## The original documents are located in Box 48, folder "Women - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM LIGUE INTERNATIONALE DE FEMMES POUR LA PAIX ET LA LIBERTÉ INTERNATIONALE FRAUENLIGA FÜR FRIEDEN UND FREIHEIT

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December 10, 1975

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Dear Mrs. Ford:

I want to thank you for your response of May 5th to our prior invitation, but regret that you were unable to bring greetings or participate in the International Women's Year Seminar, "Women of the World United For Peace: Disarmament and Its Social Consequences", held at the United Nations. Organized by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Seminar proved to be the major event of IWY to emphasize the third part of the Year's theme, "Equality, Development, Peace."

Together with follow-up community seminars in 37 cities across the United States, the numbers of women involved reached well into the millions.

Participants in the May Disarmament Seminars, the June United Nations Tribune at Mexico City, and the October World Congress for IWY at East Berlin, endorsed plans to press the Member States of the United Nations for the setting of an early date for a World Disarmament Conference. We U.S. women would like to see our country play a leading role in the calling of such a conference. Unfortunately, the United States has not yet supported the proposal in the General Assembly, and China has been dragging its feet. But the consciousness of the women's movement throughout the world is being raised to the fact that the annual expenditure for "defense" is a criminal waste of resources—human and financial—that the world can no longer afford.

On this Human Rights Day, 1975, may I express our confidence that you will join in spirit with these and other millions of women around the world, who see the most basic human right, —the right to live—threatened and cheapened by the anachronistic, costly and still escalating arms race, and that you will exert your influence for a more feminized and less violent society where life will be enhanced by concrete steps to a permanent peace.

With appreciation for your womanly forthrightness, we extend our best wishes.