



Women protest Portuguese authors' arrest

By Lucinda Smith
Globe Staff

About 50 women gathered on the lawn outside the Portuguese consulate's office in Boston yesterday in support of three women who face charges in Portugal of "subversion and immorality."

The Portuguese women — Maria Isabel Barreno, Maria Teresa Horta and Maria Velho de Costa, known as "the three Marias" — authored the book "New Portuguese Letters," which describes in poetry and prose the oppressive condition of women in their country's patriarchal society.

The book was published in April 1972. In May it was seized by Portuguese authorities and banned by the Committee of Censure-ship.

The authors were arrested and charged with "outrage to public morals and good customs" and subversion.

The three Marias are out of jail on \$600 bail each and awaiting a trial, which was postponed yesterday. They face up to two years in jail if convicted.

Letters of support for the three Marias were delivered at yesterday's demonstration. Among them was a statement from Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Anne Sexton, which read: "It is an abomination against women and against the work of poets that a land as beautiful as Portugal is trying to drown them."

Also, a delegation of five women, lead by Marilyn Freifield, president of the eastern Massachusetts chapter of NOW, presented a letter protesting the action of the Portuguese authorities to Dr. Carlos Nunes, vice consul of the Portuguese consulate in Boston.

An official at the consulate, who asked not to be identified, said yesterday

the treatment of the three Marias "is a concern only of the courts, completely independent of government and political affairs." He said he did not know what the Boston consulate

would do with the letters of protest.

Similar demonstrations were held yesterday in New York, Detroit, Houston, Seattle, Tokyo, Paris, Milan, Lisbon and London.

NOTICE

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