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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

1975 was proclaimed as International Women's Year by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1972. The resolution was originated by the U. N. Commission on the Status of Women, which consists of members from 32 countries.

Purpose

The purpose of International Women's Year is threefold:

- (1) To promote equality between men and women.
- (2) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade.
- (3) To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and cooperation among States and to the strengthening of world peace.

U. S. Initiative

The U. S. Center for International Women's Year was created in September, 1973, by a grant from the Department of State to a private foundation, Meridian House International in Washington, D. C. The Center was established to provide information on the Year, and to coordinate efforts in the private sector throughout the country.

In January, 1974, President Nixon proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year for the U. S. calling upon the Congress and the people of the United States, interested groups and organizations, officials of the Federal government and of state and local governments, educational institutions, and all others who can be of help, to begin to provide for the national observance of International Women's Year with practical and constructive measures for the advancement of women in the United States.

President Ford underscored the importance of International Women's Year in his August 22, 1974, Proclamation by calling upon all Americans to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day.

National Commission

A National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, 1975, was created by President Ford on January 9, 1975, at a ceremony in

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the Cabinet Room of the White House. This Commission will be composed of 35 persons from private life appointed by the President. The purpose of the Commission is to promote the national observance in the United States of International Women's Year. To this end, it will focus attention on the need to encourage appropriate and relevant cooperative activity in the field of women's rights and responsibilities.

World Conference

The United Nations has called a world conference for International Women's Year to be held in Mexico City, June 23 to July 4, 1975.

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