

WOMEN OF EUROPE



N° 65 - 1990

MAY/JUNE/JULY



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Editorialwork on this issue was complete don 17 July 1990.

Cover : Logo of the 1990 NIKE Prize

Replicas of the Victory of Samothrace (NIKE, in Ancient Greek) will be presented to the three television programmes selected by a European jury in November 1990.

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1990 NIKE PRIZE: . Over 20 television authorities from the member countries of the European Community will take part in the 1990 NIKE Prize. The participants will compete in at least one of the three categories of programme planned: documentaries, fiction and programmes for children and young people. The European Commission will encourage the broadcasting of the prizewinning programmes in order to promote the change in opinion and attitude among the general public towards the women of Europe. The prize presentation ceremony (9 November in Athens) will take place at the end of the conference organised by the European Commission and the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) assisted by Greek National Radio and Television (ERT). (Commission des Communautés Européennes, Service Information Femmes, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels).

ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR IN THE WORKPLACE: . The Ministers responsible for Employment and Social Affairs, who met in May, passed a resolution on the preservation of acceptable standards of behaviour between men and women in the workplace. This resolution was the first formal opportunity for Ministers to recognize that sexual harassment at work is a serious problem and that it constitutes an obstacle to the entry of women into the working world. The Council invited the European Commission to draw up, by 1 July 1991, a code of good conduct relating to acceptable standards of behaviour at work.

UNUSUAL WORK: . In June the Commission adopted three draft directives relating to part-time and temporary work. These proposals contain many specific provisions concerning measures to be implemented by the Member States.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: . "Women Farmers: Health and Safety" was the subject of the European Seminar (Loenen, Netherlands, from 24 to 28 April) organized annually by the Women's Section of the Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the European Community (COPA) in collaboration with and with the support of the Information Service for Women of the Commission of the European Communities. The Seminar discussed three topics: health and safety conditions for the woman in agriculture, her legal status and the conditions necessary for the achievement of equal opportunity (COPA, 23-25 rue de la Science, B-1040 Brussels).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: . As the single market draws near, improved language teaching is considered to be a Community priority. The LINGUA programme provides for the Community measures to support and complement Member States' policies and measures in this connection. (Write for information to: LINGUA, Place du Luxembourg, 2/3 B, 1040 Brussels).

. In May, the Commission Ministers for Employment adopted a Community programme for the development of further vocational training. The FORCE programme, with a budget of 24 million ECU, is planned for a 4-year period (1991-1994) and is

designed to encourage experimental projects in this field.

The preliminary results of an assessment of in-house training for women in business shows that training does not always eliminate the segregation of the sexes and does not necessarily improve the position of women who have completed a course of training. The results of this study, undertaken by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, will be available this summer (CEDEFOP, Bundesallee 22, D-1000 Berlin 15, Federal Republic of Germany).

COMETT: Membership of the COMETT programme (Programme on cooperation between universities and enterprises regarding training in the field of technology) is now open to countries belonging to EFTA (European Free Trade Association). (Unité d'Assistance Technique COMETT, 71, av. de Cortenbergh, 1040 Brussels, Telephone No.: 32.2.733 97 55).

COMBATTING DRUG ABUSE: The Commission of the European Communities has recently adopted a draft regulation for monitoring the trade in precursor products (chemicals - mainly solvents or acids - used in drug manufacture). This proposal falls within the context of the work of the European Committee to combat drugs (CELAD).

THE HANDICAPPED: At the instigation of the Irish President (first six months of 1990), the Council (Education) of the European Communities passed a resolution for the integration of handicapped children and young persons into the ordinary teaching systems. The Commission specified that implementation of the HELIOS programme, which is concerned with this same problem, was to be the subject of a report to be published in July 1992.

DEVELOPMENT: At its meeting in May last, the Council (Development) of the European Communities was pleased to note that the provisions of the fourth Lomé Convention put greater emphasis on the role of women and recognised the importance of their contribution to the development process. Furthermore, the Council noted with pleasure the action programme by means of which the Commission has decided to implement the articles of the Convention relating to the role of women in development.

UNEMPLOYMENT: The unemployment figure is still higher for women than for men (11.4% against 6.6%). However, although the unemployment rate in the Europe of the Twelve is falling (from 12% to 8%), the length of unemployment is tending to increase. The Irish President of the European Communities submitted to the EEC Ministers for Employment a resolution on long-term unemployment. The representatives of the employers, trade unions and governments of the Twelve, meeting in May with the European Commission at a meeting of the standing Committee on Employment, concluded that Member States should prevent long-term unemployment by computerisation, guidance and vocational training measures.

YOUTH FORUM: The final report of the Symposium "Young people's rights in Europe", held at Avignon (France) during the Spring of this year, proposed the drafting of a Charter of Rights for Young People in the European Community. This Charter will be prepared on the basis of the observations

of Youth Forum and of a legal inquiry into the rights of the young within the European Community (conducted by the Commission of the European Communities, in cooperation with Youth Forum.)

. At the end of the Symposium, Mr Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, announced that the Commission would give its full support to the first formal meeting of the Council of EEC Ministers for young people. This Council will ensure that the interests of young people are taken into account in every aspect of Community policy.

. The meeting of the Executive Committee in Dublin ratified the creation of a European Student Forum within the Youth Forum. Student Forum will examine questions directly connected with higher education students in Europe. (Forum Jeunesse, 112 rue Joseph II, 1040 Brussels, Telephone no.: (32.2) 230 64 90.

TOURISM: . Within the context of the European Tourism Year, the informal Council meeting held in Ireland in March considered that the promotion of tourism should include the less-favoured sectors of the population and that it was necessary to develop measures to promote social tourism or travel for disadvantaged groups such as the handicapped.

PUBLICATIONS: . "Education and Training for the year 1992" is a report presenting an overall view of the Community activities in the field of education and training. ("European File" no. 5/90, April 90, Direction Générale Information, Communication, Culture, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels).

. Objectif 92, a publication appearing 10 times a year, in the 9 Community languages, reports on the development of the Single Market without Frontiers project (Service de Documentation de la Direction Générale Information).

. "Combattre l'aveuglement vis-à-vis du genre" (Handling misunderstandings about women) is a brochure (published by the Non-Governmental Organisations Liaison Committee) which reports on the preconceived ideas subsisting in the North regarding the position of women in the South (Liaison Group of non-governmental organizations, 62, av. de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels (Telephone no.: (32 2) 736 40 87)).

AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEVEL

APRIL PLENARY SESSION

GERMAN UNIFICATION: . During the April plenary session, the European Parliament held a debate on German unification and declared that this process was to be seen as an opportunity for unity for Europe as a whole and should be accompanied by more rapid European integration. Ms Adam-Schwätzer, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, confirmed Bonn's view that German unification should be accompanied by democratic strengthening of the Community's institutions.

HEALTH: . At the instigation of the Italian Communist member, Anna Catasta, the plenary session modified the Council's agreed position on a directive providing for minimum safety regulations for work on screens. The object is to strengthen the directive, by extending it to all workers on

screens, and in particular by allowing pregnant woman to be assigned to other activities (with the same salary) and giving workers the opportunity to take regular breaks during the working day.

BUDGET: . By adopting a resolution proposed by the French liberal member, Alain Lamassoure, on the Community budget guidelines for 1991, the Parliament in particular asked that this budget should: include sufficient appropriations for the promotion of women's rights and equal opportunity for women, and for assistance in integrating workers from outside the Community (amendment by the Italian Communist member, Pasqualina Napoletano).

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS: . At its April meeting, the Committee on Women's Rights approved a draft opinion by Ms Marie-Claire Vayssade on the review of financial prospects. This opinion comprises 5 priorities: implementation of the third action programme on equal opportunity 1991-1995, establishment of specific budget headings for women in the Structural Funds, measures concerning childcare facilities, increase of appropriations for information and for the staff of the Commission and the Parliament responsible for women's problems.

MAY PLENARY SESSION

GERMAN UNIFICATION: . At the May session, and on the subject of German unification, the Parliament adopted a resolution on the results of the European Council meeting in Dublin on this subject, but at the same time regretted that there was no provision for aid to assist the adaptation of East Germany to Community rules, particularly as regards respect for the environment. Mr Lothar de Maizière, the Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, affirmed that the integration of the latter into the Community should not jeopardise European stability and dynamism.

HEALTH: . The Parliament adopted the resolution contained in Ms Nel Van Dijk's report (Netherlands Green Party) on women and health care (see Femmes d'Europe no. 64). The Parliament called on the Commission to examine the possible gaps in the directives on male/female equality in the medical profession and to submit proposals. It also stressed that women should be fairly represented among general practitioners and consultants, and also within management and consultative bodies and on disciplinary boards.

. The Parliament made a statement on sexual assault, and called for measures against sexual harassment and abuse of which women patients are sometimes the victims.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS: . At the May meeting of the Committee on Women's Rights, the Committee representatives gave a provisional assessment of the measures taken under the first two equal opportunity action programmes and drafted guidelines for the third programme.

. The Committee then discussed the draft report on the European Prize for Women (European Women's Award), presented by Ms Carmen Llorca Villaplana (PPE, Spain) and decided to review the proposal amended to take account of the various comments made.

. The Committee also examined the draft ~~Notice~~ submitted by Ms Anna Hermans (PPE, Belgium) on the Committee action programme for the

implementation of the Community Charter on the fundamental social rights of workers. The member recalled that this action programme included a section on equal opportunity between men and women but that it also discussed all matters concerning women in other fields: the labour market, improvement of living and working conditions, social welfare, health and safety, the elderly,

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, CULTURE, EDUCATION, THE MEDIA AND SPORT: . In May this Committee held a public hearing on the European dimension at University level. Various suggestions were made, such as the introduction of a European University Card, recognition in the countries of origin of study periods and increases, (Programme ERASMUS, rue d'Arlon 15, B-1040 Brussels).

JUNE PLENARY SESSION

The European Parliament was deeply moved by a speech by Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC). Mr Nelson Mandela paid tribute to the Parliament for its untiring efforts in favour of freedom. He told the Parliament that "Apartheid has not yet been eliminated", and urged that sanctions be maintained until the total disappearance of that system. Mr Mandela was supported in this by the majority of members who passed a resolution to that effect. Mrs Winnie Mandela, who was the guest of the Committee on Women's Rights, was presented, by Ms Crawley, Chairman of the Committee, with a book listing the initiatives of the Parliament against apartheid.

ROMANIA: . In view of the dramatic deterioration of the situation in Romania, the Parliament asked the European Commission to define its position. The latter then declared that it could proceed no further with the ratification of the agreement for cooperation concluded with that country. Ms Von Aleman, German liberal member, reaffirmed the repeated requests for aid for the Romanian orphans abandoned in veritable houses of death. She handed the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Frans Andriessen, a note calling for funds for an emergency programme to save these children.

RIGHT TO STAY IN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES: . The Parliament adopted three reports on the right of remaining in the Community, calling for a genuine "residence right" for all Community citizens and second-generation immigrants. These rights were also claimed for spouses, parents and children

ASSOCIATION: . EUDIFF (Association européenne pour le développement de l'information et la formation des femmes) was officially introduced to the session of the European Parliament, in the presence of Ms Trautmann, Member of the European Parliament and Mayor of Strasbourg and of Ms Marie-Claude Vayssade, Member of the European Parliament. The General Assembly of the Association will be held in September 1990.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS: . Opening the public hearing "Working women: dependence on childcare facilities", Ms

Crawley, Committee Chairperson, stated that the Committee intended to propose a European outline directive on childcare. Mr Peter Moss, coordinator of the childcare network of the European Commission, demonstrated that a proportional relationship existed between the rate of female employment and childcare facilities.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY.....

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

GERMANY

EQUALITY: . The Federal Minister for Youth, the Family, Women and Health, Professor Ursula Lehr, spoke in the German Bundestag in favour of the bill "relating to more equal treatment for women and men in the workplace". This bill provides that in the event of sexual discrimination at the time of recruitment or promotion, the employers involved shall pay the party concerned damages amounting to up to four months' salary.

. The Council of German women, an organisation covering 44 women's associations, considered the State Treaty signed between the Federal Republic and the Democratic Republic as "very unsatisfactory", as it took too little account of women's interests. The points mainly disputed concern the right to work of women in the Democratic Republic, article 218 of the Penal Code (Article on abortion) of the Federal Republic and the right to childcare facilities.

PENSIONS: . From 1992, mothers will gain three years' additional pension rights in respect of each child born from 1992 onwards.

. In 1989, 107 000 women (30% of new pensioners) took voluntary retirement at the age of 60. In the Federal Republic of Germany, this option is open to women only and then only on certain conditions.

PARENTAL LEAVE: . From 1 July 1990, the duration of the parental allowance and leave is increased from 15 to 18 months. This leave may be taken either by the mother or the father of the child.

REENTRY: . The Federal Government pays a subsidy to employers who reengage for an unlimited period women resuming active life after bringing up their children (this applies to 320 000 women annually). The leaflet "When the children are over the most difficult stage" may be obtained free of charge by applying to: D-5300 Bonn 2, P.O. Box 200 220.

EXHIBITION: . The mobile exhibition "Domestic space - a century of rationalisation and technology in the home" (organised by the "Community of Work: Home Economics" and by the Berlin Consumer Protection Institute) shows that in the Federal Republic 53 thousand million hours of domestic work (valued at 1.08 billion DM for 1982, i.e. 68% of gross domestic product for that year) are undertaken every year against 43 thousand million hours

of professional work.

HELP FOR PREGNANT WOMEN: . The German Federal Foundation "Mother and Child" which helps young mothers to overcome their financial difficulties received requests for aid from 233 451 women between July 1984 and December 1988. It responded to 219 310 of these requests. In 1990, 140 million DM were distributed for this purpose. (Leaflet published by the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health, Kennedyallee 105-107, D-5300 Bonn 2).

DIPLOMATS' SPOUSES: . As from 1991, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will grant financial compensation to the spouses of nearly 4 900 diplomats and other employees of the Ministry posted abroad, for "having had to give up their own profession and for the assistance given to their partners in the exercise of their duties".

EROTIC TOURISM: . The Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health has ordered a study on the causes and practices of the traffic in women and erotic tourism. At Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, a pilot experiment is now in progress with a reception centre providing guidance for the victims of the traffic in women.

REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION: . Schleswig-Holstein is the first Bundesland (in the context of the reform of the Communal Constitutional Law) to render obligatory the appointment of women members under conditions of equal opportunity.

. During a speech she made in Dusseldorf, Ms Ilse Ridder-Melchers, Secretary of State for Equality for North Rhine Westphalia, urged that the new Constitution should include formal obligations for the Länder to take measures to encourage the reconciliation of family life with the exercise of a profession; with as a corollary the creation of day nurseries and assistance in the reentry of women into the world of work (Information der Landesregierung NRW, Mannesmanufer 1a, 4000 Dusseldorf, Telephone no.: (02 11/8 37 12 26).

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: . In Schleswig-Holstein, a budget of 60 000 DM are allocated, within a pilot project, for funding aid services to women farmers. When the farmer's female assistant is unable to work at the farm for reasons of leave, illness or training, this Fund provides an auxiliary free of charge for the men or women farmer(s).

EVENTS: . "Women - An Opportunity for the Economy", is the topic of a meeting organized in Hanover at the instigation of the member for Lower Saxony, Antonia Wigbers, and the Finance Minister for Lower Saxony, Birgit Breuel. Scientists, trade unionists, company managers and consultants examined the new options offered to women in the Economy and the opportunities represented by women for the Economy.

APPOINTMENTS: . The Member for Equal Opportunity for the Land of North Rhine Westphalia, and Parliamentary Secretary of State for Equal Treatment of men and women, Ms Ilse Ridder-Melchers, is now Minister for Equal Treatment. This new ministry, the first of

its kind, was created by Mr Johannes Rau, Minister President.

Ms Erika Emmerich, hitherto President of the Federal Department for the Monitoring and Census of Motor vehicles of Flensburg was appointed President of the German Automobile Industry Federation.

Ms Barbara Jacobeit is the first woman to be appointed President of the Federal Department for Construction and will thus become responsible for the planning and execution of all Federal construction projects.

Ms Ingeborg Friebe (SPD), former Vice-President of the Parliament of the Land of North Rhine Westphalia is the first woman in the history of the largest Land in West Germany to be elected President of the Land Parliament.

Ms Raghilt Berve is the first woman President of a Land in FRG (for the district of Arnsberg/Westphalia).

Mrs Monika Holmeier-Strauss (28 years old, daughter of Franz-Josef Strauss and mother of two) recently won her first political post as municipal councillor with 90% of the votes. In October, she will stand as CSU candidate for the Parliament of Bavaria.

CONTACTS: . The political training centre of the Land of Bremen organized the first European study trip for women only, the destination being Madrid. These contacts are intended for the exchange of experience and the examination of common points in the sectors of the economy, science, culture, research on women's problems, etc. (for information please contact: Brigitte Dreyer, Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, Langenstrasse 34, D-2800 Bremen 1).

HONOURS: . Mrs Elfi Wörner, wife of the Secretary General of NATO, Mr Manfred Wörner, was awarded the cross of the national order of merit for her "work on behalf of the children of the families of the Bundeswehr". Thanks to Mrs Wörner's efforts, the amount of the donations for the children of German soldiers has increased considerably.

. An issue of some thirty million copies of a special stamp celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Union of German Housewives. The President of the Bundestag, Rita Süßmuth, gave the anniversary speech at a ceremony organized in the Reichstag building in Berlin.

ABORTION: . At a meeting of a number of women's organizations in Bonn on 16 June last, Ms Ilse Ridder-Melchers, Secretary of State for Equality of North Rhine Westphalia claimed the right of women to abortion in safe and dignified conditions, a policy of prevention and information rather than repression in matters of voluntary termination of pregnancy, the right to selfdetermination for all women and in particular the women of the German Democratic Republic (Information der Landesregierung NRW, Mannesmannufer 1a, 4000 Düsseldorf 1, Telephone no.: 02 11/8 37 12 26).

PUBLICATIONS: . "EG-Binnenmarkt-EuroPatriarchat oder Aufbruch der Frauen" (Internal Market of the EC - a Europatriarchy or feminine renewal) deals with the position of women on the labour market in the future Single European Market (Feminine Research, Bremen University, WE-EFF - Verlag, D-2800 Bremen, Werder-Strasse 73; 16 DM plus postage).

. "Lobby der Frauen" (Women's Lobby: What are the objectives of the

Council of German Women? The leaflet may be obtained free of charge by application to: Deutscher Frauenrat, Simrockstrasse 5, D-5300 Bonn 1).

The economic journal "CAPITAL" has just published a study as part of a series on the topic "Family and profession" (Publisher Grüner + Jahr AG & Co., Postfach 302040, D-Hamburg 36, 40 DM).

"Frauen in der einen Welt" (Women in One World) is the name of a brochure which is to be published at least once a year and the first number of which includes commentaries by women on various topics, pen-portraits of women, articles and a bibliography (Frauen in der einen Welt, e.V., Postfach 210421, D-8500, Nuremberg 21).

"Rechtsratgeber der Frauen" (Guide to the law for Women), by Doris Lucke and Sabine Berghahn, details the rights of professional women in the event of sexual harassment, pregnancy, maternity, etc... (FRAUEN AKTUELL).

The BHB (Deutscher Hausfrauenbund - Union of German Housewives) has published a report on the occasion of 75 years of activity; this work includes a preface by the Chairperson of the organisation, Ms Siglinde Porsch.

BELGIUM

ABORTION: . A bill tabled at the beginning of April provides for the creation of a national commission for assessment of the partial legalisation of abortion. This bill would allow a statistical follow-up of the implementation of the new law and would, if appropriate, encourage the definition of other positive measures of assistance to mothers and education in contraception. Every two years, the commission would submit a report to Parliament, its first assessment appearing at the end of August 1992. It would be equally divided linguistically and would consist of 16 members (9 women, 7 men): 8 doctors, 4 professors of law or advocates, and 4 representatives of the childcare organisations. According to the Council of State (consultative body), this bill includes provisions which affect private life because of the information given in the doctor's report.

EQUALITY OF TREATMENT: . The problem of segregation between men and women at work remains unresolved. A University survey (Hiva-KUL) reveals that the inequalities detected in the sixties still persist: concentration of the employment of women in a few sectors and professions, remuneration below the average for men no increase in status. Luc Van den Brande, Minister for Employment, and Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Advancement, have asked management and labour (employers and trade unions) to include the question of women's employment in the next interprofessional negotiations (91-92). They suggest various solutions: the organisation of full-time courses and day-release courses, the establishment of programmes for "positive action" in favour of the employment and promotion of women, taking account of family needs. They also ask employers and unions to draw up a statute for home workers and to extend the exemptions to the rule prohibiting women from working at night. This rule

holds back the careers of women computer experts and laboratory assistants very considerably.

EMPLOYMENT: . There is no longer any question of a woman abandoning her profession on marrying or at the birth of the first child. In the age group from 25/29 years, the rate of activity increased from 50% in 1970 to 78% in 1988. In the 35/39 age group, it exceeds 66% against 45% in 1977. The percentage of women in the working population is continually increasing: 32% in 1970, 41% in 1988. According to forecasts, women will occupy 45% of all posts by the year 2000. This trend would compensate for the negative impact of a declining population. In fact, the number of young people entering the labour market has dropped by 40 000 compared with 1980. Again, it would be necessary to allow them to acquire and have access to the necessary knowledge.

TAX REFORM: . In response to the request made by the Association des Femmes au Foyer (Association of Housewives), the Council of State has ordered the suspension of tax deduction at source on the remuneration of tax payers dependent "on a single income". The Association considers that the payment of these amounts, which will in the majority of cases be automatically repaid, constitutes an interest-free loan to the State. In spite of the various orders issued by the Council of State, Philippe Maystadt, Minister of Finance, has persuaded the Government to approve a bill on economic and tax provisions. The Council of Ministers has signified its approval of the proposed tax reform - the fruit of a general political agreement, it being particularly favourable to households dependent on a single income - and has confirmed the method of calculation concerned. The matter will be settled by a vote of Belgian members of parliament. (Association des Femmes au Foyer, avenue Georges Henri 509, 1200 Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/734.28.41).

CHILDBIRTH LEAVE: . As from 1 June, when a child is born, the father or mother may ask for leave from his or her work for a minimum of 12 weeks. The minimum duration was initially fixed at 6 months. The mother must take the leave immediately after her maternity leave. The father must notify his intention within eight weeks following the birth.

TRAINING: . Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, has recently launched a new campaign to persuade young women students to diversify their choice of studies and professions. Aimed at girls between 15 and 18 years, this measure uses the experience of professional women. The slogans used are youthful and dynamic: "A job is like a boy friend - don't take the first to come along" and "Choose your subjects of study carefully, and enter adult life well-equipped." Some twenty four-minute "spots" are shown on television daily by RTBF. They present pen portraits of men and women working in the same trade or profession. A brochure is also available from the Offices of the Secretary of State. (Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Emancipation sociale, rue de la Loi 56, 1040 Brussels, (Telephone no.: 02/230.49.25).

BATTERED WIVES: . At the request of Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, the groups working against violence towards women

(COVIF) have cooperated to introduce a pilot course for police officers. This training project has been tried out at some twenty police stations and training colleges, and a fruitful dialogue has been established between teachers and pupils. (COVIF, rue Blanche 29, 1050 Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/539.27.44).

The Collectif pour femmes battues de Bruxelles (Shelter for Battered Women in Brussels), the only French-speaking Belgian association to deal with this problem in the capital, will have to close its doors for lack of financial assistance. The demand for this type of service is increasing, with 343 new cases being reported in 1989. In half of these cases, the women and children in distress were given shelter but, during the same period, 244 women and 263 children were turned away because of the lack of beds. The Collectif also contributes towards the training of the forces of law and order (see above), replies to many requests for information, and organises consultations at the request of women and/or couples in difficulty. (Collectif des femmes battues, rue Blanche 29, 1050 Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/539.27.44).

RAPE: . In mid-June, Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, and Melchior Wathelet, Minister of Justice, introduced the two "Sexual Aggression kits", prepared by their departments to humanise the procedure for the reception of victims and facilitate identification of the attackers. These kits contain bags and phials to receive any incriminating material as well as a guidance brochure for the investigators. This equipment, which guarantees the anonymity of the victims, is already available at all branches of the Criminal Investigation Department and at some police stations. From the end of June, they will be distributed to all "brigades de gendarmerie" (detachments of the State Police Force). (Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Environnement et l'Emancipation Sociale, rue de la Loi 56, Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/230.49.25).

DEVELOPMENT: . Le Conseil National des Femmes Belges (CNFB) (National Council of Belgian Women), when invited to participate in the preparatory work of the Etats Généraux de la Coopération au Développement (organized in April last at Louvain-la-Neuve by the Centre National de Coopération au Développement) was concerned at the lack of references, in the preliminary documents, to the role and responsibility of women in the development process. This was put right after representations by Geneviève Ryckmans and Huberte Hanquet. The CNFB hopes that, in the context of their new cooperation strategy, the Belgian bodies concerned and their local partners will together look for means of expediting the participation of women in development. (CNFB, rue de la Prévoyance 60, 1000 Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/514.49.49).

DISTINCTIONS FOR WOMEN: . When the new term starts in October, Françoise Thys-Clément, aged 48, Professor of Public Economy, Master of Econometry, and Doctor of Economic Science, will become the 61st Rector of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

An "Interlabor Prize for Social Journalism" has recently been created. Bénédicte Vaes, Journalist on "Le Soir" (one of the main French-language Belgian dailies) was the first French-speaking Journalist to receive this prize. It was presented to her by the Ministre de l'Emploi et du Travail, Luc Van den Brand.

Mia Doornaert, Director of the "Foreign" department of the "Standaard" (a Dutch-language daily newspaper) and Vice-President of the

Association générale des journalistes professionnels de Belgique was reelected for the third consecutive time to the press presidency of the Fédération Internationale des Journalistes (International Journalists' Federation) (FIJ). Delegates from 50 journalists' associations therefore broke the rule which states that an outgoing president can be reelected only once.

PUBLICATIONS: . On the occasion of the Journée Internationale de la Femme the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) launched the publication of a bulletin, entitled "Femmes syndicalistes en action" (Women Trade Unionists in Action). It will be published every two months by the Bureau des Femmes of the ICFTU. (CISL, rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères 37, 1000 Brussels, Telephone no. 02/217.80.85).

. The "CVP-Werkgroep Vrouw en Maatschappij" (Working Group for Women in Business) has just published two booklets dealing with changes in legislation on pensions and the question of childcare. ("Pensioenen: feitelijke ongelijkheid tussen mannen en vrouwen in het pensioenenstelsel (werknemers) (Pensions: inequality between men and women in the pension system - (employees)) and "In kinderschoenen, dossier kinderopvang" (Childcare in its infancy), Vrouw en Maatschappij, rue des Deux Eglises 41, 1040 Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/238.38.55).

. The Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Emancipation sociale has just published a brochure entitled "Actions positives dans les services publics" (Positive measures in the public services). It comments on the Royal Decree of 27/2/1990, which includes measures to promote equal opportunity for men and women in the public services. (Rue de la Loi 56, 1040 Brussels, Telephone no.: 02/230.49.25).

DENMARK

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: . In early June, the Second Council of Europe Conference on equal opportunity and the participation of women in political life and public service was held in Arhus (Denmark), the topic being: "For how long can we be satisfied with a semi-democracy?". The Conference ended in relative confusion, following the attempt of the French Chairman of the meeting to impose the adoption of a final document. French, English, Spanish and Danish women representatives opposed this procedure, and subsequently complained in writing to the Council of Europe. These incidents related only to the organization of the Conference. The discussions on the whole proved to be interesting and constructive.

. Also in Arhus in early June, a Festival on Equal Opportunity was held entitled "Equality: an opportunity to be seized"; this festival followed the Nordic Conference of Women "Nordisk Forum"/1988 and the "Festival Forum"/1989. This event was mainly a local affair. It was organised by the National Council of Danish Women (DKN) and the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions" (LO).

. The Council on Equal Opportunity noted certain complaints from the unions of women local government officers. Government Departments do not replace employees absent because of maternity leave. These complaints express the fear that the employment of young women is decreasing noticeably, as it is young women who are mainly concerned by maternity leave. Men ask for leave only intermittently, hence the "imbalance between the sexes"

which results from this non-replacement. The Council on Equal Opportunity feels that, if the imbalance in question is objectively justified, it is not possible to speak of indirect discrimination in terms of law, but that there nevertheless exists no objective reason for not replacing these female employees. (Ligestillingsradet, Frederiksgade 19-21, 1265 Copenhagen. Telephone no.: 33.92 33 11).

The "Abolition Project" (BRYT-PROJEKT) on equal opportunity, set up by the Council of Nordic Ministers for a five-year period (1985/1989) is now at an end. The aim of this common initiative, directed by Ms Drude Dahlerup, lector, was to devise and try out methods of removing the division between the sexes on the labour market in the five Nordic countries. To this end, a series of recommendations was submitted to the governments and institutions concerned. They are included in the BRYT-NYTT Final Report No. 9 and in the report drawn up by the Icelandic Conference which concluded the project ("Report of the Conference on the "BRYT-PROJEKT" no. 37/1990", written by Jytte Bertelsen). (Drude Dahlerup, Institut for Statskundskab, Aarhus Universitet, 8000 Aarhus C.).

HUMAN RIGHTS: . A Conference on Human Rights was held during June in Copenhagen. The thirty-five countries, signatories of the Helsinki Declaration, were represented, together with the Governments of Western and Eastern Europe, as well as Canada and the United States of America. Women's problems were not discussed. The DKN was represented at the Conference.

In parallel, at the instigation of the National Council of Danish Women (DKN), the NGO organized three seminars, in which women's organizations from the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic took part. During the meeting of the working group on "Women - action programmes and UN conventions on equal opportunity", all delegates asked that priority be given on the agenda to questions affecting women at the next Conference on Human Rights to be held in Moscow in 1991. During the discussions, Lydmila Zavadskaya (Committee of Soviet Women, CFS) described the consequences of the introduction of a market economy in the USSR on 1 July 1990. The introduction of technologies and changes in methods of production might lead to the appearance of unemployment among women in the Soviet Union. At present, the Government does not recognise the existence of unemployment. Another Soviet delegate, Irina Tzarjova, suggested that future Soviet institutions should copy the Danish models (Council for Equal Opportunity and DKN, the coordinating body for women's NGOs). Zdenka Ilajna, Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Women's Union, reported on the high percentage of divorces in her country and the increase in the number of single mothers. In conclusion, Jytte Lindgard, President of DKN, stressed that women's NGOs should be represented at the next Conference on Human Rights.

HEALTH: . In Spring 1990, the representative body of DKN (comprising 3 representatives from each of the 38 affiliated organizations, and 16 members of the Directorate), met to discuss the topic "Women and health policy". Kirsten Lee, Member of Parliament and Doctor, recommended the government bill on that subject. According to Dr Lee, the bill encourages

efforts in the field of prevention which guarantees "health for the majority". Dr Lee also stressed the need for more women members of bodies taking decisions concerning health. A number of organizations (Danske Sygeplejerad/the Danish Council of Nurses and Danske Kvindelige Laegers Forening/Danish Association of Women Doctors) were more critical about this bill.

COUNCIL OF DANISH WOMEN: . The General Assembly held in Spring 1990 shows that in 1989 the activity of DKN was developed at the European level. We witnessed a renewal of cooperation between women, typified by the many appeals from women's organizations in Eastern Europe. Various topics were discussed by the Directors: the treatment of sterility and family policy, for example. The DKN also took part in a number of events (Women's festivals, anniversary celebrations, preparation for the Conference on Human Rights). (Useful address for Denmark, DKN, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 1153 Copenhagen, Telephone no.: 33 12 80 87.

SPAIN

HEALTH: . The only programme (so far) on early detection of cancer in Spain, has just begun in Navarre. Launched by the Government of Navarre, it will allow early diagnosis of some 200 cancers in women (from 45 to 60) every year.

. The Centro de Salud para Mujeres "Entre nosotras" (Health Centre for Women), was created at the instigation of the "Mujeres para la Salud" (Women for Health) Association. Free care will be given to women with psychological and/or emotional problems such as the menopause, sterility, breast cancer, etc. ... ("Entre Nosotras", Calle Alfonso XIII, no. 18, 28002 Madrid).

AWARDS: . Covadonga Sanz, a 23-year-old female agricultural worker from Madrid has received an award granted annually by the European Commission to a young farmer.

. The International Press Club and Association of Foreign Press Correspondents have awarded their annual prize for the best journalistic work abroad to Pilar Bonet, correspondent of the well-known daily "El Pais". The International Press Club has existed in Spain for 28 years and its membership includes the majority of foreign press correspondents and many Spanish journalists, both men and women.

ABORTION: . The United Left group has tabled a bill regulating the termination of pregnancy and providing for free abortion without charge and without restriction other than that it must be carried out during the first 16 weeks of pregnancy. This bill also provides for the establishment of a register of health workers with conscientious objections to carrying out abortions.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: . The main trade unions are determined to eradicate sexual or physical abuse involving state employees. They claim that such behaviour should be recognised as a serious misdemeanour or abuse of power, that it should be punishable and should involve the discharge of the persons

concerned from any position of responsibility.

. Twelve women police officers in Madrid reported a police officer, serving as an instructor in self-defence, for repeated sexual harassment. The UGT and CCOO unions demanded the transfer of this officer to other duties.

. The Assembly of Women of Granada complained bitterly to the President of the Provincial Court following the acquittal of two young men guilty of rape of a young woman of 28. Further, the General Council of the Judiciary called for dismissal of the three magistrates responsible for this decision.

TRAINING: . For the first time the Institute for Women organized a series of educational courses for members of the Guardia Civil, the national and local police. The principal aim was to include in the training programmes for the State forces for Law and Order specific courses related to the violence suffered by women, and to educate those forces regarding these offences (Ministerio de Asuntos Sociales, Instituto de la Mujer, Almagro 39, 28010 Madrid, Telephone no.: 410 51 12).

. In collaboration with the Institute for Women and under the patronage of the National Institute for Employment and the European Social Fund, the Industrial Organization School has prepared a training course for women who wish to undertake a business project. The course includes theoretical modules on the business world, and uses practical instruction methods (Instituto de la Mujer).

. In 1987, the Institute for Women created the "teams for assisting women to find work". These were designed to provide information and guidance by means of employment-seeking technology sessions. After assessment of this experiment, the Institute for Women published a guide (MABEM) to help women to find a job. (Instituto de la Mujer).

TRIBUTES: . Jimena Menéndez Pidal, one of the pioneers of coeducation in Spain, recently died at the age of 89. This great intellectual was a symbol of liberalism in this century. In 1981, she received a decoration (the Alphonse X sash) for over fifty years' work as a teacher.

. Various feminist groups in Gijón (Asturias) together with the women of the PSOE and IU have requested that the names of famous women should be given to 63 streets in the town. Many of the names proposed are those of women writers or those who have played a political role such as: Aurora Albornoz, Dolores Ibarruri, Carmen Martín Gaité, Gloria Fuertes, María Guerrero, Dolores Medio, Clara Campoamor, Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, etc.

EMPLOYMENT: . The number of women entering the job market in Spain is increasing, with some 32.6% of women at work in 1989. Nevertheless, this figure is still far below the figures recorded in the countries in the European zone of the OECD, where employment is as high as 50%.

APPOINTMENT: . Inés Ayala Sender (aged 33), Professor of Literature at Saragossa University, has been elected Secretary for Social Action for the New Executive of the UGT (Union General de Trabajadores - General Workers' Union), of which she has been a member since 1982.

SURVEYS: . The Jeunesses Ouvrières Chrésiennes (JOC) (Young Christian Workers) carried out a survey on: "El servicio dom3stico en Espa1a. Entre el trabajo invisible y la economía submergida" (Domestic service in Spain. Between invisible work and the hidden economy). According to this survey, the 600 000 women employed in domestic service in Spain are victims of pay discrimination, lack of legal protection and insecurity of employment.

EQUALITY: . The General Directorate for Women in the Community of Madrid will allocate 165 million pesetas this year to finance projects for promoting the equality of women in the region. (Dirección General de la Mujer, Paseo de la Castellana 60, 6a pl, 28046 Madrid, Telephone no.: 563 67 75).

ASSOCIATIONS: . The F3d3ration Internationale Chr3tienne d'Associations de Veuves (FICAV) (International Christian Federation of Widow's Associations) was formed in 1982 to create and unite widows' associations and to provide objective information on the situation and consequences of widowhood. In April last, FICAV organized the International FICAV Council in Madrid, one of the objectives of which was to organize the 1991 World Congress (FICAV, calle Alfonso XI, 4 - 6°, 28014 Madrid, Telephone no.: 261 40 65).

EVENTS: . The "Escuela no Sexista de Murcia" ("Non-Sexist School of Murcia") group (COENS) organized a cultural week which included a "video-forum", a theatrical presentation, and an exhibition to promote non-sexist education (COENS, Avenida Miguel de Cervantes 1, 30009 Murcia).

PUBLICATIONS: . The Institute for Women recently published a report on the position of women in Spain. Its aims were to analyse the trends of recent years, the repercussions of the country's economic recovery, the resources for creating employment and equality policies. The result shows that the number of working women has increased, as has also the participation of women in the education system. (Instituto de la Mujer).

. The Oviedo University European Documentation Centre devoted the March 90 issue to the principle of equality between men and women. (El principio de igualdad entre hombres y mujeres" (Centro de Documentaci3n Europea, Universidad de Oviedo).

. "Les Dones fan Historia", a brochure published by the Catalan Institute for Women, describes, by means of some magnificent illustrations, the presence and the role of women in the history of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya - Departament de la Presid3ncia - Institut Català de la Dona).

FRANCE

EQUALITY: . On 8 March 1990 Ms Yvette Roudy, Member of Parliament and Mayor of Lisieux, published her report on equality at work, written at the request of the Assembl3e Nationale. In particular, this study refers to the objectives of the law of 13 July 1986 on equality at work and assesses its effects six years after its promulgation. The report shows that the number of companies which have finalized an equality plan is still too low (Information Report on employment equality between men and women, Assembl3e

Nationale Document No. 1161, lodged by the Commission des Affaires Culturelles, Familiales et Sociales (Committee on Cultural, Family and Social Affairs).

EMPLOYMENT: . Experimental measures to combat unemployment among women will shortly be taken in five regions in France. These measures aim to improve the quality of training for employment, taking account of the local data supplied by regional observers and of the results of analysis of the conditions of access to jobs with a future and factors limiting the employment of women. The Bureaux d'Accueil et d'Information sur l'Emploi des Femmes (developed since 1985 within the many Information Centres on Women's Rights) will be particularly involved in the introduction of these specific measures.

WIDOWHOOD: . The Centre d'Etudes des Revenus et des Coûts (Centre for Income and Expenses Study) (CERC - part of the Secretariat d'Etat au Plan (Secretariat of State for Planning) - has recently conducted a survey on the position of 2000 French widows of less than 60 years of age. It appears that two difficulties often arise: the lack of information which causes 25% of widows of less than 55 years to fail to take advantage of their rights to a pension, and the shortage of training opportunities. (CERC study, "Le veuvage avant 60 ans" (Widowhood before 60), 2 volumes, La Documentation Française, 29/31 quai Voltaire, Paris Cedex 07 - "Que faire en cas de veuvage?" (What to do when widowed), a document produced by CNIDFF, OCIRP and FAVEC).

. The "60% pour toutes les veuves" (60% for all widows) Association would like to obtain information, statistics, etc. regarding the living conditions of widows in all parts of Europe (24, rue de l'Eglise, Brest, Telephone no.: 98 49 27 54).

IMMIGRATION: . In the field of employment, immigrant women are often the victims of a double discrimination and, in spite of an increase in the number at work (36 to 38%), much remains to be done. The object of the FAS (Fonds d'Action Sociale pour les travailleurs immigrés et leur famille - Social Action Fund for Immigrant Workers and their Families) is to encourage the social and professional integration of immigrant women. In 1988, the Secrétariat d'Etat chargé des Droits des Femmes (Secretariat of State responsible for Women's Rights) and the FAS signed an agreement to act jointly to further the integration of women immigrants (Secrétariat d'Etat chargé des Droits des Femmes, 31 rue Le Peletier, 75009 Paris, Telephone no.: 47 70 41 58).

. EMAF (Expressions Maghrébines au Féminin) is an Association of North African women whose members are pledged to fight "negative preconceptions about immigration: delinquency, failure at school, unemployment". This Association provides social, cultural, artistic and sporting activities and also has a Publications Section (EMAF, rue Godefroy Cavaignac, 75011 Paris).

ASSOCIATIONS: . La Commission Féminine du Conseil Français du Mouvement Européen (Women's Committee of the French Council for the European Movement) is an organisation formed in 1961 to "inform and motivate women in order to make people aware of Europe through them". Through its many events, the Committee provides an exchange between members of parliament and the public, thus publicizing the many women's organizations and their work for women. It works in close contact with other women's associations and through its regional committees.

AVFT, the Association Européenne contre les Violences faites aux Femmes au Travail (European Association for the Prevention of Violence to Women at Work) has existed for nearly 5 years and has worked unceasingly with women, the authorities and the media. AVFT has published a book "De l'abus de pouvoir sexuel" (The Abuse of Sexual Power) available at the Librairie La Découverte, 1 Place Paul Painlevé, Paris (AVFT, rue St Jacques 71, 75005 Paris, telephone no.: 16 (1) 46 28 74 08).

The Association pour l'Information des Femmes (Information for Women Association) would like to establish links with other women's associations at European level in order to participate actively in creating a Woman's Europe (Association pour l'Information des Femmes, 34 rue de la Chaîne, 86000 Poitiers).

HEALTH: . The Commission Santé du Club de Tours de l'Union Professionnelle Féminine (Tours Club Health Committee of the Professional Women's Union), which has carried out a study on infanticide and the abandonment of newborn babies, would like to know what measures have been taken in other European countries to deal with this problem. The Committee members would like to undertake a joint study on this subject at European level (Dr. Françoise Leguay, rue de la Tombe-Issoire 65, 75014 Paris).

EVENTS: . The 70th National Congress of the Ligue de Droits de l'Homme (League for Human Rights), held in Arras in April last, was devoted to the subject of women and women's rights. The main subjects discussed were: inequalities at work, access to public life, foreign women in France today, the Europe of tomorrow, and violence. (Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, 27 rue Jean Dolent, 75014 Paris, Telephone no.: 47 07 56 35).

A conference with the topic: "What will be the status of the European doctor's spouse in 1993?" was held in May last in Paris. Participants at the conference called for all member States to comply with the directive dated 11.12.86 on spouses who assist their partners (Association de Conjointes de médecins, 22 rue Garnier, 92200 Neuilly).

At the Twelfth International Festival of Films made by Women, held in April last in Créteil, the films "Mémoire d'un fleuve" (Memory of a river) by Judith Elek (Hungary) and "Il y a d'autres fruits que les oranges" (Oranges are not the only fruit) by Beeban Kidroi (G.B.) received the panel's prize and the public's prize respectively for the best feature film (fiction). The Thirteenth Festival will take place from 6 to 14 April 1991 (Apply for information to Nicole Lambert, Telephone no.: (1) 47 00 80 34).

DIALLOC Villages is a rural association which provides facilities for information and training enabling country dwellers to participate in the development and planning of village communities. From 11 May to 2 June, this association organized the festival entitled "Cinéma Europe Femmes du Monde Rural" (Cinema Europe: Countrywomen) on the topic "Les deux Allemagnes - Femmes hors des murs" (The two Germanies - Women in a rural environment) (DIALLOC Villages, Centre social rural, 19 Place de la Mairie, 02590 Roupy).

ENTERTAINMENTS: . "Je t'ai dans la peau" (I've got you under my skin) a film made by Jean-Pierre Thorn with Solveig Dommartin, tells the life-story of Georgette Vacher, long-standing Trade Unionist, who took her own life in 1981. A nun, a worker, lover of a worker-priest, trade unionist and feminist, her life was a constant battle against orders, ready-made ideologies and pressures of all kinds.

PUBLICATIONS: . "Les féministes ont-elles quelque chose à attendre de la philosophie? Réciproquement, une prise en compte du féminisme produit-elle

une réorientation dans la pensée?" (Can feminists expect anything from philosophy? Conversely can philosophy learn from feminism?) Why do male professors of philosophy defend "their" territory so bitterly against their women colleagues? All these questions are considered in Michèle Le Doeuf's book "L'étude et le Rouet" (Study and the Spinning Wheel). Michèle Le Doeuf is a qualified teacher of philosophy, lecturer at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay and research assistant at the CNRS. (Editions le Seuil, Volume 1).

GREECE

POLITICS: . Over the past eighteen months, the Greeks have been called to the ballot box three times for national elections (held in June and November 1989 and again at the beginning of April 1990). In spite of the efforts of the NGO Coordinating Committee (18) and the women's sections of 8 parties, the number of female candidates on the electoral lists has scarcely changed at all. Only the small parties have put up more women but, generally speaking, they have not succeeded in obtaining seats in Parliament, the exception being the new Coalition between "Ecologists" and "Alternatives". For the second time its sole representative is Ms Tasia Andreadaki.

. With 16 women members of parliament (3.5% of the total), Greece comes last of all Community countries. The last parliament included 20 women members. Anna Syndinou, Eva Kotamanidou, Eleni Anoussaki (all actresses by profession) lost their seats although Melina Mercouri and Maria Farantouri, the singer, were reelected.

. The "New Democracy" party nominated 8 women representatives, PASOK 6 and the Coalition of the "Left" and "Progress" parties only 1. No woman is Chairman of a Committee. Two parties have appointed a woman as spokesperson: Ms Virginia Tsouderou (New Democracy) and Ms Maria Damanaki (Coalition of the "Left" and "Progress" parties).

. Four women occupy ministerial positions in the new Government: Marietta Giannakou (Minister of Health, ex-Member of the European Parliament), Anna Psarouda-Benaki and Fany Palli-Petralia (under-Secretaries of State in the Ministry of Culture) and Kelly Bourdara (under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Education).

. The women's section of the EAR party (Greek Left), a member of the "Left" and "Progress" Coalition, has protested against the discriminatory attitude of the party towards women. When the party was formed in 1987, women called for greater participation in the constituent bodies. Their request was granted by a very small number of votes. They are now demanding the same equal treatment in the decision-making bodies; the final decision will be announced soon after the June Congress.

HEALTH: . On the occasion of the Journée Internationale de la Santé (International Health Day), a number of reports were issued to the press regarding the health of Greek women. Three thousand women are the victims of breast cancer every year and this disease is spreading again. Infant mortality in the days preceding or following the birth is also on the increase: 23 in every thousand births. 47% of women smoke, 9% regularly consume alcoholic drinks, 19% take tranquillisers, 3.9% have tried drugs (hashish at least).

MOTIVATION OF WOMEN: . The Confederation of Greek women (OGE) recently organized a national meeting. The discussions on the Greek Women's Movement and its present trends emphasized its lack of impact on the political scene. "Women's organizations are losing their members", "Women in general are not interested in the problems raised by the women's organizations", "We must emphasize the positive action to be taken in order to obtain equal opportunity and equal treatment", these were the main conclusions of the meeting. (OGE, Akadimis 52, 10679 Athens).

ARMY: . Until recently, women were refused admission to certain departments of the School for Officers, and men could not take the training offered by the School of Nursing for Officers. These restrictions have now been lifted and, further, action will be taken to encourage male/female equality. In future (the Minister concerned has already signed the Decree), women will have access to all types of training. Even better, they will be over-represented (10% more than the male quota). Conversely, men will be able to take the nursing courses and benefit from the same facilities.

CULTURE: . Ms Mary Michailidou is the first woman director of the National Art Gallery. She was appointed a few days after the April 1990 elections.

. Chrysa is a Greek sculptor with an international reputation. Works from various periods of her career were brought home (Chrysa 60-90) and exhibited in Athens. At the private viewing, the artist declared: "This century is Women's Century. Women are gaining a foothold in the professional and artistic fields. Their task is more difficult as men have always had more freedom. Nevertheless, I am convinced that critics and objective observers will soon prefer the artistic creations of women".

IRELAND

POLITICS: . The Labour Party has chosen a woman candidate for the presidential elections which will be held in the Autumn. She is Mary Robinson, a lawyer and former senator. The Labour Party is counting on the support of the other main left-wing party, the Worker's party. The leaders of the two parties have already met to discuss the possibility of a joint campaign (Labour Party, 16 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, Telephone no.: 01-788 411).

POSITIVE ACTION: . Mr Bertie Ahern, Minister of Labour, recently announced the formation by the Training & Employment Authority, FAS, of a programme of positive action encouraging women to pursue non-traditional careers. This year, FAS awarded 10 scholarships for new apprenticeships and will organize admission procedures across the region, with particular attention to candidates' requirements. The Minister also announced that FAS would implement measures encouraging the return to work of 960 women (652 in 1989). The Chairman of the Authority, Mr John Lynch, declared that it had

a major role to play in ensuring equal access for women to all the opportunities offered by the labour market. (FAS, 27 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin 4, Telephone no.: 01-68 57 77).

AWARDS: . Mr Bertie Ahern, Minister of Labour, is the originator of a new award to encourage and reward companies working for the removal of sexist prejudices and inequality among their staff. This award, "Equality Focus", is the first of its kind in Europe and is sponsored by the Employment Equality Agency and by the Commission of the European Communities, in collaboration with the Institute of Personnel Management of Ireland. (Kevin Foley, Information Officer, Employment Equality Agency, 36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Telephone no.: 01-605 966).

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: . It was recognised at the annual conference of the Public Service Executive Union that sexual harassment in the workplace is a major problem. The Deputy General Secretary of the Union declared that its members were determined to eliminate this phenomenon and, before the end of the year, to introduce procedures for dealing with complaints and for investigation (Public Service Executive Union, 20 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Telephone no.: 01-76 72 71).

TRIBUTES: . The Committee for the Celebration and Commemoration of Women was formed to pay tribute to the memory of a large number of prominent Irishwomen. This Committee includes among its members Sylvia Meehan, Director of the Employment Equality Agency, Niambh Brannock, Deputy Chairman of the Labour Party and Monica Barnes of "Fine Gael". It has drawn up a list of at least 15 women designated for future commemoration, including the suffragette Hannah Sheehy Skeffington, and Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. Lady Morgan, the nineteenth-century novelist and patriot, was the first distinguished Irishwoman to be commemorated in this way by the Committee, and a commemorative plaque has been placed on the house where she lived. Initially subsidized by Dublin Tourism, the Committee is seeking sponsors (Dublin Tourism, 14 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Telephone no.: 01-74 77 33).

EQUALITY: . The primary schoolteachers' union, INTO, has ordered a study of the reasons why women hold none of the senior posts in that organisation. Although 80% of the members of INTO are women, the executive central committee of the Union has only one woman member. This study will be directed by Dr Eunice McCarthy, teacher of organisational psychology at the UCD, and her conclusions will be presented at the INTO Conference to be held next year (INTO, 35 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Telephone no.: 01-72 25 33).

. The Labour Party has published its bill on equality of status; this bill provides for measures penalizing discrimination against women in the sectors of education, distribution of property and various banking and financial services. The bill pays particular attention to the attitude towards women in golf clubs and other social organizations; it proposes that, when discrimination (in terms of membership rights) against a woman is

observed in one of these clubs, the management should be refused a drinks licence, and all public funding should be withdrawn. The Deputy Chairman of the Labour Party, Ms Niambh Brannock, has declared that, although legislation in the seventies took account of difficulties encountered by women in the workplace, this bill responded to the need for change in other sectors, and also protected other minority groups. It was warmly welcomed by the Council for the Status of Women, whose leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the struggle for equality. It is expected to be put before Parliament this year. (Labour Party, 16 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, Telephone No.: 01-788 411).

TRAINING: . In September, Limerick University will begin a graduate course in Women's Studies; the course has received a subsidy from the Commission of the European Communities. This financial aid will allow students less than 25 years of age to study free of charge, while older students will pay only a third of the usual charges (University of Limerick, Plessey Technical Park, Limerick, Telephone no.: 061-33 36 44).

ABORTION: . The number of Irishwomen having resorted to abortion in the United Kingdom increased by 8% during the third quarter of 1989 as compared with the second quarter. According to statistics compiled in the United Kingdom, nearly 3000 Irishwomen obtained abortions during the first six months of 1989.

BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS: . A group of women in Castleblayney have started a factory for making nurses' uniforms and other protective clothing. This undertaking, which will produce 200 articles of clothing per week, was officially inaugurated by the Minister for Public Health, Rory O'Hanlon (the Diamond Design Co-Op Group, Castleblayney, Co. Managhan).

HEALTH: . An important conference on breast cancer was held in June at Trinity College in Dublin. This event was organised by the Recovery Group, an international body for the support of women suffering from breast cancer. Many volunteers and members of the medical profession came to the conference from many European countries and from the United States, to learn of the latest progress made in the detection and treatment of breast cancer (The Irish Cancer Society, 5 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, Telephone no.: 01-68 18 55).

THE CHURCH: . The General Synod of the Church of Ireland voted in favour of the ordination of women priests in Ireland. By so doing, the Church of Ireland has gone further than the majority of Anglican churches on the question of the ordination of women. The measure was supported by the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr. Robin Eames, who declared at the Synod that the question of the ordination of women was a major problem which would have considerable consequences for the future of the Church of Ireland (Church of Ireland House, Rep. Body, General Synod Office, Board of Education, Church Avenue, Upper Rathmines, Dublin 6, Telephone no.: 01-97 84 22).

OPINION POLL: . The majority of Irish people favour the introduction of a series of courses on sexual education, drug abuse, contraception and the use of contraceptive sheaths (condoms) as a means of prevention against AIDS; this emerges from a recent MRBI opinion poll published in the Irish Times. This poll, answered by people between 18 and 65 years of age, revealed that over 90% of the population favour health education programmes, dealing with sexual behaviour and drugs. The Minister of Education, Ms O'Rourke, welcomed the support forthcoming from the public for health education instruction in schools and said that the pilot programme for sex education and drug information would shortly be modified and that the revised programme would be available in September for use in all secondary schools (Department of Education, Marlboro Street, Dublin 1, Telephone no.: 01-73 47 00).

PUBLICATIONS: . The "AIM" group for the reform of family law has published two new booklets on alimony and separation procedures. These are available free of charge from the AIM Centre, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Telephone no.: 01-616 478).

ITALY

POLITICS: . On the occasion of the last elections the Commissione nazionale per la realizzazione della parità fra uomo e donna (National Commission for Equality between Men and Women) continued its lobbying for more women candidates on the electoral lists. At the beginning of May, new regional, provincial and communal councils were elected.

. Women candidates again met with the same difficulties: cost of the electoral campaign, low position on the list, preference system unfavourable to women. In addition, this time there was a low turnout of the electorate and women voters did not always vote for woman candidates.

. The results were unsatisfactory in the regional councils. Women representatives decreased from 7.2% (1985) to 6.7% (71 women members were elected in 1990). By contrast, women won new seats in the provincial elections (210 this year instead of 172). Their success was due to the single preference system of voting. (Commissione nazionale per la parità uomo/donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri, Palazzo Chigi, 00187 Rome).

. On the occasion of the 2nd Conference of woman local government administrators, 1200 Christian Democrat delegates met in Milan. They represented the 3908 women elected as Christian Democrats. They launched a "Manifesto for a local government". This manifesto defined the characteristics of an imaginary town, run by and for women, on the same lines as the Women Communists' bill on the "times". (Movimento Femminile D.C., Corso Rinascimento 113, 00186 Rome).

. The complete text of the bill introduced by the women's section of the Italian Communist Party "Le donne cambiano i tempi" (Women are changing the times) is available through the Botteghe Oscure 4, 00186 Rome.

In Sicily, four women were elected to the provincial council of Catania. Elected on different tickets, they hope to introduce new practices into political life. The new members are Alba Giardina (PRI), Santa Giuffrida (Green), José Calabro and Clelia Papale (Italian Communist Party).

EMPLOYMENT: . Recent surveys of the labour market reveal a gap between the growing number of jobs for women (34% of the working population) and the posts occupied by women (3.3% of executive posts). The inadequate education of girls is undoubtedly the reason for this phenomenon. At present, girls in secondary schools are more numerous than boys. At University, in certain faculties (e.g. Economics), they represent 40% of the students. This process is recent and it will take about ten years for a genuine balance to be achieved.

Proposals from three Associations (Progetto Donna (Women's Project), CID - Centro Informazione Disoccupati (Information Centre for the Unemployed) and Orientamento Lavoro (Work Guidance)), designed to promote female employment at all levels were explained in detail at a press conference organized by the Assessorato regionale al Lavoro (Regional Work Advisory Board) of Lazio. The initiative provides for the creation of special agencies giving women a chance to build up their own image with a view to better integration into the labour market. These agencies will also offer them the opportunity to form their own companies. (Progetto Donna, Raffaella Baraldi, via Castelli 4, 25060 Mompiano, Brescia).

The development of the service sector has had the result of absorbing a large part of the female workforce. However, this phenomenon has not reduced the disparities between the sexes in the workplace. "Servizi e lavoro femminile" (The Social Services and the Employment of Women) comments on the results of a pilot project for the training of social workers drawn up by the Assessorato all'istruzione e formazione professionale della provincia di Como. (Advisory Board for vocational instruction and training for the province of Como). ("Servizi e lavoro femminile, la progettazione e gestione di servizi sociali particolari per favorire una migliore partecipazione delle donna lavoratrice al sistema produttivo; L. Frey, B. Iacobelli and R. Livraghi, Franco Angeli Libri, viale Monza 106, 20127 Milan.)

TRAINING: . The second cycle of the Women's World Banking training courses for women entrepreneurs ended with the presentation of diplomas at the Cariplo Congress Centre. 27 of the 30 women who attended the course took part in the final test. These students, aged between 29 and 50, proved their determination to follow a wide-ranging programme at post-university level (marketing, credit, planning, budget control, etc.). (Women's World Banking, via Monte di Pietà 8, Milan).

EDUCATION: . Nearly one half of all University students are women. However, a continued imbalance is apparent in choice of subjects: 80% of the women students opt for literary subjects while 83% of the young men chose engineering. Women candidates in the Engineering Faculty of the Milan Polytechnic are in a minority (12%). To remedy this situation, the Assolombarda (Lombardy manufacturers' association) has launched a scheme - the first in Italy - to raise the level of scientific studies in schools. The project will be undertaken in cooperation with the Milan Polytechnic, the

local education offices and the region of Lombardy.

Annarita Buttafuoco, historian, and Paola Tabet, ethnologist, of Siena university, have submitted a project which has already been approved in some university circles. They propose to the authorities that the forthcoming syllabus should include disciplines relating to women's historical experience, relationships between the sexes and a comparative study of sexual identity in various cultures. (Annarita Buttafuoco, Università degli studi di Siena, Dipartimento di studi storico-sociali e filosofici, via S. Fabiano 9, 52100 Arezzo.)

HEALTH: . At the end of March, the Coordinamento nazionale donne per la Legge sul Parto (Women's National Coordinating Body for the Law on Childbirth) launched a campaign to obtain signatures for a national bill on "I diritti della partoriente e i diritti del bambino in ospedale" (The rights of mother and child in hospital). The campaign will end on 30 September next. The Coordinating Body is seeking by this proposal to make childbirth a less medical experience, to inform pregnant women of their rights and the various options open to them. (Coordinamento nazionale donne per la legge sul parto, segreteria nazionale, Centro Studi e Ricerche Maternità c/o, Centro Azione Milano Donne, viale Tibaldi 41, 20136 Milan, Telephone no.: 02-58104067)

"La Sapienza", Centro di Psicosomatica e psicoterapia della donna (Psychosomatic and Psychotherapy Centre for Women) of Rome University conducts research on the role of sex in cultural values, its incidence on the sickness-health relationship, and the interdependence of emotional and psychological problems on women's health. (Centro di Psicosomatica e Psicoterapia, Università di Roma, Istituto di psichiatria, viale dell'Università 30, 00185 Rome, Telephone: 491947; Prof Emilia Costa, VI Clinica psichiatrica, piazza S. Maria della Pietà 5, 00135 Rome, Telephone no.: 336850).

The Associazione Nazionale Donne Operate al Seno (ANDOS) (National Association for Women who have undergone breast surgery) has produced a videocassette and offers a leaflet on self-examination of the breast (ANDOS, via Udine 6, 34132 Trieste).

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: . In September, the first Italian home for battered women will open in Bologna. It has been built with the support of the commune, the province and the region of Emilia-Romagna. This shelter, wholly managed by women, will also keep a telephone line open at all times. Its address will not be disclosed.

Rome will follow Bologna's example in the forthcoming months. On the initiative of Rome Province, two reception centres will be opened in a small five-storey villa in the via di Villa Pamphili. The first will be for battered women and will be managed by the Differenza Donna Association; the second will be managed by the Sisters of Charity of S. Giovanna Antida and will be open to immigrant women and children.

The commune of Como has recently published the result of a survey conducted in the Como region. ("Violenza sessuale: non basta il coraggio della denuncia, indagine sul territorio" (Sexual Violence: it is not enough to have the courage to denounce it - a survey conducted in the territory) (undertaken by Dimensione Donna, Documents and Research 47).

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: . For the first time in Italy, a case of sexual harassment in the workplace was recognised as a chargeable offence. Following a complaint made by a woman against Sergeant Cosimo Riezzo, on

duty at the Military Airport at Vigna di Valle (Bracciano) the accused was found guilty by the Court of Rome.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: . The Pari e Dispari (Equal and Unequal) Association, formed in 1988 by a group of women involved in training and research on male/female equality, supported a number of local initiatives in the Milan region. With the Association's support, the Centro Donna del Comune di Milano (Milan Commune Women's Centre) has published a very practical brochure: "I diritti delle donne" (The Rights of Women). In addition, a training course for the leaders of the local Women's Centres has been organized by the Association. During these courses, spread over 20 sessions, experts (communication, organization, training and management of the employment market) were able to analyse the problems encountered by the new social services and to propose operational models. (Pari e Dispari, Pina Madami, via Pacini 22, 20131 Milan, Telephone no.: 02/2663745).

ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS: . In May, a national seminar was held in Rome by the CIF (Centro Italiano Femminile - Italian Women's Centre) on the topic "Comparative European Social Policies". During the discussion, the role of social policies in integrating disadvantaged persons and groups (including women) was emphasised. The associations can also have a significant impact on the redefinition of these policies. (CIF, via Carlo Zucchi 25, 00165 Rome).

. The Fondazione Europea Dragan (Dragan European Foundation) has organized a cycle of biennial meetings on the topic "L'Associazionismo femminile nello sviluppo della società europea" (Female associations in the development of European society), in collaboration with the Commissione Femminile Internazionale del Movimento Europeo (International Women's Committee of the European Movement) and under the patronage of the Commission of the European Communities (Women's Information Service). The work done has highlighted the primordial role played by associations in the recognition of the status of women in Italy and Europe and the impetus they have given to the action programmes for equality launched by the Community institutions.

DOMESTIC WORK: . In the case of young couples, although the husband leaves the prior responsibility for domestic chores to his partner, he is perfectly willing to lend a hand. He is prepared to shop in the supermarket (which he likes best), to use the polisher, to take the children for a walk or to wash up. However, only 3% of husbands will do the ironing. According to an opinion poll carried out by the French company, Synapse-Res, Italy is last but one in the European Community in the sharing of domestic tasks - followed by Spain.

. Under regional law on the protection of domestic work housewives in the Latium region are insured free of charge against domestic accidents. One million accidents and 4000 deaths are recorded. Federica Rossi Gasparini, national president of the Federcasalinge (Housewives' Federation) has stressed that the next battle to be fought by women will be for recognition of and monthly payment for their domestic duties.

POLICING: . In his bill for the complete reform of military service, the Christian Democrat senator, Luigi Poli, has devoted an entire section to women. This bill, which has every chance of becoming law, provides that women will in future be able to enlist voluntarily for a period of 18 months and to become non-commissioned or regular officers. They may even aspire to

the rank of general or admiral. An even greater innovation is that they may also join the Carabinieri.

PUBLICATIONS: . "ABC Donna" is a practical guide for women through the maze of legislation. ("ABC Donna", Commissione Regionale par la Realizzazione delle pari opportunità tra uomo e donna della regione Piemonte, via Monte di Pietà 26, 10122 Turin.)

. "Donne e lavoro" (Women and work) was published by the Centro donna San Donato Milanese (San Donato Women's Centre), a local authority agency formed in October 1988. A free legal consultation centre has recently been added. (Centro donna San Donato milanese, via Unica Bolgiano, Milan, telephone no.: 02/52772397, 9h00 to 12h00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 16h00 to 19h00 on Thursdays).

. "Donne a Milano negli anni 80" (Women in Milan in the 80s) comments on changes in the status of women during this decade in a big city itself undergoing vast changes. (Centro azione donna Milano, viale Tibaldi 41, Milan. Telephone no.: 02/58104067).

. "Lavoro femminile e nuove culture" (Women's work and the new culture) summarises the results of a survey carried out by Citem (Centro per l'innovazione e la sperimentazione educativa - Centre for educational innovation and experiments) at the instigation of the Azienda Energetica municipale di Milano (Milan Municipal Energy Authority). The aim of this publication, based on factual information, was to identify the options and problems which might be dealt with by positive action. ("Lavoro femminile e nuove culture", Citem/quaderni, Franco Angeli Libri, viale Monza 106, 20127 Milan.)

. The Unione Donne Italiane (UDI) (Italian Women's Union) has recently published the first section of the inventory of the archives of the Movement on the events of 8 March, from its foundation to the present time. ("Archivio centrale, Quaderno 1, 8 marzo, UDI, Rome.)

LUXEMBOURG

EMPLOYMENT: . From 1984 to 1988, the proportion of women in the working population increased from 32% to 34%. This increase in the female workforce was particularly marked in the financial sector. At the end of 1988, 48% of bank staff were women. At the same date, women made up 49.6% of the workforce in the service industry, 6.3% in manufacturing industry and 2.1% in agriculture. A large number of women were employed in the public service, particularly in the teaching profession (at 74.8%, the highest in the European Community). Unemployment is always higher among younger women, who constitute the majority of jobless (52%) under 25 years of age. The regulations governing part-time work in the public sector have already had beneficial results on female employment in general and on the shortage of manpower in Luxembourg. This solution should be applied in the private sector also. (Ministère du Travail, 26, rue Zithe, 2939 Luxembourg, Telephone no.: 49921-1.

PART-TIME WORK: . Women members of the Social-Christian party have given their opinion on the bill relating to part-time work. The members of the National Committee feel that the regulations in question should be based on a compromise between the trade unions' and employers' positions. The bill

should both prevent the exploitation of part-time workers and avoid discrimination in favour of full-time workers by too high rates of pay for overtime. Unemployment benefit and childbirth leave would not be allowed to workers working less than twenty hours per week. (Femmes chrétiennes-sociales, 4, rue de l'Eau, 1449 Luxembourg).

FAMILY PLANNING: . "Planning familial" was formed in Luxemburg by a handful of people. During the festivities organized to celebrate its 25 years in existence, the founders recalled the history of the institution. From the beginning, great importance was accorded to the support of individuals or couples in difficulty. Thus, "Planning familial" gives advice to sterile couples, monitors persons requiring aid through difficult times, and fights illiteracy. Its work in providing information and in publicizing contraception methods has contributed to a substantial reduction in the number of abortions. At present, only 1% of women (18% in the 1960s) attending for consultation wish to terminate pregnancies. An increasing number of requests relate to psychological or relational problems. 13,000 consultations annually at three centres prove that the planning pioneers have provided a much-needed service. (Planning familial, 18-20 rue Glesener, 1630 Luxembourg, Telephone no.: 485976.)

CONJUGAL VIOLENCE: . An important event organised by the "Femmes en détresse" (Women in Distress) association has alerted public opinion to the problem of violence in families, and particularly violence towards women. Some 120 cases are recorded every year in Luxembourg by the forces of law and order. 90% of the victims recorded are women, the majority aged between 25 and 35. The police in the capital of the Grand Duchy intervened on nearly 200 occasions. Some twenty cases are taken to Court. Unfortunately, the police are often called in too late and the majority of victims do not file a complaint. And when they do so, they often withdraw it during the proceedings. In order to support women who suffer in this way, "Femmes en détresse" recommends the establishment of a service providing help 24 hours a day; it also wants to launch an educational campaign to remove the existing taboos. (Femmes en détresse, 30 avenue de la Liberté, 1930 Luxembourg.)

POSTWOMEN: . Nicole Meyers, 21 years old, will be the first woman to work in this capacity in the Grand Duchy. After completing a three-year military training period, she has recently been engaged by the Postal Services for the commune of Grevenmacher to take over round 7. A publicity and information campaign will be undertaken to attract other young women into this occupation. (Administration des P & T, 2020 Luxembourg, Telephone no.: 4765-1.)

THE NETHERLANDS

PUBLIC RELATIONS: . Since 1 May the Beuk Foundation has been considering the possibility of opening a Public Relations Advisory Bureau to organize relationships between women's movements on the one hand and political circles and the Government on the other. In a letter addressed to the Second Chamber, Elske ter Veld, Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Employment and the Dutch West Indies, alludes to a passage in the memorandum on support for emancipation policy. This memorandum points out that the women's organizations do not at present have adequate resources to influence the authorities. Particular attention will be given to the needs of black and immigrant women.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE: . The information material for the campaign "Een slimme meid is op haar toekomst voorbereid" (An intelligent young girl prepares for her future) will shortly also be available in Turkish and Arabic. The purpose of this initiative, launched last year, is to encourage young girls to take charge of their own financial affairs at the end of their studies. It is in line with "mesure 1990" (see Femmes d'Europe no. 60, page 30). According to an opinion poll carried out at the end of 1989, the campaign has been very well received by young women. Nearly 82% recognise the slogan. (Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en werkgelegenheid, afdeling voorlichting, Zeestraat 73, 2318 AA The Hague, Telephone no.: 070/715812)

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE: . The "Vrouwen Bouwen Wonen" (Women build homes) Foundation has set up an employment exchange for women intending to pursue a career in the construction sector. As a result of positive measures by an increasing number of companies, the demand for women architects and women specialists in town and country planning has substantially increased (Ms Inge van de Weem, Telephone no.: 010/4116250)

POSITIVE ACTION: . The Minister for Social Affairs and Employment recently published a brochure describing ways of implementing positive action programmes in companies. The title of this brochure is "De juiste vrouw op de juiste plaats" (The right woman in the right post) and it proposes a five-stage plan of action. It describes the experience of officials in seven companies and their attempts to encourage women to take up a professional career. The Netherlands government attributes great importance to this positive action. Its legislation to encourage positive action on behalf of women is proof of this. It provides for subsidies of about 25 000 to 50 000 florins to employers. (Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid; Centrale directie Voorlichting, Bibliotheek en Documentatie; Postbus 20801; 1500 The Hague.)

UNEMPLOYMENT: . The possibility of applying for unemployment benefit with a retroactive effect will shortly be extended, as the result of a bill tabled by the Secretary of State, Elske ter Veld, in the Second Chamber. All married women who lost their job before 23/12/1984, will still be able to

appeal under the Wet Werkloosheidsvoorziening (bill on unemployment benefit).

EMANCIPATION: . A provincial women's bureau was recently opened in Flevoland province. The aim of this public institution is to promote the emancipation of women by exerting pressure on regional bodies (employment bureau, health services, etc.) Every Netherlands province will henceforward have such a service. In addition, the big cities (Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam) have their own bureaux.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN EDUCATION: . During a recent congress on women and the administration of secondary education, the Fondation Vrouwen in Onderwijs Management (VIOM) (Women's Foundation for Education Administration) was formed. This Foundation wishes to establish a national network for women already in this profession or who intend to enter it. The long-term objective is to form working groups on the following topics: dual approach to education childcare, emancipation policy in education (Sarah Blom, Telephone no.: 020/225496).

CAREER: . Europese Beweging Nederland has devoted one issue of its publication "Europa Periodiek" to "Women, from job to career" (Vrouwen: van banen naar loopbanen). The VVD member in the Second Chamber, Ms Ginjaar Maas, wrote an article for that journal on women and the new technologies in the Europe of tomorrow. She warns that the Netherlands will be unable to meet the challenge of 1992 if the authorities persist in neglecting and wasting women's talents. This number also gives particular attention to positive measures, to women's image and to the European Community's emancipation policy. (Algemeen Secretariaat van de Europese Beweging Nederland, Alexanderstraat 2, 2514 JL The Hague, Telephone no. 070/3635952).

ABORTION: . The Coletivo Feminista Sexualidade-Saude (Sexuality-Health Feminist Group) (Brazil) won the Stimezo prize (2000 florins) awarded for the second time by the Association Nederlandse abortuklinieken Stimezo Nederland (Stimezo Nederland Abortion Clinics Association of the Netherlands). That association wishes to support the formation of medical infrastructures for voluntary termination of pregnancy and action to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The award was introduced to encourage initiatives in this field which break down taboos, allow women to take such a decision quite freely and/or supply them with legal and financially accessible assistance in the event of termination of pregnancy. (Stimezo Nederland, Pieterstraat 11, 3512 JT Utrecht, Telephone no.: 030/312531).

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: . In early May, the Secretary of State for Welfare, Public Health and Culture, Mr H. Simons, received various aids produced by the Tegen Haar Wil and Tegen Seksueel Geweld Foundations to assist victims of sexual aggression. The Associations have produced a practical guide "Hulp geboden na seksueel geweld" (Help offered after a case of sexual aggression), SUA Amsterdam, price: 27.5 florins; a videocassette "Hoe breng ik het ter sprake" (How to persuade her to speak), for training and guidance, available from the Mediateek van de Rijksvoorlichtingdienst, price: 45 florins (VHS), 80 florins (U-matic) telephone no.: 070/3564201); and a free brochure "Ik was de eerste die haar geloofde" (I was the first to believe it), (Ministerie

van Welzijn, Volksgezondheid en Cultuur, Telephone no.: 070/3406015)

IMMIGRATION: . Should immigrant women adapt to the culture of their adopted country or continue to respect their own values? - The latest number of "Inforeeks" discusses this dilemma. It gives information on foreign women living in the Netherlands and also on Dutchwomen who have emigrated to other countries. ("Inforeeks", Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad, Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL The Hague, Telephone no.: 070/469304.)

PRIZES: . The third Joke Smit prize (1989/1990) (government award for emancipation) was awarded in May by Elske ter Veld to WOUW, the Wijze Oudere Vrouwen-Vlechtwerk. The prize is a sum of 10 000 florins and a work of art. (Prix Joke Smit, 20801, 2500 EV, The Hague.)

PUBLICATION: . "Arbeidsduur, organisatie en emancipatie" (Working hours, Organizations and Emancipation), gives us a complete picture of changes in working hours, employment structures and legislation promoting the emancipation of women in matters of employment in the Netherlands. ("Arbeidsduur, organisatie en emancipatie", Marian Demeint-de Jongh, thesis submitted for her doctorate at Leiden University.)

PORTUGAL

JUSTICE: . Maria Candida de Almeida, magistrate, has recently accepted the post of deputy to the Public Prosecutor for Portugal, and is the first woman to occupy this position. During the investiture, the Public Prosecutor emphasised that this appointment was the high point so far of a career still in its early stages (begun in 1974). He also expressed his pleasure at the strong representation of women in public services (30%). (Procuradoria-Geral da República, rua da escola Politécnica 140, 1294 Lisboa Codex, Telephone no.: 570511.)

EQUAL TREATMENT: . The Commission on the Condition of Women has accused the directors of the Banco Comercial Português (BCP) of "indirect discrimination". Indeed, this bank has only 7 women in a total of 1700 employees. The director of the establishment says "that women are not available because of their family obligations". The situation has already been publicly attacked by the banking trade unions and may result in action by the European Parliament. (Grupo de Acção de Mulheres do Bancários do Sul e Ilhas, rua de S. José 131/9, 1100 Lisbon.)

. Four women journalists employed by Portuguese Radio and Television (RTP) have been the subject of disciplinary procedures with possible dismissal on grounds of the obligation of loyalty to and of non-competition with employers. Diana Andringa, Maria Antonia Palla, Maria Elisa Domingues and Margarida Marante, RTP journalists, also work with other branches of the media. The General Workers' Union (UGT) and the Movement for the Social Emancipation of Women (UMAR) publicly condemn this discriminatory attitude on the part of RTP as they consider that it violates the principle of equality in the workplace and ignores the liberties and rights guaranteed

by the Constitution. (Sindicato dos Jornalistas, rua Duques e Bragança 7/2 D, 1200 Lisbon, Telephone no.: 3464354.)

CONDITION OF WOMEN: . The Committee on the Condition of Women organized a seminar on the subject "Equality, democracy and human rights". The participants recognised that, on the whole, Portuguese legislation is not discriminatory. To achieve equality, various priorities must be taken into account, especially the need for education to change ideas about the respective roles of men and women in society, the improvement of women's situation on the labour market and the encouragement of Portuguese women to participate in public, professional and family life. (Comissão da Condição feminina, avenida da República 32/1, 1093 Lisbon Codex, Telephone no.: 7760817/4.)

MARRIAGE COUNSELLORS: . The creation of the career of marriage counsellor is essential for the development of family policy in Portugal, says Teresa Cosa Macedo, President of the International Union of Family Organizations. This career, requiring qualifications in sociology, is recognised in every country in the Council of Europe with the exception of Portugal. A training course on the subject was provided in Lisbon as long ago as 1980, but was not followed up. There is still no dialogue between the Portuguese family unit and the State, stresses Teresa Costa Macedo.

RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC WORK: . The main claim of the Housewives' Association (AMEC) is for household work to be given the status it deserves. Housewives made this point during the symposium held in Lisbon on the topic "The social function of the housewife". Formed two years ago, the Association also demands that women have the option of returning to work after childbirth without penalisation. AMEC is exerting pressure on the government to grant subsidies to women working at home, to relax the age of entry into the civil service and, possibly, to allow tax relief after more than one birth. (Maria Helena Fontainhas, rua Quinta das Palmeiras 39/7 Esq. 2870 Oeiras, Telephone no.: 2466330.)

WOMEN'S BANK: . The Women's Bank in Portugal does not operate in accordance with the traditional plan. This non profit-making association working in parallel with banks, encourages them to grant loans to women business heads and to negotiate interest rates no higher than those currently charged. The other banks are still mistrustful of projects managed by women, who must always have the backing of their husbands. (Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Empresarias, rua Castilho 50/9, 1000 Lisbon, Telephone no.: 534752/575833.)

BACK STREET ABORTIONS: . The maternal mortality rate has fallen in Portugal. Nevertheless, it is still a cause for concern, although the factors responsible are well-known (low socio-economic level, age of women, back street abortions). A study shows that abortion remains the principal cause of death, after puerperal fever. Eclampsia (syndrome affecting

pregnant women, characterised by convulsions accompanied by coma) comes third. Abortion mainly concerns women between 15 and 34 years while women between 35 and 44 are more likely to suffer haemorrhage. The mortality rate is lowest (7.5%) in the 20 to 24 age group and highest in the 35 to 49 age group, with a peak at ages 45/49. (Serviço de Informação de Saúde da Direcção dos Cuidados de Saúde Primários, Alameda D. Afonso Henriques 45, 1056 Lisbon Codex, Telephone no.: 3524515.)

ARMY: . The Portuguese army now has 5 new officers: Angela Pinheiro, 26 years, pharmacist; Carmo Rocha e Silva, 27 years, doctor; Fatima Jorge, 28 years, pharmacist; Helena Pinto, 29 years, doctor, and Margarida Figueiredo, 25 years, pharmacist. Unlike their 147 male colleagues, they have volunteered for barrack life. (Estado Maior do Exército, Serviço de Relações públicas, rua do Museu de Artilharia, 1196 Lisbon Codex.)

UNION OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING WOMEN: . The International Union of Portuguese-speaking women (President: Maria de Jesus Barroso) has been formed in Lisbon. It covers Portugal, Brazil and the Portuguese-speaking African countries (200 million inhabitants). Its aim is to promote the role of women at all levels and to defend and disseminate Portuguese-language culture. The executive committee of this organization is led by Teresa Costa Macedo with fellow-members Manuela Aguilar, Helena Cidade Moura, Maria do Rosário, René Gomes et Fátima Azevedo. (Teresa Costa Macedo, Telephone no.: 01/679072.)

APPOINTMENT: . The rector of Coimbra university has appointed Teresa Soares Mendes, associate professor in the Faculty of Science and Technology, to the post of deputy-rector. In the 700 years since the foundation of the university, only two other women professors have occupied managerial posts. (Reitoria da Universidade de Coimbra, 3000 Coimbra, Telephone no.: (039) 22033/22095.)

PUBLICATIONS: . The 29th number of the Newsheets published by the Committee on the Condition of Women, "As mulheres, a identidade cultural e a defesa nacional" (Women, cultural identity and national defence) includes, inter alia, the reports of the seminar held in April 1989 (Lisbon) at the instigation of the National Defence Ministry and the Committee on the Condition of Women. The aim of the seminar was to discuss and encourage studies on women's role in awakening awareness of a Portuguese cultural identity, and consequently, its protection.

"Heroines in expansion and discovery" is the title of a little book published by the Committee on the Condition of Women. This book reviews the historical contribution of women to overseas conquest. (Cadernos Condição feminina, no. 29 et 31, Comissão da Condição feminina, avenida da República 32/1°, 1093 Lisbon Codex, Telephone no.: 776081/722965.)

UNITED KINGDOM

ABORTION: . After a two-day debate in the House of Commons, members of parliament adopted 24 weeks as the time limit for terminating pregnancy instead of 28 weeks as had been the case since the 1967 Abortion Act. In a free vote, the majority of members clearly agreed with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (taking account of medical progress) on a period of 24 weeks.

EQUALITY: . After fighting for six years to win her rights in a case of wage discrimination, Donna Todd received compensation of £6000 from her employer Tennants Textile Colours Limited. Ms Beverley Jones, Chief Officer of the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunity Commission, declared that she was "delighted that the case of Todd versus Tennant Textile Colours Ltd. had finally reached a satisfactory conclusion although it highlighted the problems and obstacles encountered by women who take legal action against discrimination based on sex". (Beverley Jones, Chief Equality Officer of the Commission, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA, Telephone no.: 242752.)

TRADE UNIONS: . Over 300 women trade unionists and members of voluntary organizations recently took part in a Conference in London on the way in which the European Community is affecting the life of women all over Europe. The participants listened to speeches from women trade unionists from various member states of the Community. The workshops dealt with the following topics: the Community's policies with regard to childcare, the allocation of maternity and parental leave, sexual harassment, the equality law, health, security and pensions. The role of the various European institutions and how they should be used were also discussed in detail. The conference stressed the commitment of British trade unions to the ideals of the European Community and in particular to the equality and social policies. (Trades Union Congress, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.)

TRAINING: . Training 2000 (directed by the Scottish Institute for Further Adult Education), an organization formed to promote more and better-quality training courses for Scottish women, has appointed Morag Alexander (UK correspondent for "Femmes d'Europe" (Women of Europe)) as coordinator. In collaboration with the public, private and voluntary sectors, Training 2000 will act as an information centre for the training of women, supplying examples of successful experiments and regular information on training, by means of a quarterly journal. (Training 2000, SIACE, 30 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BW.)

. Some 90 000 women will return to work during the next ten years. A one-day workshop organised in May last by "Women and Training" attracted representatives from many bodies which recognised that recruitment was not adequate to attract and retain personnel to meet the challenges presented by the population changes and increasing lack of skills of the 90s. (Women & Training, Hewmar House, 120 London Road, Gloucester GL1 3PL, Telephone no.: 0452 309 330.)

POLICE FORCES: . As part of the new equality measures drawn up with the cooperation of the EOC (Equal Opportunities Commission), women employed by the London Metropolitan Police Force can henceforth be armed and will also be able to join law and order units, control traffic and work as dog handlers.

PHYSICISTS: . The Institute of Physicists wishes to encourage more women to study physics and to assist women physicists not at present pursuing their career to resume their activities. The Institute has formed a Subcommittee for Women in Physics and has published a manual concerning career breaks especially for women physicists. The subcommittee would like to contact groups with similar aims in the member States to exchange ideas to encourage more women to become physicists or to reenter the profession. (Women in Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X BOX).

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: . A survey has been conducted among all the students and members of Lancashire Polytechnic (10 300 persons) to discover attitudes towards and experiences of sexual harassment in that establishment. A conference will be organized in October next to allow equal opportunity officers, trade union delegates and students, researchers, etc. to share their knowledge and experience. The conference report will include their documents, workshop reports, survey results and copies of the new policies to be put into operation by the Lancashire Polytechnic in order to combat sexual harassment. A bibliography will also be included. (Lancashire Polytechnic, Faculty of Health and Social Studies, Preston PR1 2TQ, Telephone no.: 0772 201201).

EQUALITY: . The Women's Unit of Birmingham City Council (formed in 1984) is actively engaged in the struggle for women's equality. It has encouraged positive action in favour of training, the safety of women, etc. Through the work of the Women's Unit, the City Council ensures that questions important to women will continue to form an integral part of the political decision-making process and the services provided. (Women's Unit, Congreve House, 3 Congreve Passage, Birmingham B3 3DA, Telephone no.: 021-235 2549 - a leaflet on the activities of the Women's Unit is available in many languages.)

PORNOGRAPHY: . English bookselling chains have been influenced by the campaign against pornography. Accordingly, Granada Motorway Services will no longer display cover pages of pornographic magazines while the largest booksellers, W.H. Smith, after receiving a petition signed by 30 000 customers, announced that they will review their policy of stocking and distributing these magazines.

SPORT: . The crew of the yacht MAIDEN (12 women), the first exclusively female crew to finish the 33 000 mile journey round the world, sailed into Southampton at the end of May. Captained by Tracy Edwards during their 9 months at sea, the crew weathered storms, nearly collided with an iceberg and narrowly missed a whale. Tracy Edwards, who had requested the help of

300 companies, finally found a sponsor in Royal Jordanian Airlines who had every confidence in the crew.

EVENTS: . The ninth International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists was held in Warwick in July 1990. It was open to all engineers and scientists, to women who had chosen this career and to all those interested in promoting the development of women's status. The event is intended to be a technical forum, to demonstrate the achievements of women engineers and scientists to the world, to extend international cooperation and exchange experiences and to discuss technical and social problems affecting women scientists and engineers. (ICWES Conference Secretariat, Congress House, 55 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RE.)

ART: . The Women Artists Slide Library houses a collection of slides, books, press cuttings and posters produced by women. Membership of WASL gives access to an international network of women working in the visual arts and to a range of services including a reference library and the WASL journal. (WASL, Fulham Palace, Bishops Avenue, London SW6 6EA.)

AWARDS: . The Fawcett Society, whose members have fought for equality since 1866, awards an annual prize to a woman responsible for a positive action in the feminist cause. This year, because of a fall-off in the recruitment of women in the field of information technology, and in order to attract more women to this career, the prize was awarded to a worker in this particular sector. (The Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Road, London SE11 5AY, Telephone no.: 071-587 1287.)

PUBLICATIONS: . The Trades Union Congress publishes "Women and Europe: A Trade Union Guide". This is the first practical guide to the European Community to be used by trade unions, local authorities and other organizations and individuals interested in the impact of 1992 on the position of women. (Available at a price of £2.50 plus postage and packing from: TUC Publications, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.)

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

OPERATION PHARE: . In early May, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs for the European Community adopted the 5-year TEMPUS programme (with a pilot stage of 3 years). TEMPUS is aimed at the specific needs of countries of eastern and central Europe, and is in line with the tradition of the ERASMUS and LINGUA programmes. A budget of 20 million ECU will be allocated to Poland and Hungary to be spent on about 335 joint projects and 1000 scholarships to be awarded to teachers and students and to staff from industry and the civil service. The main aim of the programme is to make a significant contribution to the medium and long-term development of higher education and training establishments in the countries of northern Europe.

Within the context of the action to support the current process of economic and social reform in Hungary and in Poland, the Commission has taken

a number of decisions to provide finance for priority sectors (agriculture, investment, environment and training). The total sums committed will in consequence be increased to 142 million ECU. The 1990 budget at present includes 300 million ECU in direct aid to the two countries; to this have to be added the IEB and ECSC loans and the possibility of finance from counterpart funds in Poland. All these measures should be finalized before the end of the year.

EAST GERMANY: . The new east-German government, consisting of 23 members, was formed in mid-April. Four women ministers were appointed: Ms Sybille Reider (SPD), Minister for Commerce and Tourism; Ms Régine Hildebrandt (SPD), Minister of Labour and Social Affairs; Ms Cordula Schuber (CDU), Minister for Youth and Sport and Ms Christa Schmidt (CDU), Minister for the Family and the Condition of Women.

. At the end of February , the newly-revived German Council for Peace appointed its new president. Ms Barbel Schindler-Saefkow, doctor of history, has always campaigned for education for peace. ("Informations", issued monthly by the German Council for Peace in the German Democratic Republic Invalidenstrasse 120/121, Berlin, 1040, DDR PSF 120.)

. In late April, the first seminar organised by the Deutsche Frauenrat (German Women's Council) for the women of the German Democratic Republic (10 million members) was held. The topic discussed "The wall is down - what next?" was designed to promote women's interests in the process of German unification and subsequent European integration. On this occasion, 27 women and 10 children from the Democratic Republic were able to meet a large delegation from the Federal Republic (40). They discussed important topics such as employment, unemployment, social security, the influence of women in politics and children's rights. The discussions helped participants to recognise the European dimension of these problems. The children made a number of demands concerning their future. They accept the principle of a society where the principles of competition and performance are applied, but they reject the "law of the strongest".

BULGARIA: . The struggle of Bulgarian women for their rights has developed parallel to the rise of the workers' movement. The first law relating to working conditions for women and children in industry was passed in 1905, allowing inter alia one month's maternity leave. In 1937, women were granted the right to vote (under certain conditions), and, as from September 1944, all Bulgarian women without exception acquired political rights. They may now stand for election and be appointed to government posts. In 1974, the Council of State approved a long-term programme to improve the role of women in Bulgarian society. In July 1985, a new family code, even more favourable to women's demands, entered into force.

HUNGARY: . The first free elections in Hungary were held this year. Voters went to the polls twice, at the end of March and then at the beginning of April. Before the beginning of the electoral campaign 65 parties received

official recognition but only 12 were able to participate in the elections. Hungary has a population of 10.5 million of whom 7.7 million have the vote, although only 5 million exercised the privilege. The Democratic Forum (MDF) won with 42.6% of the votes. Of the 386 seats in Parliament, 28 were gained by women (7.2% of all members of parliament). Women members were, it seems, better represented under the Communist system. The women elected were from the ranks of the MDF (8) the Alliance of Free Democrats (8), the Hungarian Socialist Party (5), the small Landowners' Independent Party (3), the Federation of Young Democrats (2), the Christian Democrats and the Agricultural Alliance (one member each). The average age of these women members is 41. The majority have a university degree and a job. At the end of May, the MDF formed a centre-right coalition with the Small Landowners' Party and the Christian Democrats. All the ministerial posts have been given to men, with the exception of the Under-Secretaryship of State to the Ministry of Finance.

Questions of male/female equality were not among the main concerns of the majority of parties and were missing ~~them~~ from their manifestoes. However, women want to take their future in hand. Among other projects, they want to produce a television programme for Hungarian women and to establish a study centre in a provincial university.

In the capital, Budapest, a small group of independent women has been formed. They plan to open an information centre, establish a data bank, publish a bulletin and organise networks with women from other countries in both eastern and western Europe. Their needs are enormous. (Contact: Anna Pavlov, 1023 Budapest, Frankel L.U., 68/b, Hungary, Telephone no.: 36 11 362-013; in Belgium: Marie-Françoise Stewart, rue du Beau-Site 36, 1050 Brussels, Telephone no.: 646.45.35).

POLAND: . In 1989, a genuine feminist movement emerged. One of its primary objectives is to maintain in force the present legislation on abortion; this law legalizing the termination of pregnancy dates from the sixties. Since early last year, the Polish Catholic Church has waged a bitter campaign against abortion (even in the event of rape) and in February 1989, an anti-abortion bill was submitted to parliament. This measure resulted in women mobilising. In July 1989, they formed the Association of Polish Women (PFA) in Warsaw, officially recognised in October 1989. Since the end of the year, the PFA has formed itself into networks of independent groups and has defined a common platform: facilitation and encouragement of women's initiatives, opposition to all forms of discrimination and to the anti-abortion bill.

The PFA intends to create a woman's centre which will first and foremost, constitute a meeting-place. The organizers also hope to open a library at the centre, organize a legal bookshop, install a "help for women from women" telephone line, and publish a bulletin. Ideas are not lacking but financial resources and equipment are in short supply. (Barbara Lima-Nowska, Nieuwe Herengracht 151 B, 1011 SG Amsterdam, Telephone no.: 020/26.06.02.)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: . The extraordinary Congress of the Czechoslovak Union of Women was held in Prague in April last. The Union was dissolved at the Congress. It formerly combined the Czech Union of Women (President: Ms Hana

Lagova) and the Slovak Union of Women. This latter has now been given the new name of Democratic Union of the Women of Slovakia (President: Darina Kulinova). These two federations have become totally independent, and are preparing their own individual programmes and establishing their own management and consultant bodies. (Ms Eva Mickova, Panska 7, 111 53, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia, Telephone no.: 26.83.75 or 22.21.92/extension 132, 241, 244, 246, 247.)

USSR: . Women's Councils (285 000) are distributed all over the Soviet Union. They support the demands of the Soviet Women's Committee (CFS) which subsidizes them. These non-governmental organizations work for the improvement of working conditions for women, acting in conjunction with the women's branches of the trade unions.

. 92% of the active female population works or studies. The level of education of female students is high, with 61% of pupils in specialised secondary schools and higher education institutions. However, maternity often hinders their social advancement. Until a short time ago, women could stay at home until their child was aged eighteen months and still receive part of their wages. A new law allows them to remain at home for three years, still keeping their job and taking account of the years of seniority. However, Soviet legislation provides for refresher courses for women with a child under 8 years of age. Unfortunately, the people concerned are often ill-informed and companies do not always organize the required courses.

. Svetlana Aleksievic, woman of letters, a native of Minsk, and author of the book "War does not have a female face", carried out research into the condition of women during the 40-45 war. One million women volunteers fought in that war, fighting in the front line under the same conditions as men. They were victims of discrimination and rape and were subjected to intimidation and threats from their officers. (Extract from the Landes- frauenrat bulletin, Berlin e.v., Gisela Gassen, Haus An Lützowplatz 9 3°, 1000 Berlin.)

. Following the latest elections (end January 1990) in Lithuania, the Sajudis nationalist party (formed in October 1988) won nearly 80% of the seats. In mid-March, members of parliament proclaimed the independence of this Baltic state, annexed by the USSR in 1940. A week later, they elected the three principal members of their government (Prime Minister and two Deputies). They appointed Ms Kazimiera Prunskiene, aged 47 and an economist by profession, as Prime Minister.

IN EUROPE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA: . In April last, BASP, (European Bureau for Action on Smoking Prevention) submitted its report on the 7th World Conference on Tobacco and Health, held in Australia. The organizers of this event welcomed the creation of an international network of women against tobacco and invited the international organizations represented at the Conference to make a financial contribution towards its development (BASP, rue des Atrébates, 117, 1040 Brussels.)

"Sisters in suits" by Marian Sawer, describes how Australian feminists took advantage of the opportunities offered to them in the seventies and eighties to assert their authority in public life. This book analyses the bureaucratic and political systems. Many women who have played a political role describe their victories and defeats. The author, Marian Sawer, has also played a part in Australian political life and has published a large number of books on this subject ("Sisters in suits") Allen and Unwin Australia, 2/90, P.O. Box 764, North Sydney 2059).

CANADA: . In early June, the Canadian group FRAPPE (Femmes regroupées pour l'accessibilité au pouvoir politique et économique - Women's Campaign for Access to Political and Economic Power) organized the first World Summit on "Women and the Multidimensionality of Power". This event saw the formation of an international network for mutual aid and exchange, demonstrating the determination of women to occupy the place which is theirs by right in the twenty-first century. The subject of power was discussed in workshops which studied the relationship between power on the one hand and politics, economics, the media, the law, the arts, etc. on the other hand. (FRAPPE, rue Sherbrooke Est 822, Bureau 322, Montreal (Quebec), Canada.)

DOMINICA: . Ms Eugenia Charles, Conservative Prime Minister, won the parliamentary elections in Dominica (Lesser Antilles) for the third time. Ms Charles, a 71-year-old lawyer, led the Freedom Party to victory as the result of a campaign based on the economic results achieved by her government after a period of tax reductions and lower inflation, together with improvement of road and water infrastructures. The Freedom Party won 11 of the 21 seats.

INDIA: . The system whereby a dowry is provided by brides when they marry, although illegal, is still widely practised in India, sometimes resulting in tragedy. In cases where the husband's family does not receive the full dowry, the young bride becomes a slave of her in-laws and is subjected to all kinds of humiliations. Sometimes the in-laws will not even hesitate to "arrange her disappearance" if they fail to hound her into suicide. The State of Gujarat has an unhappy record of 6 deaths every day because of dowry problems, and the results of a survey submitted to Parliament in 1989 revealed that 922 women had been burned alive in 1988. Very recent new legislation provides that when a young woman is the "victim of an accident" less than 5 years after her marriage, the law may presume that it is the result of an "unpaid dowry" and the in-laws then have to prove that this is not the case. ("The Ways of the Orient", no. 35, April 90.)

TURKEY: . Istanbul is the first town in Turkey to provide a library for women which is also an information centre. It opens its doors at a time when women's rights hold an important place on the modern Turkish scene. It aims to centralise everything relating to Turkish women: books written by and/or on women, statistics, press articles, posters, etc... The library will also pursue a policy for the preservation and propagation of the cultural heritage of Turkish women.

DEVELOPMENT: . The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) recently published a world report from which it appears that women are still the victims of discrimination (reinforced by education) from a very early age. A large part of the work done by women still remains "invisible". A radical change with regard to development is required from the countries directly concerned and from the financial institutions and donors. The authors of the report recommend greater investment in the abilities of women in order to make them an integral part of human development strategies for the nineties.

HEALTH: . The World Health Organization announced that the next "World AIDS Day" (1 December 1990) would be on the subject of "Women and AIDS".

ORGANIZATIONS: . The purpose of the Mouvement Mondial des Mères (The World Movement of Mothers) (MMM), formed in 1947, is to assist mothers to take full control of their family and social responsibilities, to represent mothers in national and international life, and to assert the fundamental social function of mothers and secure its recognition by public opinion. The MMM consists of national associations and organizations subscribing to the "Mother's Charter" and sympathisers. In May, the MMM held a European Symposium in Brussels to discuss the following topics: the European Community and families, aid to mothers in the Federal Republic of Germany, television, the education of children in a swiftly changing Africa, the family and its stages, etc. (Mouvement Mondial des Mères, av. de Tervueren 66, Bte 1, B-1040 Brussels).

. The Women's Committee of the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), formed in 1959, studies everything affecting the lives of women workers and proposes policies for the promotion of equality. Consisting of women trade unionists from all over the world, it ensures that all the activities of the ICFTU and its members take account of women's interests. The Women's Committee publishes an information bulletin "Femmes syndicalistes en action" - "Women Trade Unionists in Action" and brochures dealing with women's problems. (ICFTU, 37, rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères, 1000, Brussels B).

MANAGEMENT: . A seminar on increasing the numbers of women in management was held last May in Helsinki. Organized by the European Women's Management Development Network, the aim of this Seminar was to assess the position of women in management, encourage measures to attract more women to enter this profession and to exchange information and experience (EWMD, Pirkko Timonen, Telephone no.: +358 0 6090 6272.)

PUBLICATIONS: . The "Femmes et Hommes dans l'Eglise" - "Women and Men in the Church" Association publishes an international quarterly bulletin, in which men and, more particularly, women set down their thoughts and findings regarding the place, role and relationships of women and men in the Church (Femmes et Hommes dans l'Eglise, rue Saint Benoit 14, 75006 Paris.)

LATIN AMERICA

COOPERATION: . Having recently adopted new guidelines for cooperation with Latin America and Asian countries, the Commission of the European Communities has made proposals to the Council and the European Parliament for cooperation in the following fields in particular: aid for the development of the poorer communities, economic cooperation with regions with a high growth potential and particular attention to environmental problems. The new guidelines are accompanied by a 5-year (1991-1995) budget for a total sum of 2 900 million ECU.

ARGENTINA: . The Red de Programas Universitarios de la Mujer on America Latina y el Caribe (Network of University Study Programmes for Women in Latin America and the Caribbean) was formed last Autumn at the initiative of the Proyecto de Estudios de la Mujer (Women's Studies Project) of Cayey University in Puerto Rico. The organizers of this network plan to draw up common and complementary courses, to define investigation priorities and undertake comparative studies, to publish a thematic academic review and an information bulletin for the Network, and to establish a system of international scholarships and courses for students in various Network programmes (Headquarters of the Network: Facultad de Psicologia, Hipolito Yrigoyen 3238, Buenos Aires 1207, Argentina.)

BOLIVIA: . The Consejo Nacional de Población (National Population Council) is the central directing body responsible for promoting, coordinating and integrating action relating to the size, characteristics and movement of the population, this action being undertaken by State and private institutions coordinated by the Ministry for Planning and Coordination. CONAPO has published an information brochure (INFOPAQ) on the Bolivian population. INFOPAQ is intended mainly for journalists, researchers and students interested in social conditions in the country and consists of a dossier giving a brief analysis of the following subjects: population and development, resources, environment, migration, reproduction rate and health. It also contains a series of rapid consultation cards. (CONAPO, Av. Arce No. 2147, Bloque Central, 2do Piso, La Paz, Bolivia.)

BRAZIL: . The Centro Nacional Bertha Lutz (Bertha Lutz National Centre) for the assistance, education and promotion of women and the family, publishes a periodical bulletin entitled "Mulher" (Woman) giving information on health, contraception methods, etc. It also distributes information on various associations and movements for the rights of men and women. In order to continue to play its role of providing information, the organization would be glad to receive financial or material aid (Centro Nacional Bertha Lutz, Rua Santo Alfonso 110, Gr 605/606, Rio de Janeiro).

. NEM (Nucleo de Estudos sobre a Mulher - Central Organization of Women's Studies) is the first study centre on women to be incorporated into a large Brazilian University. It forms part of the Department of Social Sciences of the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. NEM organizes meetings, seminars and lectures to promote the study of women's problems. It issues

many publications on the subject as well as a periodical information bulletin. (NEM, Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro, Rua Marquês de São Vicente 225, Cavéa, Rio de Janeiro, CEP 22453, Telephone No.: 259 92288.)

CHILE: . SERNAM (Servicio Nacional de la Mujer - National Department for Women) was formed "to respond to the needs of modern society in which women are beginning to take a significant place by talking to the State to establish, coordinate and assess the policies and planned measures which concern them" (SERNAM, Villavicencio 346, Santiago, Chile).

COSTA RICA: . The law for the promotion of social equality for women has recently been passed, particularly as a result of support from President Oscar Arias and the National Centre for the Development of Women and the Family and many others. The law provides that political parties must frame their statutes so as to guarantee the participation of women, quotas for the allocation of seats in parliament and for management posts in public institutions. The law also enacts measures for childcare, for the protection of pregnant women and for the punishment of acts of sexual violence. One of the strong points of this new law is the creation of an official "Defensoria de la Mujer" (Women's Defence Department) (Extract from the periodical *Mujer/fempres*, Casilla 16-637, Santiago 9, Chile).

ECUADOR: . The Instituto Ecuatoriano de Investigaciones y Capacitación de la Mujer - Ecuadorian Institute for Research and Qualification of Women (IECAIM) is an Ecuadorian body for the promotion and inclusion of women in the development process. The Institute undertakes research, training and popularisation activities, contributing towards the incorporation of women into the mainstream of the country's development. It works in collaboration with national and international organizations. IECAIM is an autonomous body within the United Nations Organization and is supported by various public and non-governmental organizations (IECAIM, Calle Luis Felipe Borja 217, 4to piso, Ecuador, Telephone no.: 563-232 525-517).

MEXICO: . A Latin-American Seminar on Feminine Anthropology was held in June last in Mexico. Organized by Ms Elena Urrutia, director of the women's interdisciplinary study programme for the College of Mexico, this event was designed to revise and update knowledge of this subject and to prepare for the World Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences to be held in August 1993 in the Mexican Capital. During this Seminar, Mr Erwan Fuéré promised the support of the Commission of the European Communities (of which he is the delegate in Mexico) for this event and any other such events supporting the equality of women.

NICARAGUA: . The Government, headed by Ms Violeta Chamorro, recently elected Ms Myriam Arguello (63 years), lawyer, as President of the new parliament.

PERU: . The Latin-America Committee for the defence of women's rights was formed in July 1987 to combine individual and collective efforts for the

defence of women's rights in Latin America. At present, CLADEM (Comite Latino Americano por la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer - Latin American Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights) includes among its members women from many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together forming a liaison group responsible for creating contacts to motivate the formation of national committees for women's rights. Taking account of the constant increase in political and social violence in the countries concerned, CLADEM invites individuals and groups working directly for the protection of women's rights to form a Latin American chain of solidarity for emergency measures; this chain would become an instrument allowing immediate response to violation of political and civil rights (CLADEM, Apartado Postal 11-0470, Lima 11, Peru).

URUGUAY: . Last May in Montevideo, an exhibition with the theme "Women seen by Women" attracted a large number of participants. Organized by the Bureau for Latin America of the Commission of the European Communities (based in Caracas, Venezuela), this event included a photography competition. Nearly 300 participants submitted some 2400 photos, 40 of which were selected and now form a mobile exhibition for Latin America, which we hope soon to be able to welcome in Europe. The links between Europe and Latin America (always echoed by Femmes d'Europe - Women of Europe) grow ever-closer and the establishment of a dialogue is increasingly essential. For information: Servicio de Información para America Latina, Avenida Orinoco Las Mercedes, Caracas 1060, Venezuela.

VENEZUELA: . A women's study section (attached to the Literary Research Institute) has recently been formed at the University de Los Andes, Mérida. Among the objectives to be pursued will be: research into the role of women in history and in all areas of knowledge of human activity in order to allow women to appreciate their own value and to analyse woman's ability to change herself so that, independently of her social origin, she may know and exercise her rights (Instituto de Investigaciones Literarias - Literary Research Institute), Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida, 5101, Venezuela, Telephone no.: 442 854).

BOOKS

HISTORY: . In May 1968, the French feminist movement regained strength - obtained its second wind. It benefited from the development of education and the job opportunities offered to women in the society of the sixties. The MLF attacked sexual taboos. Women regained awareness and possession of their bodies. A specific culture emerged, another artistic language was created. Exhibitions, events, publishing houses proliferated. 1981 saw the victory of the Left in France. Feminism became an institution and a ministry for the rights of women was created. The movement achieved certain reforms and non-militant groups took advantage of these reforms to find a niche. Ossified by these tenuous gains, the revolts became stifled. The feminists were not able to change Society completely but the coming generations will undoubtedly provide the energy needed by the Movement. (For "De l'utopie à l'intégration, histoire des mouvements de femmes" (From Utopia to

integration, the story of women's movements), Monique Rémy, see below.)

"Chronique d'une passion" (Chronicle of a passion) is more specifically concerned with the history of the women's movement in Lyons. Written as a narrative, the book re-lives the struggles and victories of the women of Lyons, their questions and their sometimes excessive attempts to change Society and to create new behaviour patterns. This study is also a cry of alarm as the feminist movement has collapsed. The current indifference of women favours a revival of concepts more favourable to men. ("Chronique d'une passion, le mouvement de libération des femmes à Lyon" (Chronicle of a passion, the women's liberation movement in Lyons), Centre Lyonnais d'études féministes, Logiques sociales, Editions l'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole-Polytechnique, 75005 Paris.)

SOCIOLOGY: . The role, image, and status of the Secretary remains unclear. The women concerned too often have a distorted perception of their function and of the position they occupy in the professional hierarchy. This book supplies a need and gives us a scientific approach to a misunderstood profession. ("La secrétaire modèle, étude sociologique" (The model secretary - a sociological study), Françoise Messant-Laurent, Logiques sociales, Editions l'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole-Polytechnique, 75005 Paris.)

"Gender Inequality" presents a comparative analysis of discrimination and of the level of participation offered to women in the international community (Italy and Poland). ("Gender Inequality, a Comparative Study of Discrimination and Participation", Mino Vianello and Renata Siemienska, Sage publications, 28 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE.)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: . The first international symposium on this subject was held in Paris in Spring 1989. "De l'abus de pouvoir sexuel" - (The abuse of sexual power), is the result of the symposium. The work looks at recent studies on violence in the workplace in Europe, exposés on the situation in Canada and the United States of America where measures have been taken to combat this "social evil" and European policies on the subject including those pursued by both trade unions and employers. ("De l'abus de pouvoir sexuel, le harcèlement sexuel au travail", Association Européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail (AVFT), Editions La Découverte/Le Boréal, 1 place Paul-Painlevé, 75005 Paris, Telephone no.: 46.33.41.16).

DIRECTORY: . "The American Woman, 1990-91, a status report" is the third of a series of reports dealing with the social, economic and political status of the American woman. (Women's Research and Education Institute/WREI.)

The above Institute recently published a directory of American Study and Research Centres concerned with publications about women. ("A directory of selected research and policy centres working on women's issues", WREI, 1700 18th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington D.C. 20009, Telephone no.: 202/328-0579 or 202/328-7070.)

NOVELS: . The complexity of women's lives is not easily portrayed off-the-cuff, whereas short stories and novels take us right inside their daily lives.

. "C'est moi qui souligne" (My underlining!) gives us the first-hand account by Nina Berbérova of a milieu and a period little known to the West. The autobiography of this Russian writer, born in 1901 in St Petersburg, allows us to relive the tumultuous period of the Russian Revolution. In 1922, she had to take a decision to go into exile. Then came the second world war and all its attendant privations. This exceptional, highly adaptable woman concentrated her full attention on literature from which she drew strength and inspiration. Her book, translated into French, is distributed by Editions Actes Sud. "C'est moi qui souligne", N. Berbérova, translated from the Russian by A. & R. Mislin, Actes Sud, Le Méjan, 13200 Arles, Telephone no.: 90498691.)

. "Les Bienheureuses" (The Happy Ones) takes us to India in the tracks of five women. These portraits by Indian authors tell us without over-emphasis of the hardships of a Society where women still have very few rights. Destined to marry from birth, the young girl will be transferred from a home (where she still enjoys a certain freedom) to the household of her husband's family. Cut off from her roots, she is very often at the entire mercy of the caprices of her in-laws. Women remain subject to the constraints of society and their longings for economic independence are still misunderstood. Nevertheless, among modern couples, an increasing number of young Indian women manage to preserve a minimum of intimacy and communication with their husbands. ("Les Bienheureuses", translated from the Hindi by Nicole Balbir de Tugny, Lettres asiatiques, India, Editions l'Harmattan, see address below.)

. Johannesburg 1966-1967, Muriel, a black South African, has already had some experience of the world of work when she takes a job as a typist at Metropole Radios (furniture and radio shops). However, she is still unaware of all the subtleties of apartheid. A "colour bar" systematically separates clients and employees from the two different worlds. Muriel gradually becomes aware of being an involuntary cog in this inegalitarian wheel. This novel was banned in South Africa (1979). ("Entre deux mondes" (Between two worlds), Miriam Tlali, Editions L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole-Polytechnique, 75005 Paris.)

. Short stories show us the universe of Mariama (Senegal), a harmonious blend of tradition, personal experience and confrontation with bustling modern life. The fresh and spontaneous voice of this author sometimes verges on pure poetry and lyricism. "De vous à moi" Mariama Ndoye, Editions Présence Africaine, see address below).

. "Shaba deux", what is more ordinary than an intimate diary? In a plain telegraphic style, Sister Marie-Gertrude, a black Franciscan nun from Kolwezi, describes to us the rapid disintegration of her community, divided and terrorised by events. The only African member of the congregation, she feels the full weight of the questions and mistrust of her fellow European worshippers. Strong in her vows, and faithful to her philosophical convictions, she will follow her destiny. This narrative opens the window for us on the powerless multitude in a civil war which was abundantly reported in the press at the time. ("Shaba deux, les carnets de Mère Marie-Gertrude", V.Y. Mudimbe, Editions Présence Africaine, 25 bis rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris.)