

Jan 14, 1985

Dear Peace Women,

I'm writing you with my new peace typewriter computer. Ellen said women should provide themselves with good technological instruments after trying to write on an old beat up typewriter of mine, so, following that advice I've gotten myself something very nice. But I do not know how to use it yet so bear with me. I am still here in Rome, recuperating from the United States, enjoying the children and the snow, the first snow there's been in Rome in 14 years. Brrrrrr. I hope you are all warm and happy. I am writing you with the good news that there is a very good project for us to do in Nairobi, and I hope you will agree. Edith Ballantine has agreed to try to get us a large room to use as a Peace Center in continuation throughout the whole Forum. It would be staffed and organized by our group together, hopefully, with some third world women. We would do both peace practice - including singing and dancing, videos, x visioning etc., and peace theory - workshops and discussions, and we could also produce a bulletin. Our document presents the important connection between different kinds of violence, and, I think the connection between domestic and international violence is essential at Nairobi, since it seems to be the U. S. position that, as Mary Ann read on a right wing poster "peace is a Soviet plot". They will be trying to push peace off the agenda by saying it is not a feminist issue, and the connections between individual and political and economic violence shows that in fact it most certainly is. Our group will be in a position to insist that the Forum take a strong stand on peace, and it is urgent that this be done.

Please let me know your ideas and feedback on this, whether you are willing to do it, and what each of you would be willing to do and most interested in doing. Ellen and Fasia did a women's center in a peace meeting in Prague which was evidently very successful, and this idea was inspired by that, and Roxanne was the one who mothered it. (That is, this peace center idea.) Ellen and Fasia will be doing the music. Anybody can do anything, but it does need to be well organized and coordinated beforehand. I will be back in Austin by the first of February, so write to me there. Carmen is doing a Peace seminar in Chile, which I think she wrote you about. She may come to Texas in March and perhaps could do some of the organizing for the peace center. Teresa will be doing the caravan. Please register for Nairobi soon. I thought the deadline was March 1 but Lori says she talked to the NGO headquarters and they told her April. Anyway, do it as soon as possible. The address for the US is 777 UN Plaza, New York, 10017. (as I said, I don't know how to use this typewriter yet) Ellen has found a round trip flight to Nairobi from Amsterdam for about \$450 and is provisionally reserving 10 places. Please let her know if you want to use one. I have written a long letter to the women I met at the conference on Lake Como, and will send you a copy when I get it typed.

Lots of love from me personally to each of you, and a
Big Positive Peace Hug

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PS. Alma gave me the calligraphed document Mary Ann made, Elaine got framed and you all signed. I have it hanging above my desk and it is just beautiful and such a powerful symbol for me. Thank you so much.