

## "LIEN" - progress report - Feb. '94

### 1. Participants

\* From 30 young women, who were the initial basis of the "LIEN" network, participation has grown gradually up to some 150 contacts. Some are still the result of personal encounters while others have become involved after they participated in the Summer program "Cultural exchanges". They are, of course, of a very different nature - some steady and reliable, others very fluid.

There are "LIEN" participants in 23 European countries but this number does not mean that we are sure of all those contacts. The mobility of women at this stage in life (between 20 and 35) has increased enormously in Europe - new addresses, new interests, change of activity or life-orientation.

Therefore, at this stage, we need:

- to make sure that some of those who have shown interest at one moment but are not anymore reacting are still interested in being involved;
- to try to reach out in a less scattered way - not just the one person we have met by chance - but to strategize and consolidate the contacts in "vicinity areas";
- to involve more those who are already part of "LIEN" since a few years in reaching out to their friends.

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### 2. "LIEN" Newsletter

\* Since Decemember '89 we have published 16 issues of the Newsletter. Their nature is rather diversified:

- compilation of letters both with topics at random or in reaction to striking events (eg Gulf war);
- description of meetings of "LIEN" and reaction of the participants to their experience there;
- short articles by the participants on a given theme.

We are now attempting to make the Newsletter more coherent. The February issue will be already geared to that.

### 3. "LIEN" leaflet

\* In order to clarify the identity of "LIEN" and to have a means to explain it briefly to new people, we have now a simple (enclosed) leaflet.

We are sending it to the Grail national groups in Europe. If you think of any other people who should receive it, we would be grateful for your advise.



#### 4. Meetings

\* Since the Summer a few ad hoc meetings have taken place:

- in the cities of Warsaw, Cracov and Wroclav (Poland) meetings with small groups of Polish young women have taken place;

the team from the Grail was formed by: Marijke de Koning, Kerstin Jacobsson and Karin Beskow;

the fact that we concentrated on Polish women was an attempt to capitalize on the great interest they have shown to participate in the Summer programs;

- In Nijmegen (Holland) a small meeting with Dutch, Belgium and Portuguese young women, as a follow-up of the meeting held in Amsterdam early '93;

the team from the Grail was formed by Marijke de Koning and Ania Arts (a "LIEN" participant interested in the Grail);

we are trying to consolidate the network among Dutch and Belgium participants and would like to reach out to German and French young women in the "vicinity area";

- In Belfast (Northern Ireland) two small events were organized, taking advantage of the presence of Isabel Figueira, a young Portuguese Grail participant as lecturer of Portuguese at the University. In December '93 Isabel Allegro (visiting Belfast for a Literature Congress) met with some of the new acquaintances. In January '94 Kerstin Jacobsson (after a few days in Dublin to renew her contacts from the year she spent there at the Institute of Peace Studies) was able to visit Isabel Figueira in Belfast and to discuss with her and a few of her friends about the "LIEN" network.

\* Two meetings are foreseen in the short term:

- in Golegã, on the 19th February, for young Grail participants from Portugal, with the goal of making them sensitive to the "LIEN" network and to encourage full responsibility in it, as the Grail participants in Sweden are having;

- in Paris, on the 12th/13th March, for the "vicinity area" as seen from Paris, and with the main goal of reaching out to new contacts (please, see the program in Annexe);

- in Poland, during the Spring, a visit from Karin Beskow (and, maybe, another Swedish Grail participant) with a twofold aim:

. to follow up the contacts established;

. to reach out to young women of other Christian traditions, particularly Lutheran;



5. Summer program

\* Three initiatives are in preparation:

- a "cultural exchange" program in Praia das Maças, organized by Teresa, as in previous years;

- a "cultural exchange" program in the South of Sweden, geared to young women from Poland and other Central European countries, under the responsibility of the Grail in Sweden;

- a "cultural exchange" program in Hauteville (Switzerland) geared to Portuguese, Spanish and Italian women students, under the responsibility of the young Portuguese Grail participants, together with Swiss "LIEN" participants



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