course, the student will return to Freetown to apply her training at the Day Care Centre.

Contributing Membership in ACWW can provide you with four issues of the magazine, "The Countrywoman", at \$6.00 per year. Contributing Membership is:

- Contact with 9 million women throughout the world;
- Opportunities to take part in World Affairs;
- New interests, new friends may be yours;
- Three years membership enables you to attend Triennial Conferences; (providing that membership is immediately preceding the Conference)
- Rural women and homemakers would be helped to raise their standard of living;
- International involvement and understanding would ensue;
- Brings information from other Societies of their activities to you; United Nations representation made possible (FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF);
- Travelling introductions are given;
- Information on ACWW activities is made available to you;
- News sheet containing many items of interest will be sent from time to time;
- Greater work can be done with your support and goodwill;
- Membership brings you international relationships;
- Encourages efforts for World Peace;
- Merges your present interests with those in other parts of the world;
- Brings a quarterly magazine, "The Countrywoman"
- Entitles you to attend international "Open Days" and other events.

Remember, any member interested in the betterment of country and home life may apply to become a Contributing Member, contact FWIO office.

It will be a great and exciting occasion for the Ontario Women's Institute members, who will be fortunate enough to attend the 1983 Conference in Vancouver.

Women — half the population of the world — have tremendous potential and can, and should, make their valuable contribution to society in the world today.

*Janet D. Hiepleh*