DECLARATION

PRESENTED BY

PRINCESS ASHRAF PAHLAVI
OF
IRAN

TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR
PREFACE

As President of the Iranian Women’s Organization and Chairman of the Iranian Human Rights Committee as well as other social and educational institutions, Princess Ashraf Pahlavi has for many years been an advocate of equal rights for women and has been active in this field at both the national and international levels.

In the past, the Princess has chaired several important international gatherings, including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the International Human Rights Conference held in Tehran in 1968. At such meetings, Her Highness has constantly condemned discrimination against women in particular and has underlined the need for them to participate more actively in the social, economic and educational fields.

On the 10th of December 1974 (Human Rights Day), shortly before International Women’s Year, a Ceremony was held in New York where the Princess presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, a Declaration emphasizing the inequalities and discrimination that women continue to suffer throughout the world and the need for greater efforts to ensure real equality between men and women.

Earlier, in a letter addressed to the Heads of Member States of the United Nations, the Princess had invited them to endorse the Declaration, which had been strongly supported by His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran—stressing that this would constitute an extremely valuable contribution to the success of International Women’s Year.

The reader will find in the following pages:
1. The Declaration
2. The text of the speeches delivered on that occasion by Ms. Helvi Sipila, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; by Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi; and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. Replies from Heads of State or Government in chronological order.
DECLARATION

The fundamental principle of the equality of rights of men and women has been proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirmed in other international covenants and instruments.

The United Nations in addition has repeatedly recognized, as in the International Conference on Human Rights, that peace cannot be maintained nor can economic and social progress be assured without the full participation of women alongside men in all fields.

Unfortunately, progress in this direction has been extremely slow and there is still a wide gap between accepted principles and established practices.

Our hope of seeing women become a new source of equilibrium and harmony in society is based on the elimination of traditional forms of segregation in the division of labour in general.

We earnestly hope that on the occasion of International Women's Year, which is to begin on 1 January 1975, all States will consider taking concrete measures to this end.
Statement by Ms. Helvi Sipila
Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
Secretary-General
International Women's Year and
World Conference of the International Women's Year

I am privileged to welcome you, Your Imperial Highness, as an interpreter of the feelings of the international community toward International Women’s Year.

You are certainly in the best position to appreciate our sentiments and to convey faithfully our interest and concerns, not only with regard to women but to the community at large.

Your special interest in human rights explain why you have been the first and only woman to preside over the deliberations of a major United Nations conference organized at the international level. It also explains why you have served as Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Human Rights. Hence your unique international position.

The contribution of Your Imperial Highness at the international level is universally recognized. Your endeavours towards the promotion of Social progress and the equality of men and women in your country is less known to many outsiders. It has been a great privilege for me to see in action the joint effort of your government and Iranian voluntary organizations, as well as your personal contribution to the success of their efforts.

When pleading for the goals and objectives of the International Women’s Year, you are also acting as an eminent representative of a country well known for its successful efforts towards economic and social development. Your government is rightly acting on the premise that equality of rights irrespective of sex and age and the integration of women and youth in the development process are prerequisites to social progress.

In my capacity as Secretary-General of the International Women’s Year, I respectfully express my warmest gratitude for the initiative you have taken in asking the Heads of State to pledge their full support for the
International Women's Year.

I respectfully ask your Imperial Highness to convey to His Majesty The Shahanshah my appreciation for all he has done personally and through the Iranian government.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express to His Excellency Ambassador Hoveyda, the Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations, and to his staff, my warmest thanks for their contribution to these efforts.

It is my privilege to have you, Your Imperial Highness, as guest of honour so as to express on this occasion my grateful appreciation in the presence of the highest ranking officials of the United Nations.

I should also like to express my thanks to the distinguished guests for having responded to my invitation: to the President of the General Assembly who, after having accepted my invitation, was unfortunately prevented from being with us on this occasion because of the very sad news received from his country just this morning about the death of one of his eminent colleagues, the Minister of Interior; to you, Mr. Secretary-General; to the distinguished representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council and to the Ambassador of the Government which has generously offered to act as host for the International Women's Year Conference.

May I add how much I am impressed by the large number of signatures of Heads of State, received so far in spite of the very short time available, in support of the International Women's Year: I am sure that there will be many more to come because we have already rallied universal support for this cause.

Once again, I would like to express, in my capacity as Secretary-General of International Women's Year and the International Women's Year Conference, my warmest gratitude to you, Your Imperial Highness, for this unique contribution you have made to the success of this event.

I should like to express particularly my thanks to the highest ranking women in the United Nations and the General Assembly, Ambassador Cisse, the former and only woman President of the Security Council, the Chairperson of the Third Committee, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as to my colleagues in the Secretariat.
Statement by H.I.H. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi

"Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen" On this day, celebrated by the United Nations and the world as the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is with a feeling of real satisfaction that I submit to you this Declaration calling for the full realisation of women's rights.

We are, as you know, only a few weeks away from the International Women's Year - proclaimed by the General Assembly in order to help put an end to discriminations still practised against women.

It was with the aim of contributing to the success of this event that I took the initiative, in my capacity as Chairman of the International Human Rights Conference, to bring to the attention of the Heads of State and Government the text of this Declaration which expresses the hope that concrete measures will be taken in the course of International Women's Year.

I am happy to inform you that this Declaration has already received the approval of the following Heads of State:

His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Aryamehr, Shahanshah of Iran.
His Majesty King Baudouin of Belgium.
His Majesty Yank DiPertuan Agong of Malaysia.
His Majesty King Birendra Bir of Nepal.
His Majesty King Olav of Norway.
His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman.
His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden.
Her Majesty Queen Juliana of Holland.
His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Daoud, President of Afghanistan.
His Excellency Mr. Rudolf Kirschaegger, President of the Republic of Austria.
His Excellency Mr. Boumedienne, President of the Republic of Algeria.
His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Ullah, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
His Excellency General Ernesto Geisel, President of the Republic of Brazil.
His Excellency Mr. Todor Zhivkov, Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.
His Excellency Mr. Houphouet-Boigny, President of the Ivory Coast.

His Excellency Mr. Osvaldo Dorticos, President of the Republic of Cuba.

His Excellency Mr. Anwar El Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His Excellency General Franco, Head of the State of Spain.

His Excellency Mr. Gerald Ford, President of the United States of America.

His Excellency Mr. Urho Kekkonen, President of the Republic of Finland.

His Excellency Mr. Valery Giscard D'Estaing, President of the Republic of France.

His Excellency Mr. Laszlo Losonczi, President of the People's Republic of Hungary.

His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Leone, President of the Republic of Italy.

His Excellency Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, President of the Republic of India.

His Excellency General Soeharto, President of Indonesia.

His Excellency Mr. Eldjaru, President of the Republic of Iceland.

His Excellency Mr. Su'eiman Franjieh, President of the Republic of Lebanon.

His Excellency Colonel Moussa Taore, President of Mali.

His Excellency Mr. Moktar Ould Daddah, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

His Excellency Mr. Luis Echeverria, President of the Republic of Mexico.

His Excellency Mr. Fazal Elahi Chaudhri, President of Pakistan.

His Excellency Mr. Ferdinand Marcos, President of the Philippines.

His Excellency Mr. Anastasio Somoza, President of the People's Republic of Poland.

His Excellency Mr. Willi Stoph, President of the German Democratic Republic.

His Excellency Mr. Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

His Excellency Dr. Sheares, President of the Republic of Singapore.

His Excellency Mr. Nicolae Ceaucescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Numeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

His Excellency Mr. Fahri Koruturk, President of Turkey.
In addition to the above, the Heads of Government of the following countries have also communicated their approval of the Declaration: Australia, Argentina, Bahrain, Denmark, Ethiopia, Japan, Malta, Morocco, New Zealand, The United Kingdom of Great Britain, Uruguay, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, the Arab Republic of Syria, Thailand, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago.

Furthermore, in view of the fact that there remains so little time before the beginning of the International Women’s Year, we are certain that the approval of the remaining countries will reach us in the very near future.

The United Nations has on several occasions expressed its faith in the principle of equality of rights of men and women, and has expressly acknowledged that there can be no peace or socio-economic progress in the world without the full participation of women in all fields.

May this Declaration contribute to the success of the International Women's Year, which we sincerely hope will constitute a decisive step towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and in the realisation of a harmonious and balanced society.
Statement by Dr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the United Nations

"Your Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ever since its creation, the United Nations Organization has always unreservedly upheld the principle of equality between men and women - a principle sanctified by its inclusion in the United Nations Charter in 1945 and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. We should recognize, however, that there is a considerable difference between formal acceptance of a principle and its application in practice.

The United Nations Organization decided to proclaim the International Women's Year in order to attract the attention of all governments and international communities to the fact that serious inequalities between men and women continue to exist in many countries. These inequalities are noticeable in all fields, but especially so in the fields of education and employment. Discrimination on grounds of sex is generally insidious: there often exist laws intended to prevent such practices, but these nevertheless persist because of secular prejudices. During the course of the International Women's Year and particularly at the Conference which will be held in Mexico next June, we intend to emphasize the enormous potential that women offer to all societies. This is not only a question of fundamental justice but also a question of the optimal utilization of the world's human resources. In spite of the progress that has been made during the past three decades, discrimination against women remains a reality in numerous regions of the world and constitutes a major obstacle to the real improvement of the world's social, economic and political predicament. We are, after all, talking about one half of the population of our planet, an enormous capital whose true value has not generally been recognized, which has not received adequate respect and which has not been given the opportunity to contribute to the realization of an equitable world order nor to the solution of the pressing international problems which we have to face today.

The International Women's Year 1975 is a unique opportunity for the world community to promote equality between men and women, not only on the legal plane but also in daily life, to ensure the full participation of women in the development effort; to enable women to benefit from the advantages that result from equality of sex and, finally, to increase the contribution of women to the realization of the fundamental aims and objectives of the United Nations Organization, namely the safeguard of
world peace and the improvement of the living conditions of human beings.

We have the opportunity to accomplish so much this Year so as to make 1975 a milestone on the path to the amelioration of women's situation in the social, economic, cultural and political fields. At the United Nations Organization, we are determined to do everything in our power to allow the International Women's Year to assume its true dimensions. Towards this end we ask the international community to help us with the active participation that we need.

The International Women's Year should not be considered as an exclusively women's event: it can and should be for all of us, men and women alike, an occasion for joint efforts to enable Humanity share the responsibilities and enjoy the fundamental rights of a human being.

We Shall be in need of much support and generous help in order to translate these principles into reality. I earnestly ask all interested governments and the international community to aid us actively in this task.

Your Highness,

The Declaration that you have just submitted defines the main objectives of the International Year. I hope that this initiative of the United Nations Organization will be considered as a decisive step on the road to establishing complete social equality for all women throughout the world."
Madrid, 22 de noviembre de 1974.

Señora:

Tengo la honra de acusar recibo a la atenta comunicación de Su Alteza Imperial, de fecha 10 de los corrientes, interesando mi apoyo a una declaración con motivo del Año Internacional de la Mujer que Su Alteza Imperial tiene el proyecto de presentar al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas con fecha 10 de diciembre. Al propio tiempo que mucho me complace otorgar dicho apoyo, instruyo a la Representación Permanente de España en las Naciones Unidas para que adelante mi respuesta favorable.

Aprovecho esta ocasión para testimoniar a Su Alteza Imperial mi alta consideración.

A Su Alteza Imperial La Princesa Achraf Pahlavi
Presidente de la Conferencia Internacional de Derechos Humanos.
Reykjavík, November 27, 1974.

Her Imperial Highness
Princess Ashraf Pahlevi
New York.

Your Imperial Highness,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated November 10, 1974, and the therewith enclosed text concerning the International Women’s Year.

The Declaration meets with the full sympathy of the Icelandic Government and People, and I have the pleasure to return it enclosed with my endorsement.

Accept, Imperial Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kristján Eldjárn
President of Iceland.
Prime Minister  
Wellington  
New Zealand  

27 November 1974  

Your Imperial Highness,  

I have the honour to reply to your letter of 10 November 1974 in which you sought my endorsement of a Declaration on International Women's Year.  

The Government and people of New Zealand are greatly concerned that the aims and objectives of the Year should be furthered not only in this country but throughout the world. Thus I have the honour to offer my support to the text of your Declaration.  

Accept, Imperial Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.  

Prime Minister  

Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi,  
Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations,  
NEW YORK.
Son Altesse
la Princesse Achraf Pahlavi
Secrétariat Général
des Nations Unies
NEW-YORK

Félix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
Köszönettel megkapta 1974. november 10-én kelt levelet, amelyben szíves volt közölni velem, hogy a Nők Nemzetközi Éve alkalmából az Emberi Jogok Napján a nők helyzetével foglalkozó Nyilatkozatot öhját átnyújtani az Egyesült Nemzetek Szervezete Főtitkárának.

A magunk részéről egyetértünk azzal, hogy a Nők Nemzetközi Éve kiemelt alkalmat jelent annak hangsúlyozására, hogy az Emberi Jogok Nyilatkozatának figyelembevételével az eddiginél gyorsabb ütemben kell megvalósulnia a nők egyenjogúságának szerte a világon. Szükségesnek ítéljük, hogy az eddig elfogadott alapelvék minél előbb a gyakorlatban is széleskörűen érvényesüljenek mind állami, mind társsadalmi vonatkozásban s fokozódjék a nők közéleti és társadalmai aktivitása. Egyszersmind magunkéval tesszik a haladó erők nemzetközi méretekben kibontakozó harcát és annak eddigi eredményeit.
A Nyilatkozattal annál inkább is egyetértünk, mivel a Magyar Népköztársaság Alkotmánya és jogrendszere tel­jes mértékben biztosítja a női egyenjoguságot: a kormány, a társadalmi szervezetek és intézmények átfogóan foglalkoznak a női egyenjoguság gyakorlati megvalósításának kér­déseiivel, különös tekintettel a dolgozó anyákra.

Kérem Fenséged, fogadj megfelelően megbeszélésem kifejezését.

Her Imperial Highness
Princess Ashraf Pahlavi
Tehran
Empire of Iran

Imperial Highness,

I have received with many thanks the letter of 10 November 1974, by which Your Highness has been kind enough to inform me that on the occasion of the International Women’s Year, Your Highness intends to submit a Declaration on the state of women to the Secretary General of the United Nations, on Human Rights Day.

On our part, we share Your opinion that the International Women’s Year offers an outstanding occasion for emphasizing, in respect of the Declaration on Human Rights, that the equality of women must be enforced throughout the world at a pace quicker than up to now. We deem it necessary that the principles already adopted should be practiced as soon as possible, and widely enforced both in respect of the State and of the society, that public and social activities of women be intensified. At the same time we declare our solidarity with the progressive forces whose struggle has reached international dimension and identify ourselves with the achievements scored by them so far.

We agree all the more with the Declaration, since the Constitution and the legislation of the Hungarian People’s Republic guarantee women full equality; the
Government, the social organizations and institutions deal comprehensively with questions on the practical realization of women's equality, with a special view to working mothers.

I request Your Highness to accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Budapest, 29 November, 1974.

Pál Losonczi
Phnom-Penh, le 29 NOVEMBRE 1974

Altesse,

C’est avec un vif plaisir et un intérêt tout particulier que j’ai pris connaissance de l’aimable message de Votre Altesse et du projet de Déclaration sur la reconnaissance universelle des Droits de la femme.

Votre Altesse est assurée de l’appui entier et total que mon gouvernement et moi-même apporterons à ce projet d’une haute portée morale qui traduit le sens aigu du droit, de la justice et de l’équité dont est animé son auguste auteur.

Nous avons toujours considéré que la pleine participation de la femme à tous les niveaux dans la vie sociale est un impératif pour créer un climat d’équilibre et d’harmonie propice au progrès dans le monde.

En République Khmère, le problème ne se pose pas en ce qui concerne le principe de l’égalité entre les hommes et les femmes. Il n’est relevé aucun fait dans notre histoire nationale que la femme fût l’objet de pratiques discriminatoires. Les femmes Khmères jouissent depuis toujours et pleinement de leurs droits, accèdent aux diverses fonctions politiques et administratives et participent sans entrave aucune à toutes les activités d’intérêt économique et social.

Son Altesse Royale
la Princesse ACHRAF PAHLAVI
Présidente de la Conférence Internationale des Droits de l’Homme

T E H E R A N
(Iran)
C'est donc sans réserves que nous approuvons l'heureuse initiative de Votre Altesse en faveur de la promotion de la femme dans le monde,

Veuillez agréer, Altesse, mes hommages respectueux,

Maréchal LON NOL
THE PRESIDENT

RAWALPINDI

December 2, 1974

Your Royal Highness,

I am happy to acknowledge Your Highness' letter regarding the proclamation of 1975 as International Women's Year and the text of the Declaration proposed to be presented to the Secretary-General, United Nations on the occasion of Human Rights Day on December 10, 1974.

I have pleasure in endorsing the text of the Declaration which supports the full integration of women in the total development efforts being made all over the world by emphasising their responsibility and important role in the economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels.

Accept, Your Royal Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fazla Elahi Chaudhry
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Her Royal Highness
Princess Ashraf Pehlavi,

TEHRAN.
София, 2 декември 1974 г.

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

ВАШЕ ВИСОЧЕСТВО,

Получих посланието Ви, с което ми предлагате да се присъединя към Декларацията, която възнамерявате да връчите на генералния секретар на Организацията на обединените нации във връзка с предстоящата Международна година на жената.

Бих искал по този повод най-напред да Ви изразя своята благодарност за вниманието, което проявявате към мен и за значението, което отдавате на моята поддръжка на инициативата Ви. От своя страна дължа да подчертая, че ценя високо Вашата роля като председател на Международната конференция по правата на човека, състояла се в Техеран през 1968 година и международния принос, който Вие реализирате в това отношение.

Моите възгледи и политиката, която следва моята страна, са в духа на идееите, изложени от Вас в Декларацията. Държавният съвет и правителството на Народна република България осъществяват системно програмата си за

ДО
НЕЙНО ВИСОЧЕСТВО
ПРИНЦЕСА АШРАФ ПАХЛАВИ

Ню Йорк
действително изравняване на жената с мъжа, за хармонично развитие на личността на жената, за повишаване на нейната роля в политическия живот, в икономическия и социалния прогрес на страната и в изграждане на материалното и културното благодеяние на народа.

Поради това с голямо удовлетворение мога да Ви заявя, че напълно поддържам предложената от Вас декларация.

Моля приемете, Ваше височество, уверенията в моето дълбоко към Вас уважение.

[Подпис]

ТОДОР ЖИВКОВ

ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛ НА ДЪРЖАВНИЯ СЪВЕТ
НА НАРОДНА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ
Votre Altesse,

J'ai pris connaissance de Votre message, dans lequel vous me proposez d'apporter mon approbation à la Déclaration que vous envisagez de remettre au Secrétaire-général des Nations Unies, relative à l'Année Internationale de la Femme.

Je voudrais à ce propos, tout d'abord, vous exprimer mes remerciements pour le marque d'égards de votre part et pour l'importance que vous attachez à mon soutien pour votre initiative. Je tiens à souligner aussi, à titre personnel, que j'ai en haute estime votre rôle de Présidente de la Conférence Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, qui s'est tenue à Teheran en 1968, et l'apport international que vous réalisez dans cette voie.

Mes conceptions et la politique poursuivie par mon pays, sont dans l'esprit des idées exposées par vous dans la Déclaration. Le Conseil d'État et le Gouvernement de la République Populaire de Bulgarie mettent en œuvre de façon systématique leur Programme pour l'égalisation réelle de la femme à l'homme, pour l'élevation de son rôle dans la vie politique et le progrès économique et social du pays, ainsi que dans l'édification du bien-être matériel et culturel du peuple.

Sur ce, je peux vous déclarer avec un grand plaisir

SON ALTESSE
LA PRINCESSE ACHRAF PAHLAVI

NEW YORK
que je soutiens pleinement la Déclaration proposée par vous.

Veuillez agréer, Votre Altesse, l'assurance de ma plus haute considération.

TODOR ZHIYKOV

PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL D'ETAT DE LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE BULGARIE
Quito, 2 de Diciembre de 1.974

Señora Doña
ACHRAF PAHLAVI
Misión Permanente del Irán en la ONU,
622 Third Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA.

De mis consideraciones:

Con el mayor agrado he dado lectura a su importante carta de 10 de este mes y agradezco muy sinceramente la atención que usted ha tenido al poner en mi conocimiento los motivos de la misma.

He tomado debida nota, valoro, estimo y aprecio mucho los puntos constantes en la Declaración que usted se ha dignado enviarme. Le felicito por la noble campaña que se ha propuesto y espero tenga la mejor acogida por parte de los pueblos y sus gobiernos.

Por parte de mi País, y atendiendo la trascendencia y fines de este objetivo, se estudia la conveniencia y factibilidad de proclamar al año de 1.975 como "Año Internacional de la Mujer".

Muy atentamente,

General Guillermo Rodríguez Lara
PRESIDENTE DEL ECUADOR

I should like to express my agreement with this text which in my opinion makes your Declaration harmonize to the fullest extent with the aims and meaning of the International Women’s Year proclaimed for 1975 by the United Nations General Assembly.

I send Your Imperial Highness my greetings and very best wishes for your important work and for the success of the International Women’s Year.

Her Imperial Highness
Princess Ashraf Pahlavi,
Chairman of the Delegation of Iran,
United Nations General Assembly,
New York.
Helsinki, December 3, 1974

Your Imperial Highness,

In reply to Your letter of November the 10th, 1974, I should like to express my agreement with the contents of the declaration You wish to present to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the Human Rights Day, December the 10th, 1974. I enclose herewith the declaration which I for my part have signed today.

Please accept, Madame, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Her Imperial Highness
Princess Ashraf Pahlavi
Chairman of the Delegation of Iran to the 29th Session of the UN General Assembly
Your Imperial Highness,

It gives me great pleasure to express the particular interest I have taken in your important initiative concerning the forthcoming "International Women's Year". I fully share the concern voiced in your letter and it is with great admiration that I have learned of your personal commitment to all national and international efforts designed to implement new measures of eliminating discrimination against women.

As far as Austria is concerned I am glad to inform you that the UN programme for action adopted for the "International Women's Year" has been received extremely favourably in my country. A whole series of activities is being organized by both official and private institutions in order to propagate the objectives of the year to the largest possible extent. I was requested to patronage a special act of commemoration to be held under the auspices of the Austrian Federal Government at the beginning of 1975. As I wholeheartedly support all endeavours to promote the full integration of women on an equal basis in every field of public life I shall be pleased to assume this function.

With regard to the Declaration you were so kind to bring to my attention, and which I have studied with great care and
interest, I wish to express to you my sympathy for and full endorsement of the ideas and goals contained therein. The "International Women's Year" opens up new avenues of approaching this problem on a universal level. I am convinced that the activities provided for by the UN programme for the "International Women's Year" will prove to be a major step towards the final eradication of any form of discrimination against women which sadly enough continues to be manifest in many parts of the world.

Accept, Imperial Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Her Imperial Highness,
Princess Ashraf PAHLAVI
Ernesto Geisel

Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil

A SUA ALTEZA IMPERIAL
A PRINCESA ACHRAF PAHLAVI,
CHEFE DA DELEGAÇÃO DO IRÁ
À XXIX SESSÃO DA ASSEMBLÉIA GERAL
DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS

Tenho o prazer de acusar recebimento da carta de 10 de novembro passado, pela qual Vossa Alteza Imperial teve a bondade de transmitir-me o texto de projeto de Declaração a ser apresentado ao Secretário-Geral das Nações Unidas por motivo do "Ano Internacional da Mulher", a iniciar-se no próximo dia 19 de janeiro.

O Governo brasileiro aprova plenamente o princípio básico da igualdade dos Direitos do Homem e da Mulher, princípio, aliás, consagrado na nossa Constituição.
Em consequência, é com satisfação que expresso a Vossa Alteza Imperial meu apoio à Declaração proposta, certo de que o Ano Internacional da Mulher constitui excelente oportunidade para um apelo a todas as Nações do Mundo, no sentido de se abolirem discriminações ainda existentes contra as mulheres.

Aproveito a oportunidade para apresentar os protestos da mais alta consideração com que me subscrevo,

De Vossa Alteza Imperial,

[Assinatura]

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

To Her Imperial Highness
Princess Ashraf Pahlavi
Head of the Delegation of Iran to the XXIX
Session of the United Nations General Assembly

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of the letter of 10 November last whereby Your Imperial Highness had the goodness to transmit to me the text of the draft Declaration to be presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations relative to International Women's Year, scheduled to begin next January 1st.

The Brazilian Government fully approves of the basic principle of equality of rights between men and women, a principle which, moreover, is consecrated in our Constitution.

Consequently, it is with satisfaction that I convey to Your Imperial Highness my support of the proposed Declaration, certain that International Women's Year constitutes an excellent opportunity for an appeal to all nations of the world to abolish still existing discrimination against women.

I avail myself of the opportunity to present to Your Imperial Highness the assurances of the high esteem and distinguished consideration with which I sign myself,

signed) Ernesto Geisel
PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

- 5 DEC 1974

Your Imperial Highness,

I am writing in response to your letter of 10 November requesting my endorsement of the text of an International Women’s Year Declaration.

I should be most happy to meet that request.

It is a basic human right that neither women nor men should be excluded in law or in fact from the political, social, economic or cultural life of their country.

This Government has long recognised that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and the well-being of society.

Since taking office we - more than any previous national government in the history of Australia - have made a conscious and genuine attempt to overcome the decades of neglect from which women have suffered, to give to women and to men the ability to freely choose that way of life best suited to them individually. My Government has already ratified a number of human rights conventions and will deposit an instrument of accession to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women with the United Nations on 10 December 1974, the 26th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In Geneva on the same day Australia will ratify the International Labour Organization Convention No. 100, the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951.

International Women’s Year 1975 will provide an opportunity to stand back and assess what has already been achieved as well as enabling the initiation of further programs based on a deep commitment to basic human rights.

With sincere high regards,

E. G. WHITLAM

Her Imperial Highness the Princess Ashraf Pahlavi,
NEW YORK.
Le Président de la République

Paris, le 5 décembre 1974. -

Madame,

C'est avec le plus grand intérêt que j'ai pris connaissance de la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser au sujet de la prochaine Année internationale de la Femme.

Vous savez que la France est particulièrement soucieuse de promouvoir la condition féminine dans tous les domaines, aussi je tiens à vous dire combien j'apprécie l'initiative que vous avez prise de faire adresser par les Chefs d'État au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies une déclaration sur le principe fondamental de l'égalité des droits des hommes et des femmes.

Je suis heureux de vous faire savoir que c'est bien volontiers que je m'associe à l'envoi de ce message.

Je prie Votre Altesse Impériale d'agréer mes respectueux hommages.

Madame la Princesse ACHRAF PAHLAVI
Chef de la Délégation de l'Iran à la 29ème session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies
NEW - YORK -
Kaiserliche Hoheit!


Der von Ihnen vorgeschlagene Text einer Erklärung erscheint mir geeignet, auf die noch bestehenden sozialen Ungleichheiten zwischen Männern und Frauen in einigen Teilen der Welt hinzuweisen und zu der schrittweisen Lösung dieses ernsten Problems beizutragen.

Ihre Kaiserliche Hoheit
Prinzessin Ashraf Pahlavi
Leiterin der VN-Delegation des Iran

New York

Genehmigen Sie, Kaiserliche Hoheit, die Versicherung meiner ganz ausgezeichneten Hochachtung.

von [Unterschrift]
Your Imperial Highness,

I have taken note with great interest of the Declaration to be issued on the occasion of International Women's Year, attached to your letter of 10 November 1974. The aims pursued in proclaiming 1975 as the International Women's Year are actively supported also in the Federal Republic of Germany. If that year is to be a success, the discriminations against women which continue to exist in some parts of the world must above all be eliminated.

It seems to me that the text of the Declaration you have proposed can help to draw attention to the persistent social inequalities between men and women in some parts of the world and contribute towards a gradual solution of that serious problem.

I am very willing, therefore, to support the Declaration you have prepared for International Women's Year 1975. Moreover, I shall have an opportunity on 9 January 1975, on the occasion of the formal opening of International Women's Year in the Federal Republic of Germany, to draw special attention to the aims you pursue.

Accept, Your Imperial Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(sgd.) Scheel

Her Imperial Highness
Princess Ashraf Pahlavi,
Chairman of the Delegation of Iran
to the 29th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly,
New York
Stockholm, December 5th, 1974

Your Imperial Highness,

I have received and studied with deep interest your letter of November 10th, 1974, regarding a declaration concerning International Women's Year. Sweden has taken an active interest in the very important problems treated in this declaration. The views that we have presented accord with the ones enunciated in the declaration. I am therefore glad to express general support for the principles contained in this text.

Accept, Your Imperial Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Carl Gustav R