



united nations educational, scientific and cultural organization
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Ms. 7...
30 August 1979



(For personal attention)

Dear Madam Prime-Minister:

Permit me to resume our dialogue which was interrupted upon your nomination to your present post, and for which we wish to express our heartiest congratulations!

You will recall that we advised you that our journal will be publishing, as its volume 30, number 1, an issue dealing with women engineers and scientists in small countries. We said at the time that we would be most pleased to have a contribution from you.

... Your time is measured to the minute, we know. For this reason, we propose to ask you to be kind enough to take a few minutes to reply to some (or, preferably, all) of the questions you will find on the attached sheet. You may, of course, provide the replies in Portuguese. We shall take care of the translation. You may add whatever additional thoughts you wish.

If you can arrange to find a moment to reply to our simplified questionnaire, we shall be most pleased to carry the questions and answers in interview form. You will thus have made an important contribution to the inauguration of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Because of the need to translate this material into several languages, we are sure that you will understand our request for a response at your earliest convenience.

We are asking the Press Attaché at the Embassy of Portugal in France to provide us with a selection of photographs of yourself.

We thank you in advance for your kind co-operation.

Please accept, Madam Prime-Minister, the assurance of our highest consideration.

J. G. Richardson

J. G. Richardson
Editor
impact of science on society

H.E. Prime-Minister M. de L. Pintasilgo
Palacio de São Bento
LISBON
Portugal

At the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held last August in Vienna, there were frequent interpellations concerning the need for women to have a more active role in science and technology than at present. How could such a new role be encouraged in countries with small engineering and research communities?

What is being done in Portugal in this regard?

Do you think that women are being increasingly accepted by men as equals in the technical domains?

Do you identify certain professions or disciplines as those towards which women -- women who are still students -- should naturally gravitate? Or is the question itself sexist?

What can be done to make a career in science or engineering more appealing to girls in secondary school?

Do you think that there exists discrimination against women university students by either men or women professors? Does this apply, more or less, in the case of small countries?

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What do you believe that governments can, or should, do in order to eliminate professional barriers to women which are based on sexual discrimination?

Do you favour exchanges of women scientists and engineers between small, more or less developing, countries and the industrialized nations? Is this best done in groups or individually, or in mixed groups of men and women?

Is it your sentiment that researchers, engineers and technicians are adequately involved in social decision-making? If not, what do you think are the reasons?

Do you believe, as many do today, that engineers and scientists should have a larger role than in the past when it comes to the formulation of public policy?

