NAIROBI NOTES

Origins of Peace Tent:

Ellen Diedrich’s experience in Prague.


Preliminary Efforts:

Trip of Inga Langen and Edith Ballantyne to Nairobi in spring 1985 to arrange housing for Feminist International for Peace and Food (FIPF).

Heathcote, May 1985:

Intense planning on organization through committee structure for members of FIPF.

Negotiations with Dame Nita Barrow:

Following guidelines laid out in Edith Ballantyne’s cable:

May 22, 1985

To: Steering Group

As explained by phone, could proceed forming steering group for Peace Centre including Ballantyne as Convener of Forum Subcommittee on Peace and representatives of Feminists International, WYWCA (World Young Women’s Christian Association), WIDF (Women’s International Democratic Federation), IFUW (International Federation of University Women) Kenyan Group. Programme include 11 July opening [of] Centre with special program. [T]hen Centre open over lunch for peaceful encounters and networking each day, time for spontaneous activities, a few planned discussions, and spontaneous discussion following workshops. [I]f wanted, a permanent peacemaking table, etc. [M]uch woman power to help in Centre.

Greetings, Ballantyne.

... In Nairobi, additional members of the Subcommittee on Peace were added. Two representatives of FIPF on Steering Committee were Ellen Diedrich and Sissy Farenthold.
Program Committee of FIPF consisted of Ellen Diedrich and Fawzia Hassouna.

Programs in Large Tent

Thursday, July 11
10:00 a.m., Opening Ceremony
2:00 - 4:00 p.m., "Peace and Patriarchy"
4:30 - 5:00 p.m., Kenya Women's Peace Organization

Friday, July 12
10:00 a.m. - 12:30, Middle Eastern Dialogue
2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Latin American Women

Saturday, July 13
10:00 a.m. - 12:00, Program on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Hour of Song
1:00 - 5:00 p.m., opened informally

Sunday, July 14
10:00 a.m. - 12:00, exhibits being changed
2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Asian Women

Monday, July 15
Entire day's program planned and executed by Karibu Centre

Tuesday, July 16
10:00 a.m. - 12:30, U.S. - U.S.S.R. Dialogue
2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Women of South Africa

Wednesday, July 17
Women, Peace and Politics
10:00 a.m. 12:30, participation of Chinese women in this dialogue
2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Conflict Resolution

Thursday, July 18
10:00 a.m. - 12:30, Feminism and Peace
2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Latin American Women
3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Discussion of problems of censorship surrounding Leila and the Wolves. (This was impromptu.)

Friday, July 19
10:00 a.m. - 12:00, "Where Do We Go After Nairobi?"
2:00 - 3:30 p.m., closing ceremonies "Sweet Honey and the Rock"
3:30 - 5:00, Feminism and Racism

Tuesday, July 23
Ceremony, presentation of globe to Ms. Shahanie, Chair of U.N. Conference.

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Nairobi Notes
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Additional Programs held in:

1. Small tent had meetings from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. each day on life experience. There were also small group meetings such as "Sisterhood is Global," preliminary meeting for Radio Workshop, etc. Women also brought their art work here to share.

2. Visual Tent had video and film throughout the week.