

July 13, 1978

To leaderships of sections and sympathising organisations and comrades heading up women's liberation work:

Minutes of the meeting of women's liberation work directors  
(Paris, June 17-18, 1978)

Present: Germany, Belgium, France, Britain, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Portugal, Switzerland.  
For the United Secretariat Bureau: Allio, Susan, Windsor.

1. After discussion, the proposal for reorganisation of the work as put forward in the letter of May 12 sent to the leaderships of sections was agreed to by all comrades present. However, there were certain reservations: the fear that the centralisation of women's liberation work through the United Secretariat Bureau and only holding co-ordinating meetings on specific themes might mean a de facto weakening of the possibilities for discussion and exchange that had existed in the past thanks to the existence of an "international women's commission".

The comrades of the Bureau reaffirmed that this proposal is not aimed at diminishing these discussions and exchanges, but at better centralising the work. In addition, international meetings of comrades responsible for women's liberation work will still be necessary to deal with specific campaigns or particular points of discussion. The fact that the responsibility for this work will fall on the Bureau from now on should not lessen, but on the contrary strengthen possibilities for circulating information and exchanging experiences. The schedule for future meetings will have to be discussed in the framework of all the international co-ordinating meetings foreseen for the autumn, taking special account of our needs flowing from the international campaign on abortion. (see point 3)

2. As for the discussion around the women's liberation resolution for the next world congress, two contributions to the international internal discussion bulletin have already been received by the Bureau from Mexico and Britain. In addition, the Bureau plans to publish an international information bulletin on the women's liberation work of the sections. The leaderships of sections should discuss with the comrades heading up women's liberation work in order to decide which documents of the section might be proposed for this bulletin. All the documents should be in the hands of the Bureau by the end of August at the latest (at the end of July insofar as possible so that the translation work can begin).

3. Allio gave an introductory report on the state of the

abortion struggle which underlined the gravity of the attacks by the bourgeoisie on an international level (see the article in Inprecor-IP (french-language) June 22, 1978) and outlined the initiative taken by NAC in Britain to launch an international campaign for the right to abortion and contraception and against forced sterilisation.

The reports given on the situation in each country represented at the meeting (see the attached summaries) confirmed what had become clear at the meeting organised by NAC a week earlier in London: a favorable situation exists for launching such a campaign in a large number of countries. The immediate task of the sections and sympathising organisations of the Fourth International is to prepare for the next international co-ordinating meeting organised by NAC and other organisations which will be held in Brussels on Saturday, September 23, 1978. The main objective is to contact the largest possible number of political and trade union organisations willing to support this campaign, basing these efforts on the NAC report and appeal, which should be sent out by the end of June (copies of the report can be obtained by writing to NAC, 30 Camden Road, London NW1. Tel. 485-4303). We want to stimulate a mass campaign which is not limited to feminist groups but would be a lever for the struggle to be waged on this question within the workers movement as a whole.

Comrades who are delegates to the September 23 meeting in Brussels will meet in Brussels the evening before the meeting in order to get up-to-date information on the situation and to discuss perspectives for intervention. A future letter will detail the place and time of this meeting.

Comradely,

Allio  
For the Bureau