May 19, 1982

Dear Sister,

On the occasion of the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament, the Disarmament Program of the American Friends Service Committee and the U.S. Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom are pleased to announce:

AN INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST DISARMAMENT MEETING
Friday, June 11th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Macintosh Center, Barnard College Student Union, New York
Near Barnard College Gate at Broadway and 117th Street

The meeting is for women of all nations (East/West, North/South) who:

1. explicitly identify themselves as feminist—that is, who understand the mutually reinforcing relationship of militarism and sexism in maintaining the arms race

2. seek to more effectively bring this perspective into their work to abolish nuclear weapons, particularly the campaign to block the deployment in 1983 of the Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe

We hope, in addition, this meeting will:

1. Deepen our understanding of the impact of nuclear weapons and militarization on developing nations as well as the oppressed of industrialized nations.

2. Strengthen contacts between feminists from East and West which will be an alternative to the "Bloc mentality"

3. Share insights about how to overcome sexism in the peace movement

4. Exchange information and ideas about particular resources, actions, and strategies, which can be carried back to the participants' groups, organizations, and campaigns

5. Weave an international feminist web

The U.N. Special Session will bring together thousands of women from all over the world to protest the insanity of nuclear weapons. When we realized that none of the parallel activities...
were specifically oriented toward feminists, AFSC and WILPF/US decided to take the initiative for making this meeting possible. Although it was very late, the clear need for this kind of gathering led us to undertake the project. However, we wish to stress that our role is limited to that of facilitators. We are only arranging for the space, announcing the meeting, providing some skilled facilitators, minimally structuring the agenda and preparing some resource materials.

This is not a consciousness raising session. Nor is it a delegated meeting with authority to make decisions. As co-convenors, we are inviting feminists as individuals, not as representatives of their organizations. The format of the meeting will be small groups of about 20 with a skilled facilitator and reporter in each group.

We are asking a registration fee of $5 to cover some of the costs of the meeting. This does not include any meals during the day and we regret that we are not able to arrange for childcare. Limited housing is available in dormitories at Barnard for about $13 a night (if you provide your own sheets). Contact Linda Bullard (address below) about housing at Barnard. Otherwise, the June 12 Rally Committee office may be able to help you find a place to stay. Priority for free beds will be given to women coming from the farthest away. Call: Abby Karp, 212/647-3633.

The meeting will take place in English, but we will make every effort to insure the fullest participation of women who do not speak English by placing them in groups with women who are bilingual and have agreed to help in translating for them. If you are bilingual and can assist in this way, please indicate on the coupon below.

Due to limited resources, we can only accommodate 250 women and priority will be given to women who pre-register; therefore, if you want to attend, please return the coupon IMMEDIATELY to Linda Bullard, or call or wire 215/241-7166. After those who have pre-registered, participation must be on a first-come basis. Since we want a substantial number of non-U.S. women and women of color to attend this meeting, we especially urge these women to pre-register at once or come early.

The NGO Disarmament Information Bureau (801 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, (212) 986-4480) has graciously consented to assist us in this project. When you arrive in New York, please contact Jeannette Raymond for the latest information on the meeting. She will also have available copies of the packet of written materials for the meeting, including the finalized agenda, if you wish to pick it up in advance. Otherwise, it will be available at the door.

In order to maximize the amount of information that can be exchanged in a short time and limited space, we encourage you to bring 250 copies of materials you'd like to share. If you are unable to attend, please send your literature to Linda Bullard to arrive in Philadelphia no later than June 9th.

We realize that the late notice and the choice of dates will mean that some sisters will not be able to come, but we felt that preferable to no sisters coming, especially when so many will be in the area. To those who are disappointed we can only pledge to share what we learn together and to try to do it more in the future. We look forward to meeting you and to an exciting and affirming day of work together.

Yours in sisterhood for peace,

Linda Bullard
AFSC Disarmament Program

Mary Noland
WILPF/US Section