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From: Mrs. Winifred Ewing, M.E.P.

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The Goodwill,
Lossiemouth,
Morayshire,
Scotland.

21st July, 1979.

Dr. Maria de Lurdes Pintassligo,
Prime Minister,
The Parliament,
LISBON,
Portugal.

Dear Prime Minister,

I was thrilled and proud to read of your appointment as Portugal's first woman Prime Minister.

I have just taken my seat in the newly elected European Parliament, representing the Highlands and Islands Constituency of Scotland as a member of the Scottish National Party. My constituency is the largest in Europe, larger than Belgium, and contains vast rural areas with regional problems, and almost 100 inhabited islands.

I think it appropriate that from that far away corner of Europe, I send my affectionate greetings and congratulations to you in your country which may be joining the European Community in the course of time.

In my opening speech, which I made on behalf of the E.P.D. group, I said that in the Chinese style of naming years, this should be "Europe's Year of the Woman". We have a woman presiding over the Parliament. The introductory and learned address was given by the oldest member, a formidable lady of 86 years, who addressed her Assembly as "Mes enfants". Having become 50 a few days ago, this, as you can imagine, was rather delightful, as it also was for many members of the Assembly, many of them older than I am.

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Dr. Maria de Lurdes Pintassligo.

21st July, 1979.

I made an appeal in my speech that in this year each member state should take the opportunity to begin a programme to eliminate all inequalities from women. Each member should have some plan although the inequalities differ from country to country.

I read a glowing account of your distinguished career in the *Financial Times*. I know what difficulties your country faces, but perhaps it is helpful to know that the political women, albeit without such grave responsibilities as yourself, have you in their thoughts.

Yours respectfully,

