

IWD '92

International Women's Day 1992

500 Years of Resistance....Through Women's Eyes!

c/o

*Women Against Imperialism, 3543- 18th St. Box 14, San Francisco, CA 94110
415-995-4735*

February 17, 1992

Ada Griffin
335 W. 38th St., 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Ada

Well, you must be relieved that the Deep Dish Board is now assembled. Hopefully the new energy of the new members will help keep D.D. chugging along in '92.

I'm enclosing some materials about the 500 years stuff I've been doing, (In fact, I have to admit that parts of this letter are lifted from our form letter. It says it more concisely than I.) including an event where we showed "Brave Hearted Woman: the Life of Anna Mae Aquash" -- a great film, have you ever seen it? Feel free to pass these enclosures along to anyone you know who might be interested as well.

I've enclosed the ad we placed in *Sojourner*. in December Please see the enclosed Network list, which has been updated to include a number of other organizations that responded to the ad, and are either planning or are interested in planning an event for IWD 1992

It's very informal, but we think that the Network will provide a means for women to keep informed on what is going on across the country, and keep in touch throughout 1992 while anti-quincentennial activities continue.

Our goal is to facilitate increased communication among groups planning events for IWD 1992 that address resistance to the 500th anniversary of the European invasion of the Americas. We hope this will help create a powerful response to the call from Native Americans to protest the devastating impact of European colonialism. We're sure that women will organize a host of creative and spirited events that identify women's demands for the 1990s. We hope groups will contact each other to share ideas and information.

We became inspired to organize IWD 1992 with an anti-quincentennial theme when we participated in the second annual Chasky (an indigenous word for "messenger") to celebrate 500 years of resistance and self-determination last October in San Francisco. Dozens of organizations participated in a blocks-long march and procession through the Mission district by creating art installations and guerilla theatres that illustrated different themes and interests. Women Against Imperialism created a beautiful quilt of twelve large squares and a center-piece weaving symbolizing different aspects of women's experiences, ranging from indigenous peoples' struggles, to reproductive rights, lesbian liberation, anti-intervention,

political prisoners, and anti-racism. We've continued to display the quilt at community events to generate interest in the upcoming International Women's Day demonstration and activities. In addition to a women's demonstration, we are excited that a women's art show will be organized at the Mission Cultural Center in San Francisco to reflect "500 years of resistance through women's eyes." (*Please see enclosed copy of the artists' call. For further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, or call 415-821-1155*). As our resources and plans develop, we will be happy to share them with you.

We are in the process of collecting articles, and information about other resources, including videos and films, about native peoples and the impact of colonialism. (**Do you know of ones we could tell other women about?**) We will also be gathering information about other events being organized to protest quincentennial celebrations. If you have or know of resources (buttons, articles, artwork etc.) to offer, we would really appreciate your suggestions. We will distribute the packet to participating organizations. Please fill out the attached informational form, and return to us by the end of the month, or at your earliest convenience. Of course, we'll send you a packet when they're ready.

The local organizing has been challenging, and very "long term building" coalition work. So with the local organizing and the national networking I've been too busy to edit some of the footage from last October's Chasky (described above.) as I had hoped to for Deep Dish. As you know from my other tapes, it's not just a process of me editing it anyway, and so dealing with the 500 yrs. video stuff collectively is going to have to wait til mid March, if at all...

I hope your Audre Lorde piece is going well. What phase are you at with it since I last heard about it from you back in July...? Is there any way I can be of assistance? Give you names of folks out here to hit up for money? Let me know.

By the way,, I hate to be a nag about this, but I never did get a VHS dub of the 2 Political Prisoner tapes you and Kenyatta did. The one he sent me had a patch pulled in the middle of it and so all of the sudden we get a window dub of a rap group... anyway, he said he'd send me another, and like all of us he's probably been too busy to get to it, but if you could send me one, I'd really appreciate it.

In Sisterhood,

Lisa Rudman 

Enclosures.