



received a title
informal

united nations educational,
scientific and cultural organization

Place de Fontenoy- Paris 75700

With the compliments
of the Division of Human
Rights and Peace

Dear Maria-

For your information, report of
recent meeting of Division of Human Rights
and Peace on medium term research
programme related to women.

P.T.O

Marian O'Callaghan looks forward to
meeting you and I also to our all getting
together.

Carrie

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

MISSAO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL/UNESCO
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Memo/SS/HR/77/169/MOC
1 March 1977

TO: ADG/SS
Via: DADG/SS Director SS/HR
From: Marion O'Callaghan, HR
cc: Miss Marias, HR
Mr. Boisson, HR
Mrs. Timur, SS/POP
SS/AO

Subject: *Contribution*
Informal consultation "Women's Integration in Development"
Friday 25 February 1977 - Unesco Headquarters.

... Please find attached my report of the informal consultation mentioned above.

• UN system ^{Special} UN Dev. for Curvve
W's section
W research institute
↓ specificity of UNESCO ??

• key-questions — les contraintes
l'analyse des mouvements sociaux
le rapport nouveau, la non-séparation
1.º monde / Tiers-Monde
f et révolution



contact was maintained, comparative research was undertaken and there was the opportunity to benefit from an exchange in ideas. The fact that they were all working on a well defined subject decreased tensions.

7. Professor Ramallo who had been involved in "trends in ethnic group relations in Latin America and the Caribbean" then described his experiences with this way of working and said that it had been very useful. As the discussions progressed similarities emerged between areas as seemingly different as the Caribbean, Chile and Mexico.
8. Dr. Mernissi felt that not only was this model one that should be followed, but that the whole experience of Unesco in dealing with societies of racial exclusion should be tapped in elaborating programmes on women's exclusion. She wondered, however, whether the first stage could be skipped for the first project, i.e. the first meeting of researchers.
9. Mrs. O'Callaghan replied that in fact budgetary resources made it unlikely that we could foresee a meeting this year. We had enough only for eight contracts at US\$1.600 each. If extra budgetary funds were available we could get some fieldwork underway in this biennium. Otherwise both fieldwork and a meeting would have to wait until 1979-1980.
10. The question then came up about doing a study on the woman, the structure of power, peasant household and the peasant economy. Mrs. Timur felt that since "peasant" was such an ambiguous term perhaps "rural" should be used instead.
11. Mr. Havet felt that the wider social and political context should be kept in mind to avoid the pitfall of seeing women as apart from this. The introduction of the "green revolution" for example has an effect on the status of women.
12. Mrs. O'Callaghan felt that the word "rural" had to be used quite carefully since it could include subsistence farming, peasant agriculture, plantation labour, or highly commercialised agriculture. In each of these the women's role was quite different.
13. Dr. Mernissi felt that simply taking the "peasantry" was insufficient. It was likely to be thought of, and indeed was, increasingly marginal to the whole economy. It could be stated that while the role of the woman was subordinate in a peasant economy it would change with industrialisation. She felt, therefore, that the study which needed to be done was one on what was happening to women as commercialised agriculture and the most modern equipment was introduced. Moreover, it was possible to do this historically and therefore show what had happened to women in the change over from a peasant society. In many cases the position of women was worse after modernisation than before it.

14. Dr. Rogers pointed out that in fact taking commercialised agriculture as a start would enable us both to examine what happened in a peasant household and what happened as industrialisation set in. They both agreed with Mr. Havet that the wider social and political context should be kept in mind.
15. There was, then, general agreement that the contracts for this study as foreseen in 19C/5 para. 3138, and more specifically in 1977 PAD SS/HR item 57, should concentrate on preliminary studies of the position of women in areas where large modern agricultural production had been introduced. In this connection it would be interesting to study in particular areas in which a great amount of capital had gone into projects in developing countries and, in developed countries, how the peasant women functioned once the industrialisation process had reached a high level.
16. We then turned to discussing which countries could be used for this study. We decided that FLACSO could be commissioned to do two studies, one in Colombia and another Latin American country, probably Panama.
17. Dr. Mernissi could do a study on an area in Morocco. It was suggested that Turkey would be an interesting country to compare with Morocco. Dr. Mubeccel Kiran (Head of Sociology Chair, Faculty of Political Science, University of Ankara) was suggested for this.
18. It was also suggested that two countries in Africa could be studied. Probably Kenya with a long history of commercial agriculture and one other. Dr. Achola O. Pala (social anthropologist) might be willing to do the Kenyan study.
19. India was suggested as worth exploring given the number of agricultural reforms.
20. France, Ireland and Poland were suggested for Europe. Dr. Rogers will be prepared to do the study for France. I hope to add four days mission to my proposed leave in Ireland in May to explore the possibility of finding sociologists who would be prepared to do the Irish study. Dr. Barbara Tryfan (expert in the sociology of rural women, Academy of Sciences, of Poland) for the Polish study.
21. Subject to your agreement, we can now go ahead and prepare contracts for Dr. Mernissi, Dr. Rogers and FLACSO (two). We can also contact Dr. Pala, Dr. Mubeccel Kiran, Dr. Tryfan as well as sociologists in India. This would be the limit of what we could do this year given the funds for this project.
22. However, should extra-budgetary funds be available, we could do two things:
- (a) Commission fieldwork. This would average US\$15.000 to \$20.000 per country for six months of fieldwork (fulltime) and three months of writing it up (part time). Even if funds were not available for all the countries and only for one in each region, this would greatly assist the precision of analysis and eventually help formulate suggestions for women themselves and for policy makers. Incidentally, it would assist in bringing sociological work on women within the main stream of theoretical sociology.



(b) Call a meeting of researchers this year in order to plan and budget more effectively for the programme of 200/5. This would assist the Secretariat, be of particular importance to the success of the project, and would establish a small core of sociologists and social anthropologists who could share research findings even outside a Unesco context. In doing this we would help surmount the friction between Third World views on priorities to be given as far as work on women's exclusion is concerned and the priorities given women in developed countries. The very theme "development" affects all women everywhere and is a common denominator.

23. Other research.

We discussed briefly work that FLACSO is doing for us on rural-urban migration in Latin America and its effects on women. It emerged that as women entered domestic service in Latin America the one-parent matri-focal family emerged in this section. Comparisons were made with the "plantation-family" mainly of African descent of North America and the Caribbean and it was indicated that little regarded pockets of the same phenomenon existed in Morocco. It would seem that the one-parent family headed by a female represented not the end of female dependency on males, but a pattern of dependency on individual employers rather than on husbands. It was considered important - should funds be available - to re-analyse the American and Caribbean material in the light of the status of women and to undertake comparative research in other areas where this family pattern was emerging. The same method should be employed for this project: (a) commission studies, (b) meeting of researchers, (c) fieldwork, (d) final discussions between researchers and (e) publication.

24. If the US\$8.000 which would be necessary to launch this project could become available through saving in this biennium, the first stage should be undertaken in order to launch the research project in 200/5.

25. Conclusions.

This was a good and interesting meeting with a high level of debate. It is rare that so much ground can be covered at a single session. It should be noted that, except for one day's per diem to Dr. Mernissi and that to continue the discussion on methodology and financing, the group cost Unesco nothing and the meeting was arranged only nine days beforehand. In spite of this, the whole question of finance for the sociological analysis of female exclusion must be seriously faced. This is an area in which the Sector of Social Sciences and their Application has a particular responsibility and, even if extra-budgetary funds are found for this biennium and even if sociologists working in this area are prepared to give much of their time free to the cause, it would seem to me imperative that this area, which affects women at all social levels and in all societies, should receive priority treatment if there are savings in this biennium and certainly special attention in the next.