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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

DEPARTMENT ON COOPERATION OF MEN AND WOMEN
IN CHURCH, FAMILY AND SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
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ASSOCIATE SECRETARY:
MISS BRIGALIA BAM

Geneva, 30th June 1970

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL LIAISON GROUP

Dear Friends,

The Continuing Committee of the WELG met in Geneva on June 2nd last, as you know, and we are now enclosing herewith a summary of the points discussed and decisions made.

You will recall that one of the items decided on at Cartigny was: "to collect case-studies from different parts of the world", Mrs. Kitty Strong and Miss Maria Meersman being responsible for this assignment. So far we have received only two responses and would like to ask you to approach individual persons who might provide us with such studies. We think it is important for us to have these studies before our meeting in Rome, and they should be sent to us as soon as possible.

The second important item that we also decided on was "documentation on women and the renewal of the Church". Miss Goldie has so far received very few items for this documentation, and we would ask you again please to pass on any documents or news items which you feel might be of interest; we shall need to look at these in Rome and evaluate them. The deadline for sending them in to Miss Goldie is September 1st, 1970.

I shall be happy to receive your suggestions or comments regarding the proposed points for our agenda (cf. page 2 of the enclosed summary).

This brings my best wishes to you.

Yours sincerely,

Brigalia Bam.
Brigalia Bam
(signed in her absence) E.B.

Enc.

5. Study on "Living with Change"

There had been no news from Miss Pintasilgo or Dr. Shannon on this subject. Miss Bam should be able in October to give news of decisions taken by the WCC Division of Ecumenical Action concerning the future of this study.

6. WCC/RCC Joint Working Group

Mrs. Nold and Miss Bellosillo, who are members of the JWG, were not able to take part in the meeting held in Naples, May 25 - 30, 1970, but Miss Goldie was present as a consultant. She had presented to the JWG a brief report on WELG and the decisions taken at Cartigny, which was well received. (cf. attached note). It would seem that a priority for WELG in relation to the JWG would be contributing to an overall review of ecumenical relations at local level.

7. Preparations for the WELG meeting in Rome, October 1970a) Proposed agenda points:

- i. General report on what has happened or not happened since Cartigny.
- ii. A paper (by an outside speaker) and discussion on "Education for change" and its implications for WELG. (This was one of the issues raised in the paper prepared by Frau Nold for Cartigny).
- iii. Discussion of the reports received on case studies.
- iv. Women and the renewal of the Church: information and discussion.
- v. Women's "Liberation Movements": information, discussion and general assessment.
- vi. WCC/RCC Joint Working Group and SODEBAX (including the proposed Peace Conference).
- vii. World Day of Prayer.
- viii. European Conference on "The Image of Women in the Mass Media".

It was suggested that a number of interested and interesting people be invited to meet the group, and that the programme include attendance at an Audience with Pope Paul VI.

b) Suggestions were made as to consultants who could be invited, in particular from Asia and Africa.

N.B. A note from Rosemary Goldie on the meeting in Rome: The dates fixed at Cartigny for the third meeting were October 26 - 30, the members to arrive in Rome in the afternoon of Sunday, October 25. Some members may be interested to attend the solemn Eucharistic Liturgy in St. Peter's on the morning of October 25, during which the Pope will proclaim the canonization of the "Forty English Martyrs". If so, their accommodation will be arranged from October 24.

Members will be accommodated at the "Domus Mariae" (481 Via Aurelia) but most

of the sessions will be held at the headquarters of the Council on the Laity (Piazza S. Calisto, 16). Transport will be provided.

A detailed programme will be prepared in September.

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Note presented by Miss R. Goldie on the J.W.G.

"The JWG received a report on collaboration in laity concerns between the Council on the Laity of the RCC on the one hand and, on the other, the Division of Ecumenical Action and related bodies at regional level, together with an interim report from the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group (WELG).

The JWG recognized that, in the various fields of work reviewed by the Group as well as in the current study of the possibility of RC membership in the WCC, it is necessary to take into account as fully as possible experiences of ecumenical collaboration at local level. It therefore requested the Officers to study the possibility of allotting some time at the Group's next meeting to receive communications which would reflect such experience, especially as regards collaboration between the laity and the concerns and problems of young people.

The JWG noted with satisfaction the progress made by the WELG in defining and carrying out its purposes, and also its decision to set a time-limit (1972) to the present stage of its experience. The JWG agreed to review this experience with the WELG at the appropriate time."

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