

NEWSLETTER FROM FEMØ

August 1974

Several meetings on international feminist strategy were held at Femø during the international days. In order to put some of our ideas into action, we want to share these ideas with you. We hope that you will discuss them with as many sisters as possible, and that you will come up with more ideas of your own. Those of you who are interested or somehow can manage to get the money should come to a conference to be held in Frankfurt (the language will be English), West Germany, November 15-17, 1974, to discuss and decide what we should do to further our struggles on an international level in 1975. For those sisters who cannot come to Frankfurt for the conference, please send your ideas (e.g. for workshops) with a sister who can attend, or mail them directly to Frauenzentrum, 6 Frankfurt / M, Eckenheimer Landstr. 72, West Germany. Those sisters who live in or near Frankfurt, please indicate at the end of this newsletter whether you can help to organize this conference in any way. And all sisters who are interested in attending the conference should let the Frankfurt Women's Center know so that they know how many people to expect.

A list of the major ideas we came up with at the Femø International Strategy meetings follow.

1975 has been proclaimed as International Women's Year by the United Nations. We think the women's movements in the different countries might:

- 1) put pressure on the UN to implement some of their own proposals, particularly the more concrete ones relating to daycare and contraception. However the expectation was expressed that the year of the women will be used to try to coopt the women's issue, and that the false impression will be given that all countries really want the liberation of women. Hence it was suggested that:
- 2) some radical actions could be organized in different countries to raise international consciousness about the oppression of women in all countries.
- 3) it was also suggested that an alternative international conference be organized in Europe in the summer of 1975, an alternative, that is, to the one to be held in Bogota, Columbia, organized by NOW (National Organization for Women) of the United States. Paris was suggested as one possible locate, Femø - one week before or after the international weeks as another.
- 4) it was also suggested that selected issues (e.g. abortion, brutality towards women, political prisoners etc.) be focussed on by the



women's movements in as many countries as possible. Some thought that four issues a year would be sufficient, others that one a month would be good.

5) a suggestion was made that we mobilize international feminist support for important trials in various countries (e.g. the trial of Italian women for having had abortions, the trial for murder of the Chicana woman in California, U.S. for killing one of her rapists, the trial of eight Group 8 women in Sweden for their action against pornography etc. The international demonstrations in support of the 3 Marias of Portugal was often referred to as an example of how effective this kind of action could be.

6) a list of the centers and offices of all major womens groups in each country should be brought to the Frankfurt conference by sisters from each country (volunteers please!) so that they can be notified whenever international sisterly support is needed for the trials of different womwn.

7) it was proposed that we formulate common feminist objectives for all countries, e.g. economic justice for all women (the opportunity for all women to do payed work, pay for housework (no consensus on this), better jobs, better pay, an end to unpaid and underpaid labor etc.), free daycare controlled by community women for every parent who needs it etc. etc. This was as far as the discussion got on these matters, but it is clearly only a beginning. We could organize one day of demonstrations in support of these objectives during 1975.

8) an International Tribunal of Crimes Against Women to meet in a city such as Nürenberg, W. Germany in 1975. This should include crimes against female children. Some thought it might be good for as many countries as possible to organize national tribunals before the international one.

9) 2 or 3 women from selected countries, such as Vietnam, Chile, Palestine, Ireland, Afghanistan, Malaysia might travel around to other countries that have a national tribunal, to provide information on crimes against women in these countries. This would require that the national tribunals not all be held simultaneously. Films, videotapes, and tape recorded interviews of women who cannot attend, could be used, particularly poor and third world women,

10) an international strike of women like the recent one in Paris could be organized for March 8 1975. For this one day (at the least!) women should be encouraged to stop servicing the men and the male world in



all ways possible.

11) an international festival of women could be organized.

12) an international travelling "circus" that presents women's culture (theatre, art, songs etc.) could bring women's culture to women rather than depend on women travelling far to find out about it.

13) it was proposed that an international League of Women's Rights might be formed so that feminists could attend trials of women in other countries, and publicize what is happening in their countries on their return, so that "observers" can be sent out to check and report on the oppression of women in prisons etc. (serving the function of a feminist amnesty international organization), to give us official status for the purpose of getting more serious treatment from the mass media etc., and to try to get funding for conferences, travel etc. we should get legal advice on how such an international League can be formed, and whether it is necessary to form national Leagues first. This advice should be sought before the Frankfurt conference.

Also we should investigate possible sources for funds (e.g. the United Nations?) so that we can start operating as soon as possible.

14) an international newsletter was proposed. Different countries could do it each month.

15) a woman or women (volunteers please!) in each country should develop a list of feminists in media, which should be brought or sent to the Frankfurt conference so that we can know which journalists to trust, which to invite to our actions etc. Please send copies of these lists to Mieke van Kasbergen, Prinsengracht 39<sup>II</sup>, Amsterdam, Holland.

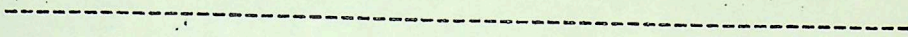
16) interviews with foreign feminists are often more readily published than interviews with local ones - so this is a way of getting more radical ideas into media. A way should be found to get good feminist articles published in many countries. The list of feminist journalists mentioned above should be helpful in organizing this for newspapers. But we are also interested in organizing a better distribution of non-newspaper articles written by feminists.

17) it was suggested that we might try to finance women doing research on women in countries like Chile and Vietnam. We could cooperate with the Chile and Vietnam committees in seeking to implement this.

Please note: there wasn't time to read this attempt at summarizing our ideas to the whole group, or even a part of it. Please bear this in mind before getting too annoyed at any poorly chosen word, or bad example. It just might have no ideological significance, particularly for the group as a whole. But then again it might. Anyhow come to



Frankfurt in November and try to umäke our struggles next year's dynamite.



Women living in or near Frankfurt, please complete this section and mail it to: Frauenzentrum, 6 Frankfurt / M, Eckenheimer Landstr. 72, West Germany.

I can put up ----- (number) of women attending the international conference in Frankfurt Nov. 15-17.

I can help with the conference in the following way: 6

name:

address:

telephone:

All sisters who plan to attend the conference, please let the Frankfurt sisters know by mailing this to the Women's Center in Frankfurt.

name:

address: