

### 9. Equality of Women

That ACWW member societies emphasize the equality of women within the home, place of employment, local community and national government.

### 10. Human Rights

That ACWW and its member societies work in all possible ways for the implementation of the terms of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Janet Hiepleh

## UN advisor urges ACWW to review past programs

"Look at your past programs; were they implemented?", challenged Mrs. Eleanor Roberts, ACWW Advisor at the UN, New York, during the United Nations Session, "You and the United Nations in Today's World", for the whole conference. In 1974, our first resolution was "that no one would go to bed hungry", so we have not achieved all our goals. More can be achieved with less by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) like ACWW. Though the press does not suggest this ratio, only 15 per cent of the UN resources go to political affairs, while 85 per cent goes to economic and social affairs. Mrs. Roberts felt the simple and appropriate technology for rural women can best be developed by other rural women.

Mrs. Peggy Antrobus, Women's Development Unit, University of the West Indies, added that she admires ACWW for its vision, energy and diversity of programs, and visualizes the group as a veritable UN without politics. She suggested that those at the conference complaining about the university residences with insufficient hot water, non-operative phones and inconvenient shuttle-buses can begin to relate to those in Third World countries where lack of water, poor communication and inadequate transportation are a way of life. She considers it necessary to build opportunities for Third World

women to define their own programs, realizing that development is not merely increasing industrialization. It is women as mothers, as nurturers of body and mind of future generations of men and women, who plant the seeds that encourage or condone the growth of competitiveness, aggression and violence. Peggy reminded us that in the interests of peace we need a new interpretation of economic and social equality that eliminates notions of the rich and powerful helping the poor and powerless.

During the UN session for members and delegates not attending workshops, the theme was "Many Voices, One World", and discussions centred on communications. One suggestion was to establish pairs of W.I.s from different parts of the world who share a common bond and who could exchange tapes or pictures. For sources of program information contact local people who have worked for the UN or in other countries, or contact the UN Information Centre. Our aim should be to do one more thing than was really needed. In encouraging the use of technology like slides, tapes or combinations of both, and video cassette recorders we were reminded that we absorb more when we see it and hear it simultaneously.

Helen Coutts



The ACWW delegates were welcomed to Canada on the first morning of the 17th triennial conference in Vancouver with a western style breakfast. The pancakes were stacked high and the coffee perked away as 1,600 women enjoyed the delicious meal.

WI member Mrs. Ivan Clare submitted the following poem, written by Mrs. Peggy Antrobus, to share with Home and Country readers.

*We've come a long way baby!  
But, the best is yet to come.  
We are still the poorest of the poor,  
The most powerless of the  
powerless,  
The least understood of those  
without a voice,  
The most excluded from the  
benefits of our toil.  
But we have strengths, sisters,  
And a unique knowledge of  
what is real;  
The pain and beauty of  
reproduction,  
Of nurturing the next generation  
An essential share in the work of  
creation!  
And we can use these strengths,  
And insights,  
And unique experience of the life  
force,  
To end the wars,  
To change the world,  
To build our societies into peaces  
Where people can find purpose  
and peace.  
But first, we must believe  
That we are rich in our experience  
of life,  
Powerful in our personhood,  
And hold the keys  
To the relationships and systems  
Which keep the best at bay.*