

ROBIN MORGAN

Dearest Lourdes —

Here is the follow-up letter.

Please please come. We need  
you — your brain, your vision, your  
experience. (And wouldn't you  
rather be with this group than with,  
god forbid, Jean Kirkpatrick?!?)

With held breath that you  
will say yes ...

and with love,

Robin



Robin Morgan  
c/o Ms. Magazine  
119 West 40th St.  
New York, NY 10018  
USA

August 30, 1984

Dear *Maria Lourdes de Pitarcelgo*:

It is with great delight (and relief) that I'm able to inform you, as a follow-up to my cable of August 23, that we have been able to raise sufficient funds for the Sisterhood Is Global Strategy Meeting, and to now confirm that the Meeting is definitely scheduled for November 11-19, 1984, in New York. Our funding grants came from the Ford Foundation, the Skaggs Foundation, the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (Women's International Desk), and from the generosity of numerous individual women philanthropists.

Attached to this letter, you will find Specification Sheets, for your convenience. They cover the logistics of travel, any special dietary requirements, length of stay, etc. Please fill in your answers (we'd be grateful if you type or print) and/or check the relevant boxes, and return the Sheets to us. It is extremely urgent that we receive these Specification Sheets back from you by September 28 at the very latest; if this letter is delayed in the mails getting to you and time is short, then please cable or telephone with the travel specifics and follow up by returning the filled-in Specification Sheets by airmail.

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Travel

We will be providing round-trip economy-class direct-flight airfare, as well as housing accommodations and food from November 11 to midday November 19. We are booking the flights from here and arranging for you to receive pre-paid tickets. Because we have a limited budget, we are attempting wherever possible to book the air travel at Apex discount; this is another reason why bookings must be made before the end of September, and why it is so very important that we have your reply by September 28 at the latest. The direct-flight bookings cannot be changed thereafter without a considerable penalty payment, nor can sidetrips or stopovers be factored in without additional payment, which our budget regrettably cannot absorb. It is, however, possible to book your original departure so that you leave home well in advance of the Strategy Meeting, or to book your departure from the US later (i.e., days after the end of the meeting), should you wish to conduct private business before or after the Strategy Meeting; you could then make what personal arrangements you wish for travel or accommodations during that pre- or post-Meeting period. (Please keep in mind that we must book your flight well in advance of it, so if you wish to leave home much earlier than the Strategy Meeting, then it is all the more urgent that you reply to us as early as possible.)

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It is important that all Meeting Participants either arrive in New York on Sunday, November 11, or earlier. We will be meeting the relevant international flights on that day, and also arranging for pickup at a central location in New York City (Manhattan) on Sunday afternoon for those of you who have arrived earlier and have been conducting private business. Participants will be driven from those two pickup points to the Meeting site. For this reason, it is vital that we have telephone numbers (either in New York or in any other US city you might plan to be) where you can be reached if you do choose to arrive in the US before the 11th.

### The Meeting

The site of our Meeting is an especially pleasant one, on Long Island, about two hours drive from Manhattan. It is a small, quiet, family-owned Inn, in what once was a private home dating back to US Revolutionary times. We will virtually be taking the entire Inn, so as to be fairly private. For your own reference, all rooms and meetings will be at The Three Village Inn in Stonybrook, Long Island; the telephone number is 516-751-0555.

Since many Participants will be flying in at different times on Sunday, November 11, and be in varying states of jet-lag, no sessions are planned for that day. That evening, however, there will be an informal dinner, so that everyone can relax and make (or renew) each other's acquaintance.

The morning of Monday, November 12, our brainstorming sessions begin (see the section on Ideas in Formation, below) and continue, with appropriate breaks (lunch, etc.), until dinner. Evenings will be free for relaxing, networking, or, if desired, caucusing or night sessions. We will continue this schedule on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and <sup>on</sup> Friday morning. On one of these days, we may be joined by a few observers/resource people from some of our grantors and/or from the UN or NGO Forum Women's Decade Committee--but the aim is to keep our sessions small, private, and intimate, so as to foster the Participants' creative thinking and free speaking. The sessions will be audiotaped for historical record only, and to facilitate the writing of our final statement.

### The Weekend Activities

On Friday (November 16), after lunch, we will all be driven into New York City, where rooms have been reserved for the Participants at the Tudor Hotel. As many of you know, this has close proximity with United Nations headquarters. If any of you choose instead to stay with friends in Manhattan, please note that accordingly on the attached Specification Sheets. On Friday evening we will all celebrate at a gala reception for our collective book, Sisterhood Is Global, whose formal publication is on that day.



The City University of New York (CUNY) Center and President Donna Shalala of Hunter College are coordinating the Saturday and Sunday university-based panels, which will most likely take place at Hunter College in Manhattan; further details on the panels will be forthcoming. On Saturday evening, President Donna Shalala is planning to host a dinner party in honor of the Strategy Meeting Participants, with special guests to include some of the US Congresswomen and feminist activists in international and US women's studies.

The press conference has now been moved to Monday morning (November 19); the coverage will be much greater on a Monday morning than for, as previously planned, a Saturday morning (in addition, this gives our facilitators the weekend to process copies of the Meeting position paper for the press). A reception to honor the Participants and to further "network" you with the foundation and philanthropic community will, we hope, take place just afterward. Thereafter, all Participants are actually free (to live their own lives again!) to depart, to remain in the city or the US on private business, etc.

#### Ideas in Formation

Being mailed to you, under separate cover, are copies of Article Contributions to Sisterhood Is Global by each of the 24 other Contributor/Participants, plus the Statistical Prefaces, done by our own book research staff, on each of those countries; you already have seen, of course, your own Statistical Preface and your own article for the book. These materials, to be read at your leisure between now and November, are to better acquaint all Participants with each other's views, writing, and national/regional issues, priorities, and feminist strategies. In addition, in the hope that it may be helpful in providing an "overview" context for our book and for this Strategy Meeting, I am also sending a copy of my Introduction to Sisterhood Is Global. Last but not least, you will find enclosed another copy of the list of Participants to the Strategy Meeting, since it was inadvertently omitted as an enclosure to some of you in the earlier mailing.

We welcome any papers, documents, research, etc., from you, which you would like to share with the other Participants, and will either circulate these before the Meeting or have copies available at the Meeting, depending on when we receive the materials.

In the meantime, please be thinking of concrete and realistic but imaginative strategies to raise at our Meeting; a number of the Participants who I've met with recently have suggested, for example: concerted and focused world women's select consumer boycotts; women withdrawing support from all militarism by daring to deglamorize individual soldiering; women synchronizing demonstrations, press conferences, etc., internationally; ways and means for women to actively redefine "development"; sharing of funding and media and technology resources; etc., etc. These are only a few sample ideas

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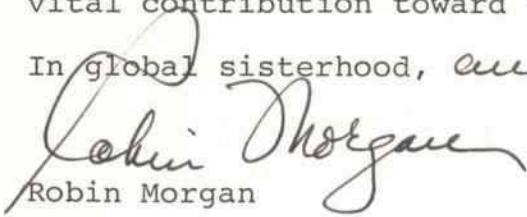
Almost all the Participants have expressed two similar hopes and concerns for this convocation: that we refuse the neat compartmentalization of most international seminars (i.e., "doing" health, or development, or peace, or sexuality, etc.) but rather dare make the connections between these issues, connections which we all know to be so integral to any possible solutions, and that whatever we eventually come up with on paper be written in lively, accessible, clear prose, in a style unafraid of our own and other women's impassioned commitment, and that we not fall into the sometimes obfuscating terminology of what one Participant calls "UN-ese."

In closing, let me say that our small and intensely committed feminist staff and I myself personally look forward to the November Meeting with enormous excitement--and great faith. We will do everything in our power to create an atmosphere as loving as is our shared global women's vision of a better world. We will be in touch again with still further details in October, and I must once more reiterate that we need the filled-in attached Specification Sheets back from you by September 28 at the latest (or call or cable at least the travel specifics), in order to make the flight bookings in time. I myself must be in New Zealand from September 15-October 6, but Karen Berry, the Executive Facilitator of the Strategy Meeting, will be here, and can be reached at the usual Ms. Magazine address, and at the phone number listed on the Specification Sheets

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In the meantime, I send warmest personal greetings to you each, plus apologies for this form letter, and also my deep gratitude to each of you for your own availability about and your heartening enthusiasm and commitment to this Meeting. I truly believe that it will be personally moving for each of us, and a historically vital contribution toward the coming together of all women.

In global sisterhood, and with love,

  
Robin Morgan

Enc.



SPECIFICATION SHEETS

\_\_\_\_\_

City and Country of departure/return

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of departure from home city to New York City

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of departure from New York City to home city

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be picked up on Sunday, Nov. 11, at Kennedy International Airport and driven to the Strategy Meeting site.

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be picked up on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11, at the midtown Manhattan location and driven to the Strategy Meeting site.

\_\_\_\_\_

I will be staying at the paid accommodations (Tudor Hotel) booked by the Strategy Meeting staff during the weekend of the reception and public panels in New York City (Nov. 16th, 17th, 18th, and morning of the 19th).

\_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to make personal arrangements for my own accommodations during the weekend of the reception and public panels in New York City (Nov. 16th, 17th, 18th, and morning of the 19th).

\_\_\_\_\_

I will be arriving in the US before Nov. 11, and can be reached at the following prior to Nov. 11:

Phone number (s)

City/State

Date

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below special dietary requirements (if any) you may have so that we can make arrangements for your convenience:

Specification Sheets  
page 2

If you will be at a different address (and/or phone number) for an extended time during September, October, or early November, please list it below (with dates):

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Please return these Specification Sheets so that we receive them by September 28--or call or cable (travel specifics especially)--to:

Robin Morgan  
c/o Ms. Magazine  
119 West 40th St.  
New York, NY 10018

Phone number at Ms.: 212-719-9800

Home phone number for Robin Morgan (except Sept. 15-Oct. 6): 212-505-6851

Home phone number for Karen Berry: 212-598-9648 (or message left at Ms.)

