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A news digest of the International Planned Parenthood Federation

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World Population Day 11 July 1991

A day set aside to reflect on issues of tremendous importance which affect everyone living on this planet is how IPPF Secretary General Dr Halfdan Mahler describes this year's World Population Day. Dr Mahler also points out that "Family planning is one of the cheapest development tools available".

World Population Day was first celebrated on 11 July 1987, coinciding with the United Nations Day of Five Billion. The incentive behind the annual celebration of World Population Day is to focus public attention upon the urgent need to address world-wide population issues, particularly within the context of overall development initiatives, plans and programmes.

This year, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Dr Nafis Sadik reports that "The nations of the world are resolved as never before on the need for action to slow population growth and to achieve a balance between population, development and the natural environment which sustains us all". UNFPA has urged governments, NGOs, schools, communities and individuals to take part in the celebration, inviting people to "take an active role wherever you are". Suggested activities range from seminars and debates to school competitions and commissioning of works of art. UNFPA's Information and External Relations Division has produced posters and publications in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, and audio-visual materials

which are to be distributed to field offices, United Nations Information Centres and other interested organizations.

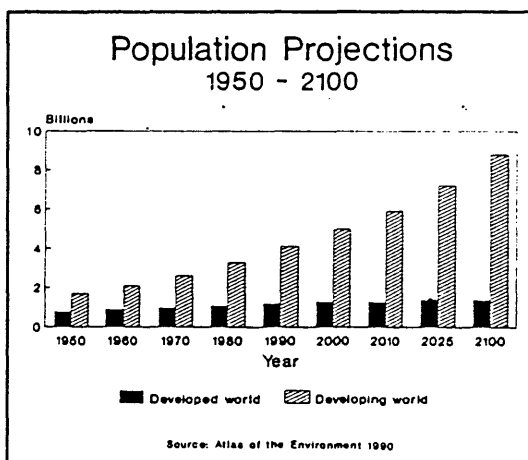
IPPF will be marking the Day with a major initiative which will not be disclosed until 11 July. Some of IPPF's Family Planning Associations have already responded to a letter sent from Dr Mahler indicating that he was "anxious that you should all build on last year's excellent efforts to further promote the cause in your country". The Executive Director of the FPA of Zambia (PPAZ) has written to IPPF reporting that PPAZ is on the Zambia National Planning Committee for World Population Day and that PPAZ

staff are presenting a paper on communication for family planning at a two-day event on the 11th and 12th of July, which is being organized by the Zambian Inter-agency Technical Committee on Population.

The FPA of India (FPAI) has chosen the theme of 'Better

Status of Women: Better Society' for this year's observation of World Population Day. The Secretary General of the FPAI reports that seminars, debates and exhibitions are just a few of the events that have been prepared to "highlight the inter-relationship between health, literacy and gainful employment" for women in India.

This logo has been prepared by the FPAI to be used on the Day.



Strengthening collaboration and MCH/FP policy

With the intention of strengthening policy and programme collaboration in maternal and child health and family planning, four of the larger organizations involved in these fields have produced a joint letter describing common goals and challenges for the coming decades. The letter, signed by the directors of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), describes the "complementary and mutually supportive role" to be played in the promotion of the health and well-being of women and children. Common goals described in the letter include a reduction of maternal mortality rates by 50 per cent and a reduction of mortality of children under five by at least one-third by the year 2000. Access by all couples, especially women, to family planning information and services and the provision of improved education for girls and women are also highlighted as urgent priorities. ('Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning', Joint letter to staff of WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, February 1991)

UNDP report on human development

More than one billion people worldwide are living in absolute poverty, and approximately 180 million children suffer from serious malnutrition according to the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) *Human Development Report 1991*, which was released on 22 May 1991. The report indicates that development in the Third World has improved over the last three decades, with average life expectancy up by 16 years and adult literacy up by 40 per cent, but many people still lack basic necessities. One and a half billion people are deprived of primary health care, nearly three million children die each year from immunizable diseases, and approximately one billion adults cannot read or write. Reviewing the report, *The Times* suggests that Britain and the USA are

the "meanest" industrial countries, and that most USA and UK aid does not go where it should. The report indicates that in 1989 Britain and the USA gave 0.31 and 0.15 per cent of their Gross National Product (GNP) to foreign aid respectively, well below the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. According to the UNDP, industrial countries are partly to blame for aid often failing to reach the people who need it most, and donors often prefer to give money for capital-intensive schemes instead of schemes such as primary health care and schooling. The report contains updated information on poverty, human survival, environmental degradation, public expenditure and includes charts of 'human development indicators' such as human freedom, health expenditure and education. It is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. (*Human Development Report 1991*, UNDP, Oxford University Press, 1991; *The Times*, UK, 23 May 1991)

Comparing the United Nations reports

The "upbeat optimism" of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report is offset by the gloom of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) *State of World Population* report, claims John Vidal writing in *The Guardian*. Comparing the two reports, he claims that the UNFPA document is a statement of the size and potential growth of the problem - and the urgent need for family planning - which will haunt developing countries for the next few generations. He writes that the UNDP report, however, is at times idealistic, celebrates progress and tries to show a way forward. He asks how the UNDP report can talk about progress and development without referring to the fact that world population will double in just a few decades. The UNFPA report is also said to dampen UNDP optimism by showing that the strains placed on the environment by increased numbers may be impossible to meet. More than 580 million people now live in absolute poverty on marginal or fragile land. Explosive urban growth, caused by mass migration, has left 85 countries with urban populations

twice as large as those a decade ago, and in 10 years time the urban population of developing countries will be twice that of the developed world. Vidal concludes by saying that while the two reports have different findings and recommendations, the world's inequalities continue to grow. (*The Guardian*, UK, 24 May 1991)

World-wide population problems

International population problems and the need for family planning are discussed in three major articles in the USA newspaper *The Christian Science Monitor*. The first looks at the recent United Nations Population Fund *State of the World Population* report, and quotes Sharon Camp of the Population Crisis Committee as saying, "if we work hard... in this decade, we could reach replacement levels in the next 25 years world-wide. And within 50 to 60 years, we would put the world population problem behind us". A second piece looks at the link between overpopulation and environmental degradation. Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute suggests that population trends are "profoundly disturbing" and indicate that the per capita availability of key resources will shrink "at an unprecedented rate" during the 1990s; grain land by 15 per cent, irrigated land by 11 per cent, forest land by 19 per cent and grazing land by 18 per cent. World grain output per capita has already dropped four per cent since the mid-1980s. A third article looks at the rapid growth of capital cities and the problems caused by unchecked urbanization. (*The Christian Science Monitor*, USA, 17-23 May 1991)

WHO 44th World Health Assembly

"The participation of the people is the very essence of primary health care," said Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in his conclusion to the 44th World Health Assembly, which ended in May 1991. Dr Nakajima indicated that people themselves should take part in the dialogue on their own health and health

care, and that the challenge ahead is to "translate the spirit of Alma Ata into action", taking into account the political, social, and economic changes taking place all over the world. Dr Nakajima was referring to the Declaration of Alma Ata of 1978, which asserted that primary health care is the key to attaining the goal of Health for All "in the spirit of social justice and equality".

At the Assembly, Dr Nakajima and Mr J Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), urged delegates to act quickly to maintain the momentum for health improvement generated by the World Summit for Children. The Assembly also stressed the critical health situation in the least developed countries, requested that health promotion be a component of all socio-economic development programmes and co-operation activities and further requested that all WHO activities take these factors into account. A call was made to countries to accelerate the implementation of measures to improve women's health and status through literacy, family planning, safe motherhood and income-generating activities, while WHO should incorporate such objectives into all its programmes. (WHO press releases WHA/9, 14 May, WHA/12, 16 May 1991)

UNESCO reports decrease in world illiteracy

The number of illiterate people in the world declined for the first time ever in 1990 to an estimated 948 million, two million less than in 1985, according to a report from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The report projects a decline to 935 million by the year 2000, suggesting that "through a happy coincidence, International Literacy Year may be looked back upon as the turning point in the struggle for a literate world". (UNESCO/PRESSE, Vol 1, No 1, UNESCO, Paris, France, 31 May 1991)

Developments for the International Year of the Family

A First Ladies Summit for the International Year of the Family (IYF) has been proposed by the President of Costa Rica's wife. The United Nations Co-ordinator for IYF has informed the NGO Committee on the Family that Central and South American First Ladies will meet this summer to plan the event.

Several countries have already taken initiatives for IYF, including Luxembourg and Portugal who have established national co-ordinating bodies and Plans of Action. At a recent United Nations Economic and Social Council meeting, China, Germany, Morocco, Spain and Thailand reported that they were in the process of setting up national co-ordinating bodies. In total 40 countries have set up "focal points" for IYF at the national level. At its 47th session the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a special resolution on IYF, while the Council of Europe, the European Community [EEC] and the Nordic Council have set up practical measures for action and co-operation. IYF will also be discussed at the annual meeting of the Council of Europe Family Ministers in Switzerland in October.

A new world-wide health research agenda?

The UK-based Commission on Health Research for Development has released a report recommending a programme of essential national health research for each developing country, addressing both global problems and those specific to each country. The Commission recommends that at least two per cent of national health expenditure be invested in the programme and that at least five per cent of all grants should go to research. Reviewing the report in *The Lancet*, Andrew Hall says that these recommendations follow a strong argument for the value of health research as an important long-term investment in development. Hall also discusses the need for research to answer local community needs, and the difficulty of paying re-

search workers who "cannot afford to do research because they are overburdened with routine duties", such as clinical work. (Hall, AJ. 'Health research in developing countries', *British Medical Journal*, Vol 302, pp 1220-21, 25 May 1991, reviewing *Health research: essential link to equity in development*, Commission on Health Research for Development, Oxford University Press, UK, 1990)

Population growth a lower priority than 20 years ago

Tackling the global population problem is a "much lower priority" than it was two decades ago, according to Dennis Meadows, Director of the Institute for Policy and Social Science Research at the University of New Hampshire, USA. Meadows argues that, under strong influence from the USA, "population is no longer on many political agendas", but points out that if "we do not move quickly and vigorously along many fronts to stabilize population there is virtually no chance of halting environmental degradation - none whatsoever". Meadows, who co-wrote the book *Limits to Growth* in 1972, acknowledges many improvements on the environmental and population fronts on a local scale over the last 20 years, but argues that inspection of the global situation indicates a growing deterioration of natural resources caused by unrelenting dependence on physical growth. (*Popline*, Vol 13, March/April 1991)

Populations forced to live in shadow of volcanoes

During the 1990s, there are likely to be more deaths caused by volcanic eruptions than ever before. Yet the world's eruption rate has not gone up - it is rising population figures which are causing the problem, claimed *The Observer*. Approximately 360 million people now live on or near potentially dangerous volcanoes and most of the world's high-risk volcanoes are located in the densely populated regions of the Pacific Rim's 'Ring of Fire'. (*The Observer*, UK, 16 June 1991)

International Events

Continuing support for family planning in Asia

Parliamentarians from 12 Asian countries have pledged anew to support programmes and policies aimed at achieving a balance between population growth and resources. The commitment was made during the Seventh Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development in February 1991. *Asian Forum Newsletter* reports that support will focus on efforts to accelerate public awareness of population issues and the mobilization of resources to meet population challenges. At the meeting, representatives from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam discussed population and development strategy within terms of Asia's future, with particular emphasis on the environment. (*Asian Forum Newsletter*, January/March 1991)

Emergency transport as part of safe motherhood initiatives

Flying obstetric emergency squads in Pakistan, Nigeria and Malaysia are one response to 'The Safe Motherhood Initiative: Proposals for Action', a report by two World Bank experts, recommending that creative emergency transport be devised for such emergencies. *Safe Motherhood* reports that a Pakistani squad, set up by Dr Altaf Bashir, consists of an ambulance equipped with staff trained to deal with obstetric emergencies in Faisalabad [Punjab], on call 24 hours a day and able to respond to emergencies within half an hour. After an extensive education programme the service has been established, and Dr Bashir reports that it is preventing several deaths every week. Other innovative methods of contacting emergency help in developing countries include the use of police radio, burning flares, special colour-coded coins delivered by messenger to post offices with a telephone and the use of special roadside flags for hailing vehicles. (*Safe Motherhood*, Issue 5, World Health Organization, Switzerland, March-June 1991)

Counting the cost of illegal abortion

Illegally-induced abortions are estimated to be the cause of up to 200,000 maternal deaths in developing countries each year, according to research by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Reproduction (HRP). *Safe Motherhood* reviews a recent HRP meeting of investigators from countries involved in the project, including Thailand, Bangladesh, Chile, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia. Dr Suporn Koetsawang reported that changes in attitudes of Thai health personnel over the past 20 years have led to liberal interpretation of the current abortion law. Dr Syeda Firoza Begum reported that although abortion is illegal in Bangladesh, 'menstrual regulation' is available from trained providers nation-wide. Dr Seyoum Yoseph from Ethiopia said that he believes that the lack of family planning information and services in his country is responsible for the current contraceptive prevalence rate of four per cent, and the "high proportion of unmarried girls coming for abortion". (*Safe Motherhood*, Issue 5, WHO, Switzerland, March-June 1991)

Not a question of blame between North and South

Writing in the first edition of a new environment magazine, Ricardo Bayón suggests that the success of the 1992 'Earth Summit' [United Nations Conference on Environment and Development] in Brazil will depend upon the attitudes of attendees. He says that at the World Conference on the Environment in Stockholm in 1972 "the North-South split basically undermined the whole meeting". Bayón argues that the North and South must stop blaming each other for degradation, start learning from each other's problems and accept their respective responsibilities to humanity. In 1992 the question has to shift from "who's to blame?" to "what can we all do?" he says. Contact: Tomorrow Media, Kungsgaten 27, S-111 56 Stockholm, Sweden. (*Tomorrow*, Vol 1, No 1, Sweden, 1991)

Werner Fornos named 1991 Humanist of the Year

Werner Fornos, President of the Population Institute since 1982, has been selected by the American Humanist Association (AHA) as the 1991 Humanist of the Year. The award is presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of the human condition. Fornos was chosen for his effort toward curbing world population growth, which the AHA Board of Directors described as "the root cause of virtually all environmental, political and social ills confronting humanity today". Fornos had previously served as Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of the District of Columbia, USA, and is a renowned lecturer on the impact of rapid population growth. He is also President of the Council of Washington Representatives to the United Nations Associations of the United States. Previous recipients of the award include Dr Linus Pauling, Jonas Salk, Andrei Sakharov and Margaret Sanger.

CHANGES

New board for Pathfinder International

The new board of Pathfinder International includes Andrew Young (previously a democratic representative to USA Congress and now chairman of Law International Inc), Steve Sindling (Director of Population Sciences, Rockefeller Foundation, previously World Bank's Senior Population Adviser and US Agency for International Development Director of Office of Population), and Henry Foster (Dean of Medical College, Tennessee and a board member of Planned Parenthood of America). The appointments of Jack Burns as Senior Vice President responsible for international programmes and Carol Carter Wall, as Vice President for Development, have also been announced.

Personnel change at ICVA

Marie-Claire Pret Paz will no longer be the Associate for Development Issues at the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). Until the position is filled, issues relating to sustainable development, environment, population, North/South partnerships and the integration of women in decision-making will be handled by the Executive Director. Contact: ICVA, 13 rue Gautier, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: 732 66 00.

Indian NGO address change

The India Rural Reconstruction and Disaster Response Service (PRE-PARE) has moved from 364 North Main Road, Anna Nagar to 4 Sathalvar Street, Mogappair West, Padi, Madras 600 050, India, Tel: 654211 or 655015.

Nigerian FPA phone number correction

The correct phone numbers for the Nigerian FPA are: 820945 and 820526. The number 822191, which appears on several lists, does not belong to them.

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AFRICA

Botswana abortion battle rages

The media in Botswana are involved in an intensive campaign against the Catholic Church, which is trying to make the current abortion legislation more restrictive. With headlines such as 'Abortion Stinks' and 'Abortion: What is the farce about?', the newspapers are making a stand against the Church's proposals to alter the law. However, the Church is responding with slogans including 'The womb. Once the safest place in the world for a baby, now the most deadly'. The Church is also showing a controversial film featuring four methods of abortion. Jodi Jacobson, a researcher at the US-based WorldWatch Institute, has written an article in one of the newspapers, outlining the need for legal, safe abortion, world-wide. (*The Botswana Guardian*, *MMEGI/The Reporter*, Botswana, 3 May to 6 June 1991)

Undermining development in Ghana

The current 2.6 per cent population growth rate in Ghana has the potential to undermine the gains of the national Economic Recovery Programme and frustrate government efforts to raise living standards of the people, according to the Secretary for Health of the Provisional National Defence Council [the ruling political party of Ghana]. At a two-day conference in Ghana on 'In-depth Assessment of the National Family Planning Programme', another speaker reported that in one study group more than 80 per cent of adolescents had become or made someone pregnant. Most of the girls in the study were noted to have weak communication links with issues relating to sex and family life, and, where communications links existed, advice consisted mainly of the dangers of sex. *West Africa* reports that these

findings reflect Ghanaian socio-cultural life and attitudes to sex, which have "contributed to ignorance on physiology of the body and hence the rampant teenage pregnancies". (*West Africa*, UK, 10/16 June 1991)

Lack of family planning awareness in Nigeria

The current rate of family planning practice in Nigeria is estimated to be between 5 and ten per cent, according to an editorial in *Planfed News*, the newsletter of the FPA of Nigeria. This figure represents a "yawning gap" between family planning awareness and acceptance rates, argues the article, while hospitals report that the rate of illegal abortion due to unwanted pregnancy is "very high". In response to the National Population Policy, which hopes to reduce the proportion of women bearing more than four children by 50 per cent by 1995 and 80 per cent by 2000, the FPA of Nigeria has intensified its information and education campaign and has continued to expand and provide quality family planning services from its outlets. Funding provided by IPPF, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations Population Fund to the government, and private sector response to the Policy has been appreciated, but governments needs to demonstrate more political will and financial commitment if the "collective national responsibility" of the policy implementation is to succeed, concludes the article. (*Planfed News*, FPA of Nigeria, 1990 Edition)

Educating men in Zimbabwe about family planning

In Zimbabwe, family planning workers are concentrating their efforts on men, educating them in the benefits of family planning and the virtues of smaller families and encouraging them to discuss family size with

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their wives. "We know they make the decisions," said Dr Alex Zinanga, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council [FPA]. "We want them to make the decisions on facts, not on misconceptions", he said. The initiative includes a radio serial called 'Man Is His Own Worst Enemy' which describes the life of a reckless father with too many children to support. (*New York Times*, USA, 28 May 1991)

SOMARC's first contraceptive technology training in Zimbabwe

SOMARC's first Contraceptive Safety and Technology training-for-trainers (TOT) session was officially opened by the Zimbabwean Minister of Health on 21 January 1991 in Harare. The TOT workshops focus on reviewing trainers' contraceptive knowledge, emphasizing the notion of informed choice and patient-provider interaction. The workshop in Zimbabwe was conducted for four days with participants from Ghana, Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Contact: The Futures Group, One Thomas Circle, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA, Tel: 202-347-8165. (*SOMARC II Highlights*, May 1991)

ARAB WORLD

European Midwives Conference

The IPPF Arab World Regional Bureau recently sponsored three midwives from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to attend the European Midwives Congress, held in Belgium at the end of May 1991. The event included workshops on technical aspects of midwifery and discussion of legal, practical and political aspects of the role of the midwife. Themes developed at the Conference included the need for midwives to make precise analyses of their responsibilities within public health care systems, and to develop roles that do not require constant referral to gynaecologists and obstetricians. Attendees

were encouraged to develop working environments where they could operate on an independent basis and within their own specialized parameters, while, at the same time, working and co-ordinating with other services. The midwives representing the IPPF Arab World Regional Bureau have been encouraged to follow up on conference recommendations at a national level and have asked the Bureau to support the mobilization of midwives in the Arab Region. A primary initiative will be to establish Midwives Associations in every country in the Region that has an FPA.

Iran birth numbers fall

The number of births in Iran has fallen by nearly a quarter over the past four years, due to the Islamic government's cautious encouragement of family planning. (*The Guardian*, UK, 15 June 1991)

Iraq allows free trading of contraceptives

The Iraqi Ministry of Health has decided to remove the embargo on contraceptives and to allow trading in the market without any restrictions, reports the Iraqi FPA.

Yemeni FPA involvement in national population conference

The Yemeni newspaper *Al Thawra* carried an article in June regarding preparations for the National Population Conference, which will be held during the last week of October 1991. The conference is expected to propose a population policy for Yemen, based on national strategies prepared by the Centre for Population Studies and Research and the National Centre for Statistics, which were discussed during the strategic planning conference organized by the Yemeni FPA as part of the IPPF 'Challenges for the 1990s' project. Pre-conference recommendations include the adoption of a national strategy for population and the establishment of a National Population Council.

The Executive Director of the Yemeni FPA will be presenting a working paper on behalf of the FPA at the conference.

EAST, SOUTH-EAST ASIA & OCEANIA

Pro-active Australian FPA

The FPA of New South Wales, Australia, continues to provide a comprehensive reproductive and sexual health service despite constant opposition to its work. On a recent visit to IPPF International Office, Margaret Macdonald, Executive Director of the FPA, reported that the 15 largest clinics serve approximately 80,000 clients with all family planning methods, infertility and pregnancy counselling, pap smears, STD testing and treatment and AIDS counselling. The FPA's Education Unit is a major provider of family planning training to doctors and nurses, especially those from the rural areas. The FPA spends much time responding to the opposition and providing facts and figures to the government to counter the opposition's demand to cease funding for the FPA.

Senator Harridine (federal) has suggested that since the number of abortions has remained high despite more spending for family planning, this expenditure is ineffective. The three major anti-choice members of the state parliament have a large number of supporters. These supporters target politicians on their record of voting for family planning and also send numerous anti-family planning documents to politicians.

China FPA visiting European family planners

Six delegates from the China FPA (CFPA) came to London in June to meet IPPF staff and visit the UK FPA. Dr Qiu Shuhua, Secretary General of the CFPA, indicated that the visit had given all the visitors valuable insight into the structure and functions of the IPPF International

Office, and also the global role of IPPF. Having recently returned from an evaluation of the Integrated Family Planning, Maternal & Child Health & Parasite Control projects in rural areas of China, Dr Qiu Shuhua reported that this third generation of projects has been popular with acceptors and has also served an important function in the dissemination of the maternal and child health care message. On the role of CFPA in China, Dr Shuhua emphasized that the CFPA's intention and desire is to "help and serve" the Chinese population. She said that the CFPA is working for the people, with the intention of meeting their needs wherever possible.

The Chinese visitors visited the UK FPA and spent time in discussion with Doreen Massey. The Executive Director of the UK FPA said that the meeting allowed for a valuable exchange of ideas, describing the delegates as enthusiastic to take full advantage of this fact-finding mission. The CFPA staff have also visited the Danish FPA offices. Prior to this visit, Dr Qiu Shuhua anticipated that it would give valuable insight into effective forms and styles of adolescent sex education, which the Danish FPA has been working on with much success. The visits to the two FPAs was described by Dr Chuhua as very useful missions, the results of which could well be useful in the development of "puberty education" in China.

Indonesia recognizes need for improved communication

Speaking at the 47th session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Indonesian delegate reported that although the Indonesian population is now growing at the rate of 1.9 per cent annually, compared to 2.8 between 1979 and 1980, the implementation of more effective family planning services and appropriate population programmes remains a great challenge. The delegate argued that many countries in the ESCAP region still lack the capability to produce usable data even on vital facts such as births, deaths and

the effects of family planning programmes. The delegate welcomed ESCAP initiatives to "strengthen co-operation and sharing information in the region". The article also reports that Indonesia has made significant advances in installing modern telecommunications technologies in support of national development initiatives. (*Population Headliners*, No 194, May 1991)

Market forces of family planning in Indonesia

Market forces have taken over Indonesia's family planning programmes, in line with the country's economic policy of deregulation and private sector involvement, according to a newspaper report. *The Rising Nepal* outlines how market researchers identified clients, designed messages, and produced a series of campaigns to spread the family planning word. These methods have paid off, with the birth rate dropping from 46 in 1970 to 28 in 1985. The population growth rate fell from 2.32 in 1980 to 1.97 in 1990, reports the paper. (*The Rising Nepal*, Nepal, 7 June 1991)

Japan encouraged to lead international population initiative

International society is expecting Japanese 'assistance' to take a central role towards solving world population issues, said Katsuhide Kitatani, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), at the Tokyo launch of UNFPA's *State of World Population* report. Noting the spectacular drop in population growth rates after Japan introduced family planning as an integral part of maternal and child health care after World War II, he comments that "the country's rich experiences in family planning can contribute significantly to solving population problems throughout the world". (*JOICFP News*, No 204, JOICFP, Japan, June 1991)

Japanese industry calls for more babies

Japanese business leaders have called for urgent measures to encourage women to have more babies to maintain the industrial workforce. This follows the publication of figures showing that Japan's birth rate last year fell to 1.53 per cent, and that by the year 2069 the population will fall from 123.6 million to 100 million. "If this trend continues, Japan will collapse," said Mr Hiroshi Takeuchi, Director of Research at the Long Term Credit Bank. The Japan Employers' Federation urged government and private industry to work together to "create an environment fit for rearing children". (*The Daily Telegraph*, UK, 8 June 1991)

Profile of health in Thailand

The annual rate of population growth in Thailand has declined from 3.2 per cent in 1970 to 1.4 per cent in 1980, a decline which can be attributed to the impact of the country's National Family Planning Programme which provides nation-wide outreach coverage to as many as 69 per cent of married women of reproductive age. A new study prepared by the Ministry of Health in Thailand reports that the government is committed to the promotion of health education, the professional training of health workers and also environmental awareness. (*Thailand Health Profile 1990*, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, 1991)

Vietnam recognizing importance of population information

Population is one of the major components of a strategy of economic and social development currently being prepared in Vietnam, according to the Vietnamese delegate at the 47th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. To reach a goal of national population growth rate below 1.8 per cent per year by 2000, family planning must be strengthened and facilitated with more attention given to community motivation and primary and maternal health care ser-

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vices, said the delegate. On the subject of communication, the delegate emphasized the importance of population information for the "effective formulation of sound policy and the efficient implementation and management of our national population programme". (*Population Headliners*, No 194, May 1991)

EUROPE

Irish FPA fundraising activities

Ireland's movie-makers, actors, writers, musicians and business people attended the Irish FPA's (IFPA) fundraising Joycean Ball at Slane Castle in June. Profits from ticket sales shall go towards payments incurred during IFPA's costly court case for selling condoms at a Virgin record store in Dublin. "We need between Irish £15,000 and £20,000 to keep going for another year," said IFPA spokesman Jon O'Brien. "This ball will help us survive a while longer. It's sad that we have to rely on something like the fundraising Joycean Ball to get funds to survive." IPPF Europe Director Lyn Thomas lent her support by attending the event. (*Evening Herald*, Ireland, 8 June 1991)

IPPF in Romania for FPA's first birthday

IPPF's Secretary General gave the keynote speech at a national conference held by the Romanian FPA to mark their first birthday. The event, held in May 1991, was attended by the Romanian Minister for Health, Dr Bogdan Marinescu, who praised the FPA for its successes, and representatives from major non-governmental organizations, including the Red Cross. Dr Sorin Puia and Gabriela Bococ of the FPA, the Societatea de Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala din Romania (SECS), both addressed the audience, as did representatives from the Greek and Cyprus FPAs. Dr Mahler spoke on the importance of women being free to decide for themselves on personal

issues such as methods of contraception. Participants from all over Romania, including a leading figure in the Orthodox Church, heard presentations on genetics, amniocentesis, the psychiatric problems of being an unwanted child and abortion complications. The two-day event was considered a success and may be repeated next year.

Update on conditions in Romania

Dr Sam Hutt of the UK-based Margaret Pyke Centre described his impression of family planning in Romania, in *The Guardian* newspaper. He wrote of nurses handing him blood-stained instruments to insert IUDs and of doctors with cigarettes in one hand fitting a coil with the other. However, he says that the situation is improving; new clinics are providing screens for women to change behind, and some clinics now have carpets. He calls for more money for family planning work in the country, and suggest that donations should be sent to IPPF. (*The Guardian*, UK, 25 May 1991)

Pope condemns Polish and European attitudes to abortion

On an official visit to Poland in June, the Pope accused Poles of an irresponsible attitude to abortion, an issue which has divided the country since Catholic bishops launched a campaign to illegalize abortion in Poland. He also discussed abortion in other European countries, attacking the "sensual" West, and indicating that he wishes to see other governments drafting strict anti-abortion legislation. He said that he is planning to visit the USSR in 1992. Leonora Lloyd of the UK National Abortion Campaign said that the Pope should be more concerned about the number of women who die as a result of illegal terminations in Catholic countries. The Polish abortion debate was also reported in the daily Nepalese newspaper, *The Rising Nepal*, which quoted a survey indicating that, while more than 90 per cent of Poles are avowed Catholics, only 12

per cent favour the banning of abortion in their country. (*The Rising Nepal*, Nepal, 19 May 1991, *The Times*, UK, 4 June 1991, *London Evening Standard*, UK, 4 June 1991, *The Guardian*, UK, 5 June, *International Herald Tribune*, France, *Daily Express*, UK, 7 June 1991, *The Independent*, UK, 8, 10 June 1991)

Abortion services in England and Wales

Half of the health authorities in England and Wales are failing to provide sufficient National Health Service (NHS) abortions, according to a survey published by the UK-based Pro-Choice Alliance (PCA). The NHS Royal Commission has suggested that authorities should aim to provide at least 75 per cent of all local abortions, but the survey found that 100 health authorities were "refusing to face up to their responsibilities". PCA also gives evidence of outright refusal and delays in the NHS system and point out a case of a botched self-induced abortion, the first reported since abortion was made legal in the UK in 1967. (Pro-Choice Alliance news release, 24 May 1991; BBC news, 24 May 1991; *The Guardian*, UK, *The Independent*, UK, 25 May 1991)

UK FPA welcomes support on sterilization

In response to media attention to the lack of sterilization services provided by the UK Department of Health (DoH), the DoH has written to health authorities reminding them that the 1977 National Health Service Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that a full range of contraceptive services are freely available. The letter states that "any means testing [charging according to income] is in direct conflict with the principles of a health service free and available to all, regardless of ability to pay". Speaking on behalf of the UK FPA, the Executive Director Doreen Massey hoped that those authorities which have scrapped sterilization and vasectomy to save money will now restore these services, and that means testing and charging will end. She said that in the UK

sterilization and vasectomy are the most popular methods of contraception for couples over 30. (UK FPA press release, 28 May 1991)

Soviet FPA stages major conference

The Soviet Family and Health Association (SFHA) held a two-day international seminar in Moscow from 10 to 11 June on 'New Aspects of Oral Contraception'. This was the FPA's first major seminar and was funded by Heidelberg University, and three drug companies. The USSR's First Deputy Minister of Health, Alexander Baranov, opened the meeting by talking about the problems of maternal and child health care in the USSR. Irina Manuilova, head of the SFHA, spoke on medical and social aspects of contraception. At the meeting, Soviet, German and American experts examined and discussed aspects of oral contraception, and also the effect of abortion on maternal mortality. It is hoped that the conference will increase awareness of issues within medical circles, and also raise the profile of the FPA. FPA-staff member Ludmilla Kusiek reported that SFHA has continuing support from the public and the government.

Film star talks about faulty Soviet condoms

When contraception is mentioned in the USSR, the image that springs to mind is of dreadful Russian-made condoms, said Soviet film star Alexander Kaidanovsky. Speaking in Moscow to IPPF Press Officer Frances Perrow, who was there on a private visit, he said people were not even aware of other contraceptive methods, such as the Pill, because of their non-availability. He said that couples rely on withdrawal as the basic means of avoiding pregnancy, because condoms are so unpopular. Kaidanovsky, also a film director, said that for the making of his movie 'The Kerosene Seller's Wife', he used condoms to simulate the sound of someone walking on compacted snow. "We were horrified to find that at least half of them would not inflate because they had holes in them," he

said. A few foreign condoms are available on the black market, but are priced beyond the reach of the Soviet people.

European gynaecologists meet in USSR

The European Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians held its 1991 congress in Moscow, where more than 300 European doctors joined 1,300 Soviet gynaecologists to discuss health issues, including perinatal mortality. The Congress did not examine the issue of abortion and contraception in the USSR, nor were westerners permitted to visit Soviet hospitals, but British delegates said they had enjoyed "brain-storming" sessions with their Soviet counterparts.

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh YMCA organizes change

"Our self-examination has led us to think that unless the poor and marginalized in each community come together to tackle the multi-dimensional issues and problems in an organized way, there will really be little sustainable progress," reports the Bangladesh Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in *World Communiqué*. After two decades of promoting development in Bangladesh, the YMCA has decided to shift its focus to that of 'community organizing' - the formation of groups of people with common occupations, needs or interests, who can work together to improve their condition. With the help of local YMCAs, villagers have formed savings groups offering affordable, low-interest loans, women's groups initiating income-generating activities and 'untouchables' groups which push for free primary health care, literacy and occupational training. The Bangladesh YMCA also facilitates meetings among groups to share experiences and for refresher training. (*World Communiqué*, No 2, World alliance

of YMCAs, Geneva, Switzerland, 1991)

Family planning and financial reward in Bangladesh

A study conducted in 1987 has concluded that most Bangladeshi men and women who underwent sterilization did so because they did not want more children and not because they would receive payment. The study, commissioned by the World Bank and government of Bangladesh, recommended the continuation of client payment policy, while allowing inflation to erode its value, thus reducing any existing financial motive for sterilization. In 1988 the government of Bangladesh discontinued payment to referrers but has continued compensation payments to clients. (Cleland, J and Maudlin, W P. 'The promotion of family planning by financial payments: the case of Bangladesh', *Studies in Family Planning*, Vol 22, pp1-18, January/February 1991; reviewed in *Current Abstracts: Focus on Contraceptive Research*, Vol 4, No 2, April 1991)

Overcoming the "formidable" population problem in India

"There is no time left for the nation to get out of the predicament of perpetual ignorance, poverty, illiteracy and attendant ills, unless we find better ways to convince people to adopt family planning", according to Mr JRD Tata, Chairman of the Indian Family Planning Foundation. Speaking at a ceremony in New Delhi in December, Mr Tata criticized politicians for "frittering away" their energies on religious disputes and ignoring illiteracy, population and poverty. He also criticized the vast Indian infrastructure for health and family planning for not convincing the population of the benefits of small families. However, Mr Tata did also point to optimistic indicators such as a reduction in birth rate from 40 per thousand in the 1940s to 32 per thousand today, and expressed his hope that India, with its "built-in intellectual qualities and physical assets", will overcome the daunting problem

National Events

of unregulated population. (*Focus on Population*, Vol IV, No 4, Indian Family Planning Foundation, India, October/December 1990)

New Indian soap opera with family planning message

Hum Rahi, a new soap opera, will be launched on Indian television this September. Funded by JRD Tata, an IPPF Alliance member, and written by Manor Shah Joshi, author of two other soap operas (Hum Log and Buniyad), this series will tackle the subjects of child marriage, the status of women and family planning.

FPA of Pakistan reviews 1990

The role of the FPA of Pakistan in the 1990s must be to generate public support for the small family norm, to expand service delivery and to improve the quality of care, reports the FPA in its *Annual Report 1990*. On the subject of future challenges, the FPA indicates that balancing population and resources is the key to sustainable development, and that actions and decisions of the 1990s will determine the shape of the world and society for future generations. The report also outlines male responsibility in family planning, the role of communication in future development, the continuing need for women to be involved in the development process and international collaboration with IPPF, the US Agency for International Development and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (*Annual Report 1990*, Family Planning Association of Pakistan, Pakistan, 1991)

Population and economic growth in Pakistan

A study by the Asian Bank has revealed that Pakistan has made real progress in economic development, increasing its Gross Domestic Production and Gross National Production 77 times since independence. However, per capita income has only doubled in the same period because

of rapid population growth, wrote Professor Tariq Iqbal Bhutta, in *The Muslim* newspaper. An article in *The Pakistan Times* reported that the current population of 110 million would increase to 150 million by the beginning of the 21st century. At present 60 per cent of the population is living below the poverty line, without basic housing, food, safe water and health care. (*The Pakistan Times*, Pakistan, 11 May 1991, *The Muslim*, Pakistan, 13 May 1991)

UNFPA report highlights inadequacies in Pakistan

A press briefing held in Islamabad, Pakistan, by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to highlight the *State of World Population 1991* report, illustrated the inadequacies of the country's own family planning efforts. Answering a question about the use of modern contraceptives by Pakistani women, UNFPA programme officer Ms Shahida Fazal said it was very poor. She reported that in Pakistan only 14 per cent of women are using modern contraceptives and that services are still only available to 20 per cent of the population. *The Muslim* newspaper reported that Mr Rehman, Director of the Ministry of Population, attended the briefing but refused to answer any questions about government programmes. (*The Muslim*, Pakistan, 15 May 1991)

Integrated Projects in Sri Lanka

"The key to the successful promotion of maternal and child health and family planning activities has been women's development," said Dr Renuka Herath, Sri Lankan Minister of Health and Women's Affairs, in *JOICFP News*. The article reviews JOICFP's Integrated Family Planning, Nutrition and Parasite Control Project (IP) in Sri Lanka, which has contributed to a rise in family planning acceptance rates in Nakulugamuwa from 31.8 per cent in 1980 to 59 per cent in 1989 and in Galnewa from 2.3 per cent in 1980 to 70.5 per cent in 1989. The project was launched in 1981 by the Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs, with

the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), IPPF and JOICFP and with assistance from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The project stressed the need for community training and participation and the improvement of links between community people and government health workers. The article reports that great strides have been made in Sri Lanka since the country's independence, citing the current literacy rate for women of 91 per cent in urban areas and 87 per cent in rural areas. (*JOICFP News*, No 203, JOICFP, Japan, May 1991)

Sri Lankan education minister discusses population

"It is only now that we realize that population is the sort of key to the door of all development", says Lalith Athulathmudali, Sri Lanka's Minister for Education in *JOICFP News*. He reports that while Sri Lanka's population growth rate is relatively low and the contraceptive prevalence rate is a "healthy" 62 per cent, women are still having more children than they desire because the government is not providing "the services [women] want". He also says that "the key to any development is to educate your women first", claiming that "the gap between men and women has never been so sharp in Sri Lanka as it has been in Europe or East Asia". The minister also claimed that maternal and child health has worked in Sri Lanka because it is accessible to almost everyone and also because most mothers are educated. (*JOICFP News*, No 204, JOICFP, Japan, June 1991)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

WHR re-examines role of Caribbean FPAs

"Family planning has been tremendously successful in the Caribbean," reports Everold Hosein, Director of Programme Support, at IPPF's West-

ern Hemisphere Regional Office (WHR). Mr Hosein recently visited eight Caribbean FPAs to stimulate re-examination of their roles, to discuss the feasibility of the FPAs acting as wholly voluntary organizations, the possibility of FPAs acting as models of quality service and the capability of FPAs to serve 'family welfare needs' beyond family planning.

FPA response varied on all three points, main conclusions being that there is still a place for quality FPA work, despite current governments' successes, and that while FPA work would probably not cease if all external funding were withdrawn, it was infeasible to shift to an all-volunteer structure. This re-examination is also a response to the current trend of decreased funding to Caribbean family planning programmes from the United Nations Population Fund and the US Agency for International Development. In light of the success of the Caribbean region, the re-examination also corresponds to IPPF's philosophy of shifting resources to the places they are needed most. (IPPF Trip Report, IPPF WHR, New York, USA, 9 May 1991)

Argentine President challenges Catholic Church

The Catholic Herald reports that President Carlos Menem of Argentina has challenged the Catholic Church to provide an answer to the spread of AIDS if condoms are not to be used. "It would be interesting if the Church, in dialogue with the government and other groups interested in public health, could propose a way to have sexual intercourse avoiding contagion," the President said. (*The Catholic Herald*, UK, 7 June 1991)

Guatemalan FPA reaching out to youth

The Guatemalan FPA has been using different media to convey its messages about general health and family planning services. Printed radio and television plays have reached over 250,000 people with messages about child spacing, maternal and child health and responsible parenthood.

The FPA reports receiving more than 5,000 complimentary letters following the broadcasts of 'Esmeralda' and 'On the Edge of Town', two radio plays distributed during 1989. The FPA has also produced four mini-drama videos dramatizing 'real-life' stories sent in by members of the public, including 'I Am Not Prepared', 'My First Experience' and 'My Great Dream'.

The FPA's 'Learning to Live' programme involves interviews with adolescents, where young people were asked to discuss "Who I am, what I need to know, where I am going and how will I get there?". The meetings were so successful in encouraging adolescents to explore their thoughts, opinions, environments and aspirations, that the results will be presented to the Ministry of Public Health. It is hoped that the project will be expanded during this year and become incorporated into school curricula. The FPA reports that after the meetings adolescents showed "a marked improvement in their opinions about themselves, their family and their community". This project was partly inspired by the manual 'Education for Life', produced by the Center of Population Choice, Washington, USA.

Filling the gaps in Mexican health care

The Community Doctors Project, sponsored by the Mexican FPA and the US Agency for International Development, is reviewed in *International Dateline*, which reports that the project was organized to overcome unemployment among Mexican doctors and inadequate family planning and medical services for poor people. The programme arranges for unemployed doctors to be placed where their services are most needed. Dr Alfonso Lopez Juarez, the Mexican FPA's Director General, reports that the project has established offices in more than 170 communities, with each office providing basic medical and family planning services to an average of 2,500 families each year. (*International Dateline*, May 1991)

Peruvian President champions family planning cause

Fewer women use contraception in Peru than in almost any other Latin American country, and although the average Peruvian woman wants only 2.7 children, she bears 3.7, according to *Pathways*. However, family planning has a strong ally in President Alberto Fujimori, who has made clear his belief in family planning, despite strong opposition from the Catholic Church. The National Population Council, re-activated by Fujimori in 1990, is currently involved in integrated programmes with a primary focus of family planning. The newsletter reports that Pathfinder International has developed multi-dimensional service delivery projects in all the main coast urban centres and has started to expand strategy for service delivery in public hospitals. Technical assistance for these projects has been supplied by NGOs including Profamilia, the Peruvian FPA. (*Pathways*, Vol 5, No 4, May 1991)

Peru must plan now for the future

Whatever population efforts are made now in Peru will "not be useful to our children, but perhaps to grandchildren or great grandchildren", according to Dr Alfredo Fort d'Auriol, currently a lecturer at the University of Exeter, UK. Dr Fort d'Auriol said that for several decades a large number of women will enter the reproductive age group, resulting in high birth rates, a situation he described as "population momentum". He concluded that it is now crucial for government officials and planners to recognize this situation and to act upon it, although results will not be seen for some time. Speaking to a Peruvian newspaper, he described how government efforts have been hindered by political motivation, but expressed his support and admiration for NGO efforts in the population field, while warning that NGOs must work within well orientated plans to avoid duplication. (*El Peruano*, Peru, 14 May 1991)

IPPF Events

New USA anti-abortion group

The founder of the USA National Right to Life Committee, John Willke, has left his post as President to set up a new organization, the Life Issues Institute. According to a statement issued by the Institute, the organization will concentrate on "education regarding the scientific facts of fetal development, and the reality of abortion and its consequences". In response, Barbara Rinto of Cincinnati Planned Parenthood said undecided people would continue to favour abortion rights. (*USA Today*, USA, 14 June 1991)

Venezuelan FPA expanding into the future

Since late 1990 and early 1991, the Venezuelan FPA (PLAFAM) has continued growing, "and has exceeded its programmatic goals", reports Kristan Beck, Financial Advisor at IPPF's Western Hemisphere Regional Office (WHR). The FPA is integrating several computer software facilities and has increased its staff to 46 in order to expand programme and administrative activities. PLAFAM is also planning a new project, with assistance from external donation, which includes the establishment of two suburban clinics outside Caracas in an attempt to reach poorer communities. By the end of 1990, income from services increased enough for the FPA to consider the creation of a reserve fund for this income. In her report, Ms Beck recommends that any excess income should be reinvested in project activities to expand or improve services. (IPPF Secretariat Trip Report, IPPF WHR, New York, USA, 17 May 1991)

IPPF Events

IPPF Central Executive Committee meeting

At the IPPF Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting held in London on 29 and 30 April 1991, IPPF Secretary General, Dr Halfdan Mahler, discussed the concept of developing a series of regional and international 'Collaborating Centres'. The centres would develop strategic alliances with national, regional and international organizations which share a commitment to the family planning movement, and provide recognition and formalize working relationships between and among these organizations. A plan of action for identifying initial centres will probably begin in June this year.

At the meeting, it was also suggested that FPAs in countries without a national population policy should be advised of the need for such a policy and that the creation of population policies could be an important advocacy role for FPAs to play. CEC also discussed the IPPF Members Assembly in 1992, which will have the theme of '40 Years of IPPF: Meeting Challenges-Promoting Choices-A Better Future for All'. The next CEC meeting will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, the exact dates of which are still to be confirmed.

IPPF initiatives on UNCED

On World Environment Day (5 June 1991) IPPF Secretary General Halfdan Mahler wrote to all the FPAs urging them to be on their country's delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in July 1992, or to inform the country delegations of the importance of population and environment issues. "Country delegations will have an important role to play in amending and approving the Plan of Action which will be known as Agenda 21," wrote Dr Mahler. "I hope your country's delegation will ensure that population issues are reflected in any UNCED declaration," he said. An IPPF statement on Population and the Environment was en-

closed with the memorandum. In December 1990, Dr Mahler wrote to FPAs informing them of their national reports to UNCED, hoping that population could be included in the national reports. Several FPAs have already responded to this initiative.

Joint meeting on adolescent sexual and reproductive health

A workshop on young people's sexual and reproductive health is being jointly planned by IPPF, the German-based funding agency GTZ and the Paris-based International Children's Centre. The workshop, which is being held in Paris from 8 to 11 July 1991, will analyse lessons learnt from past and current experiences, and will include country presentations from different economic, cultural and religious perspectives with the intention of identifying strategies for improving and expanding service delivery to youth. A draft agenda for the meeting lists adolescent sexuality, safe sex education, the rights of children and modes of service delivery as being included for themes of presentation and discussion.

IPPF Medical Bulletin on the role of midwives in family planning

The fully-trained midwife is the crucial link between the minimally trained health worker and the specialist obstetrician, according to Barbara Kwast, writing in the *IPPF Medical Bulletin*. Kwast concludes that midwives themselves can and must take the lead in "restoring the profession", in order to make a valuable contribution to alleviating suffering and improving maternal and child health as a basic human right. [Ms Kwast has also written an article on the same subject in the World Health Organization's *World Health Forum*] This edition of the bulletin also includes an article by the Director of IPPF Medi-

cal Programmes, Dr Carlos Huezo, on the importance and principles of quality of care. (IPPF *Medical Bulletin*, IPPF, London, UK, Vol 25, No 3, June 1991, *World Health Forum*, Vol 12, No 1, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1991)

IPPF consultant in the media spotlight around the world

IPPF consultant Perdita Huston has attracted a great deal of press coverage while visiting New Zealand and Bangladesh to interview family planning pioneers. She is working on a book to commemorate IPPF's 40th anniversary next year, which will describe the lives and work of 14 family planning pioneers from around the world. The Wellington-based *Dominion* newspaper and *The Press*, in Christchurch, New Zealand, both devoted long features to Ms Huston's deep commitment to family planning. She told one paper of her experiences in Algeria in the 1960s, which propelled her into a family planning career. "There was a woman I knew well who had been married off when she was 15 to an old man who jumped on her every once in a while. She had five children, they were malnourished, they had rickets. She came to us one day, haemorrhaging after trying to abort herself of her sixth child with a dried geranium stem. She died in my arms." In an interview with the Bangladesh newspaper *Dialogue*, she expressed sadness that female genital mutilation is still carried out in some African countries. The paper described Ms Huston as "an activist down to her bones". (*The Press*, New Zealand, 11 May, *Dialogue*, Bangladesh, 17 May, *The Dominion*, New Zealand, 20 May 1991)

ESEAOR Chairman honoured by King of Malaysia

IPPF's East, South-East Asia and Oceania Region Chairman Dr John AM Thambu has been honoured with the title of J.S.M. by the King of Malaysia, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agung. This a recognition rarely given to senior officials in public service and commercial organizations.

IPPF Treasurer awarded MBE

IPPF Treasurer Christine Taylor has been made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Zealand list of the Queen's Birthday Honours. The award was presented in recognition of Ms Taylor's "service to family health". (*The Times*, UK, 15 June 1991)

Law & Policy

USA House of Representatives rejects Mexico City policy

On 13 June 1991 the USA House of Representatives voted by 222 to 200 to reject the Mexico City policy which, since 1984, has prevented USA foreign aid from going to IPPF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) because of 'abortion-related activities'. The House also voted by 234 to 188 to provide US \$20 million to UNFPA, which has been denied USA aid contributions for five years because of charges that it approved of coerced abortion and involuntary sterilization in China. However, President Bush will almost certainly use his power of veto if the legislation progresses any further through the House. In a letter to the *International Herald Tribune*, Guy Bellairs asks if the USA administration and Supreme Court are aware that world population is increasing by 200,000 a day. He asks if our species will be renamed "Kamikaze Man" by anthropologists of the future, and suggests that USA authorities should be presented with the "Nero Award" for their shortsightedness - bronze statuettes of the Roman emperor playing his violin while Rome burns. (*USA Today*, USA, 14 June 1991, *International Herald Tribune*, France, 13, 14 June 1991)

USA Supreme Court upholds ban on abortion advice

The USA Supreme Court has voted 5-4 to uphold a 1988 ruling that government-funded family planning clinics may not counsel patients on abortions or advise them on what services are available and where they might be obtained. This ruling will affect five million women who cannot afford private health care and attend family planning clinics each year. However, according to the *International Herald Tribune*, many family planning clinics would rather forfeit millions of dollars in USA aid than abide by a government ban on abortion counselling. The President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Faye Wattleton, said that her organization would continue to counsel on abortion, and Jill June, head of the Iowa Planned Parenthood affiliate, said "Our principles are not for sale." (*The Guardian*, UK, *The Daily Telegraph*, UK, *International Herald Tribune*, France, 24 May 1991, *The Independent*, UK, *Le Monde*, France, 25 May 1991, *International Herald Tribune*, France, 25-26 May 1991)

New abortion legislation outrages the USA

"The way things are moving, I feel abortion will soon be illegal in the USA. Freedom of speech and freedom of choice, on which the USA is based, are being obliterated and the family planning programme destroyed," said Kate Michelman of the Washington-based National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), when she visited IPPF on 30 May. Michelman, head of NARAL's pro-choice alliance, discussed the implications of the highly controversial USA Supreme Court's ruling on new abortion restrictions. The ruling, passed by a narrow vote of 5 to 4 on 23 May in the Supreme Court, stated that government funded family planning clinics cannot now make any mention of abortion as a client choice, or give any information about it, including where abortion can be obtained. (It was newly-elected Supreme Court Judge David Souter who cast the deciding vote. His stance on the abortion issue had previously been unclear.)

Michelman, who was in England to take part in an Oxford University union debate on RU 486, is a former director of a Planned Parenthood Association in Pennsylvania. She fears some Planned Parenthood Federation of America clinics may be forced to close down. "It is very very hard to believe what we are experiencing right now. I feel we are returning to the dark ages." She said the 'Roe v. Wade' decision, which had legalized abortion in the USA, was "on the way out" at a time when adolescent pregnancy among the under-15s was increasing. Pro-choice groups now have 60 days to try to reverse the decision before it becomes law.

Planned Parenthood fights USA abortion 'gag laws'

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America reported that each of its individual associations is having board meetings to decide how to tackle the news from the USA Supreme Court on federal funds. A spokesperson from PPFA, New York, told IPPF some associations would

continue to accept federal funds, which account for up to 25 per cent of income, and agree not to provide any information about abortion. Others had decided to refuse federal funds and carry on pro-choice activities such as abortion counselling. *USA Today* interviewed Terry Randall of the militant anti-abortion group Operation Rescue who said that his members would pretend they were pregnant and attend Planned Parenthood clinics in the USA to see if the Supreme Court's ruling was being violated. News of the ruling soon spread beyond the USA. *The San Juan Star*, Puerto Rico, quoted José Miguel García Castro, Chairman of the board of the Puerto Rico Association of Family Well-Being, as saying, "This is a step backwards. This is a decision to be made by the woman". (*USA Today*, USA, 31 May 1991, *The San Juan Star*, Puerto Rico, 24 May 1991)

Ireland modifies condom decision

Proposed amendments to Ireland's family planning legislation will be much more restrictive than the government originally indicated. The condom Bill has been held up because of disagreement over the precise role of the local health boards and the criteria to be used in deciding the "suitability" of outlets to be licensed, which will now be judged by local health boards. There is already a huge disparity between health board areas in terms of family planning provision. (*The Irish Times*, *Irish Press*, Ireland, 12 June 1991)

Irish students' demand for abortion information fails

A judge has ruled that the ban on providing abortion information in Ireland is not a breach of European law. In a preliminary opinion, the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice rejected an appeal by 14 students against a Dublin court decision in favour of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. The judge said the Irish government was entitled to expect the European Community to respect differences between member states on moral issues.

The court will deliver its judgement later this year. (*The Independent*, UK, 12 June 1991)

New Hampshire, USA, supports RU 486

The state of New Hampshire, USA has passed a resolution asking businesses considering testing RU 486 in the USA to come to New Hampshire to do so. Robert Spurrier, spokesperson for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, said "We don't believe in having government interfere in personal, private decisions." The resolution's supporters say that while the measure does not carry the force of law, they hope it will spur more tests on RU 486 in New Hampshire and elsewhere. California and Minnesota are considering similar legislation, and New York Mayor David Dinkins has asked 33 mayors of other large cities to sign a letter to the pill's manufacturer and the President, George Bush, calling for expanded testing. (Associated Press, USA, 8 May 1991)

Development and family planning aid from the UK

Although it may be impossible to prevent the natural disasters afflicting Africa and Bangladesh, "underlying their impact are factors such as population pressure and poverty", said Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of the UK Overseas Development Administration (ODA). She said that these factors have prompted her to increase population grants to IPPF, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund, and to participate in the establishment of one of the world's largest population projects in Bangladesh, while donating £12 million of the US \$600 million needed. She promised that the ODA is trying to persuade other nations to increase their donations, remarking that maternal and child health care "can best be achieved by sensible family planning schemes throughout the world through bilateral and international programmes". (*Hansard reports*, UK Parliamentary Questions and Population References Information Services (PQR), London, UK, 14 May 1991)

Medical File

Review of USA research on health and contraception

Although there is considerable variation in the effect that reproductive patterns have on the health of individuals, families and countries, the reduction of high-risk pregnancies will have a positive impact on maternal and child health throughout the developing world. A summary of a report from the USA National Research Council, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, concludes that health risks associated with the use of modern contraceptives in the developing world "are significantly less than those associated with pregnancy and childbirth".

The report encourages easy access to contraceptive services, particularly in conjunction with efforts to increase ante-natal care, and also suggests that countries in which safe abortion is not available have the greatest obligation to provide all needed contraceptive and medical services to reduce unintended pregnancies and to treat the complications of unsafe abortions. (DaVanzo, J, *et al.* 'Health Consequences of Contraceptive Use and Reproductive Patterns: Summary of a Report from the US National Research Council', *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol 265, pp2692-96, May 1991)

Health benefits of contraception outweigh risks

There are even more health benefits to contraceptives in general than those already listed on Pill labels in the USA, ie, protection against cancer of the endometrium and ovary, anaemia, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, benign breast disease, ovarian cysts and painful and irregular menstrual periods, says Dr Philip Corfman of the USA Food and Drug Administration. Dr Corfman, a member of the IPPF International Medical Advisory Panel, reports that in the developing world contraception in general helps re-

duce maternal and child mortality as well as the deaths of children under the age of five. In addition, he says that the importance of contraception in reducing abortion cannot be stressed strongly enough. He concludes that promoting reproductive health and contraception has major effects on the health of the world, as two-thirds of the world population are women and children under 15 years of age. (*Family Planning Today*, Vol 2, No 1, Medialert Healthcare Communications, May 1991)

Appropriate training and IUD acceptance

According to recent evidence, acceptance of IUDs can be substantially improved by instituting better staff training and providing related equipment and supplies, even if initial introduction has not been carefully managed. Inadequate training of staff at Fianakaviana Sambatra, the Madagascar FPA, had resulted in negative experiences among initial IUD acceptors, and the creation of a bad reputation for the device. A new staff training programme in client selection and counselling, insertion technique, follow-up and treatment of side-effects led to an increase to more than 50 per month in the average number of clients accepting IUDs. The study documents the importance of training for providing quality family planning services and how quality increases acceptability. Concerning the training in IUD services, it is appropriate to remember that several training manuals and resources are available on the subject of IUDs, including the IPPF-produced 'Intrauterine Devices' video. The video is available from the IPPF Distribution Unit in English, French and Spanish.

One postpartum visit sufficient to encourage contraception

Home visits to adolescent mothers and other high-risk women during postpartum significantly increase the

use of contraception at six months and one year, according to recent research. An operational research study in Grenada found that one visit between seven and 14 days postpartum is as effective as three or more visits over six months during the postpartum in promoting contraceptive use. Postpartum visits also have a significant effect on increasing awareness and use of the most effective contraceptive methods.

The IPPF Medical Department has responded to these findings, indicating that home visiting postpartum women is an activity which could be undertaken by Family Planning Associations, and it seems logical that these visits will bring very positive results in terms of promoting contraceptive use, as is documented in the study. ('Strategies to Promote Contraceptive Use Among Women in High-Risk Groups', *More News*, Vol 2, No 3, TvT Associates, Washington, USA, April 1991)

Vaginal ring trials results

Trials in California, USA, have shown that the contraceptive vaginal ring completely inhibits ovulation, provides good cycle control and causes few metabolic alterations, reports *Contraceptive Technology Update*. Researchers at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, reported that the 65 mcg dose ring had been associated with nausea and will not be studied further, since the 20 and 30 mcg dose rings have proved to be just as effective. While the ring is thought to be more effective than oral contraceptives (OCs) and to cause less breakthrough bleeding, it is thought that its very presence might increase the risk of vaginitis in women prone to such infections. In general the ring was well-liked and preferred by the participants to OCs. ('Experimental vaginal ring effective in clinical trials', *Contraceptive Technology Update*, Vol 12, No 5, May 1991)

Reassessing the benefits and risks of oral contraceptives

The Pill and women over the age of 40

A recent USA Food and Drug Administration report concludes that instructions on oral contraceptive (OC) packages should be revised to state that the use of OCs by healthy, non smoking women 40 years of age or older "may outweigh the potential risks". The proposed labelling states that "there are greater potential health risks associated with pregnancy in older women and with the alternative surgical and medical procedures which may be necessary if such women do not have access to effective and acceptable means of contraception". Planned Parenthood Association of America's *Medical Digest* concludes that the increased cost and risk of female sterilization and changing patterns of marriage and family life suggest that more women will want safe and effective reversible methods of contraception into their 40s. (*Medical Digest*, Vol 11, No 1, Winter/Spring 1991)

Oral contraceptives and coronary heart disease

A British study concluded that there is increasing evidence that many of the metabolic disturbances seen in coronary heart disease (CHD) patients share a common origin, and that the development of risk-free oral contraceptives (OCs) is likely to require investigation into these complex inter-relationships. Dr Wynn, of the UK Wynn Institute for Metabolic Research, reviewed studies on lipid and carbohydrate metabolism with regard to oral contraceptive (OC) use. Three major areas of research were lipid metabolism, carbohydrate metabolism and the haemostatic system. The steroid hormones contained in OCs have been shown to interfere in all three areas. (Wynn, Victor. 'Oral Contraceptives and Coronary Heart Disease'. *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Supplement, Vol 36, No 3, March 1991)

Coronary heart disease risk markers in users of low-dose OCs

Wynn Institute researchers studied seven combination oral OCs for their effects on glucose, insulin, triglyceride and lipoprotein concentrations. Subjects included 925 women using fixed-dose (monophasic) or variable-dose (triphasic) formulations and 418 premenopausal women not using OCs. All the formulations caused a deterioration in glucose tolerance and insulin resistance and increased pancreatic insulin secretion. The greatest effects were seen with formulations containing levonorgestrel. The study showed that a reduction in the progestagen dose and use of novel progestagens can reduce the potentially adverse effects of OCs on metabolic risk markers for coronary heart disease. (Godsland, I F *et al.* 'Coronary Heart Disease Risk Markers in Users of Low-Dose Oral Contraceptives'. *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Supplement, Vol 36, No 3, March 1991)

Strategies for reducing cardiovascular risk in women

Dr Burkman, of the Henry Ford Hospital, USA, examined major risk factors for coronary heart disease and reviewed strategies for reducing cardiovascular risk in women. The gynaecologist's or general practitioner's role is important in terms of risk reduction counselling in areas that are amenable to change: diet, exercise and cigarette smoking. A fourth area, prescribing hormonal therapy, including OCs and hormone replacement, is the one risk reduction strategy that is under the direct control of the doctor. Choosing the most advantageous regimen for the individual patient therefore becomes a matter for careful consideration based on an assessment of the overall risk profile. (Burkman, R T. 'Strategies for Reducing Cardiovascular Risk in Women'. *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Supplement, Vol 36, No 3, March 1991)

Oral contraceptives and reproductive system cancer: benefits and risks

A researcher at the University of South Florida College of Medicine, USA, reviewed studies on OC use and cancer of the reproductive system. He found that large epidemiological studies conducted so far have not demonstrated any statistically significant increase in the overall incidence of breast cancer among OC users, and studies to date suggest that the risk of invasive cervical cancer appears to be unaffected by OC use. The data on cervical intraepithelial neoplasia are inconclusive and contain confounding variables. There is unequivocal evidence that OC use reduced the incidence of other reproductive system cancers, notably ovarian and endometrial. (Williams, Dr J. 'Oral Contraceptives and Reproductive System Cancer - Benefits and Risks'. *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Supplement, Vol 36, No 3, March 1991)

Does spermicide use increase the risk of UTI?

A new study has raised concern that spermicides may increase the risk of urinary tract infection (UTI). However, Thomas Hooton, who prepared the study, reports that it is still unclear if UTI risk is increased because of the mechanical effect of the diaphragm creating pressure on the urethra or because of the use of spermicide alone. Hooton suggests that clinicians should be informed of the risk, but that he would not try to dissuade women from using spermicides "because I think [spermicides] appear to be very important in reducing STD risk". Michael Rosenberg, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has completed several studies on spermicides. He agrees that the caution about Hooton's study is in terms of its clinical significance, and that readers of the report should not suggest that people should stop using spermicides. (Hooton, Thomas *et al.* 'Escherichia coli bacteriuria and contraceptive method', *JAMA*, Vol 265, pp64-69, 1991; reported in *Contraceptive Technology Update*, Vol 12, No 5, May 1991)

Fertility loss in women

A woman's fertility falls rapidly from the age of 31, and by the age of 35 she has only half the chance of having a healthy baby that a 25-year-old woman has, according to a study in the *British Medical Journal*. Trials conducted on 751 women in The Netherlands who had artificial insemination indicate that a fall in fertility starts at around 31 years and that the probability of having a healthy baby decreases by 3.5 per cent per annum after the age of 30. A study in *The Lancet* has concluded that the reason for the decrease in a woman's fertility with age is due to decline in the quality of eggs rather than difficulties of implantation in the uterus after fertilization. Researchers argue that the decline in fertility in older women can be corrected by implanting eggs donated by younger women. (van Noord-Zaadstra, Boukje, *et al.* 'Delaying childbearing: effect of age on fecundity and outcome of pregnancy', *British Medical Journal*, Vol 302, pp1361-1365, 8 June 1991; Navot, Da-

niel *et al.* 'Poor oocyte quality rather than implantation failure as a cause of age-related decline in female fertility', *The Lancet*, Vol 337, pp1375-77, 8 June 1991)

Aspirin may reduce risk to fetuses

Half an aspirin daily given to "high-risk" women from the second or third month of their pregnancy produced bigger babies and fewer problems for the fetus, reported French researchers. The blood-thinning qualities of the drug led scientists to suggest that "It now seems justifiable to propose aspirin treatment for any patient considered to be at risk." However, the report in *The Lancet* warned against "massive use of aspirin by millions of pregnant women" for fear of increased blood loss in labour. (Uzan, S *et al.* 'Prevention of fetal growth retardation with low-dose aspirin: findings of the EPREDA trial', *The Lancet*, Vol 337, pp1427-31, 15 June 1991; *The Independent*, UK, *The Times*, UK, 14 June 1991)

Vasectomy and increased risk of prostate cancer

As demand for vasectomy operations increases, reports that men who have the operation have two to five times the risk of developing prostate cancer must be further investigated, according to an editorial in *The Lancet*. The article points out that recent American studies were hospital-based and could have been biased, and indicates that a large-scale study is needed. The article suggests that while the chances of vasectomy causing cancer are slight, "vasectomy is too valuable a contraceptive procedure for such a question mark to remain suspended over its long-term safety". ('Vasectomy and prostate cancer', *The Lancet*, Vol 337, pp1445-46, 15 June 1991)

Abortion and concurrent contraceptive acceptance

A study completed by the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) reveals that 20 per cent of women

going to the clinic are seeking abortions. The incidence may still be higher since non-acceptors of contraceptive methods were excluded from the study. The mean age of medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) [surgical abortion in this context] acceptors was 28.2, and only 2.3 per cent were "in their teens". Almost all women (99.2 per cent) were married. There was a positive correlation between post-MTP family planning acceptance and education. Nearly half of the women had one or two living children and wanted an abortion for spacing their families. Only 7.5 per cent of women were using a contraceptive at the time. Preference for a male child was evident as a higher proportion of MTP acceptors who opted for a permanent method had children of both sexes than acceptors of temporary methods. Data on clients' contraceptive knowledge shows that the main source of information was by word of mouth through friends and relatives, and the most effective mass medium was radio, followed by posters and television. The study also identifies a need to improve quality of counselling to increase the confidence of clients in using the chosen method. This report was part of a study on 'Monitoring acceptability and use continuation of contraceptive methods' being carried out by the FPAI. The IPPF Medical Department provided technical assistance to FPAI in implementing this study. (Jamshedji, Armin and Narayan Kokate, *The Journal of Family Welfare*, Vol 36, No 3, FPAI, September 1990)

Research on outcome after multiple spontaneous abortions

Researchers in Montreal, Canada, studied the obstetric outcome in 88 women with a past history of three or more consecutive pregnancy losses. The results were compared to those in the total obstetric population for the same period (control group). The incidence of small-for-gestational-age infants, prematurity, low-birth-weight infants and toxemia in the study group was not significantly different from that in the control group. However, gestational diabetes and

chronic hypertension occurred more frequently in the study group than in the control group. The researchers concluded that these data could be helpful in counselling women with repeated pregnancy loss. (Hughes, Nancy et al. 'Obstetric outcome in women after multiple spontaneous abortions', *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Vol 36, pp165-66, March 1991)

The nurse as a family advocate

One of the important roles of the nurse is to act as a bridge between the health care team and the family, argues Leigh Ann Ware. Writing in *Maternal Health News*, Ware suggests that as neonatal nurses "it is our duty to be advocates for the baby, support the parents in the decision-making process, and remind the health-care team of the parents' rights to make decisions". She concludes that helping parents realize that they can and should make educated decisions concerning their children will make them more secure in their parenting role and skills. (*Maternal Health News*, Vol 14, No 2, Spring 1991)

AIDS

League of Red Cross and AIDS prevention strategies

"What needs to be done is clear: to change individual and collective behaviour." A recent issue of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' *Spotlight* outlines development in the AIDS prevention field and discusses the important role that information must play in preventing a disease which has "spread like wildfire throughout the world". Universal networking, action against discrimination and messages of prevention to the illiterate are a few of the areas of work that the League describes as vital to the struggle against the "staunch enemy" of AIDS. (*Spotlight*, April 1991)

Costing of AIDS health care

The cost of AIDS health care need not be seen as prohibitive by developing nations burdened with high incidence of HIV infection, according to a review of AIDS health care systems in *The Lancet*. The review describes a comprehensive model for the treatment of AIDS in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where prevention, education, early detection and outpatient care were emphasized in all aspects of the clinic's work. Savings were spent on research, employee incentive schemes and outreach activities. The model, described in detail in the review, is currently being investigated by health officials in Brazil and the Dominican Republic. (Kouri, Yamil et al. 'Improving the cost-effectiveness of AIDS health care in San Juan, Puerto Rico', *The Lancet*, Vol 337, pp1397-99, 8 June 1991)

Hurdles to comprehensive sex education

"In many communities efforts to implement comprehensive sexuality education programmes are often limited by the efforts of a small but determined opposition", according to Debra Haffner, Executive Director of the Sex Information & Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). With a commitment to comprehensive sexuality education for every American child by the year 2000 on the part of a coalition of more than 40 national organizations, and because of the determination of opposition, Ms Haffner has contributed to a new handbook outlining community strategies towards comprehensive sexuality and AIDS education. Contact: Peter Cott, Dept. PC, SIECUS, 130 West 42nd Street, Suite 2500, New York, New York 10036, USA. Tel: (212) 935-2832. (*Winning the Battle: Developing Support for Sexuality and HIV/AIDS Education*, by Debra Haffner and Diane de Mauro, SIECUS, 1991. Price US \$18.00, with discount for bulk orders)

Seventh International AIDS Conference in Florence

One in 250 adults may have the AIDS virus as the spread of the infection shows no signs of slowing, delegates heard at the Seventh international AIDS conference in Florence, Italy. One speaker said that the situation in parts of Africa was "apocalyptic". By the year 2000, the World Health Organization estimates 40 million people will have the virus. The rapid spread of the virus, particularly in Asia, has forced a drastic upward revision of the figures which were previously forecast. "I believe we are just gently opening the door of a very major disaster. If Asian countries, because of their current low prevalence rates, have a false sense of security, we all know this is going to be extremely dangerous," said an Indian doctor. The scientific journal *Nature* criticized the conference as being a large, expensive, "useless happening".

At the conference, AIDS researcher Dr Massimo Musicco reported that the contraceptive Pill may provide some protection against the HIV virus. Previous studies have found no such link. Some researchers believe that the Pill might even facilitate transmission of the HIV virus by affecting the surface of the cervix. Dr Musicco reported his findings from a study of 343 women who did not have the virus, but were having sex with men who did. Within 18 months, 19 women had become HIV positive, a rate of about three per cent a year. No infection was seen in women whose partners consistently used condoms, and those on the Pill appeared to be at half the risk of women using no method. (*The Guardian*, UK, *The Times*, UK, 17 June, *The Guardian*, UK, 18 June 1991)

Progress in AIDS fight

USA scientists from the Harvard Medical School have blocked the effects of AIDS in rhesus monkeys through injection with a human protein. *The Financial Times* reports that this experiment is the first in getting the immune system to fight viruses by producing new antibodies. Norman Letvin, who is heading the project, expressed "cautious optimism" for protein immunization as a treatment for

AIDS in humans. (*The Financial Times*, UK, 31 May 1991)

Gene therapy hope for people with AIDS

A report in the *Independent on Sunday* says that doctors are planning to perform gene therapy - the genetic manipulation of human cells - on people infected with the HIV virus. It is hoped that this treatment will create blood cells that can exude a substance to block the replication of HIV, thereby preventing the onset of AIDS. Kenneth Culver, a paediatrician at the USA National Institutes of Health has drawn up a plan for treating people with HIV and says, "I hope within two years we'll see experiments on volunteers." (*Independent on Sunday*, UK, 26 May 1991)

Safer sex and sexual health

The March issue of *AIDS Action* focuses on the need for community-based promotion of sexual health and communication in combatting the transmission of AIDS. The articles emphasize that communication and openness about sex, within communities and relationships, are the crucial channels needed for the understanding and acceptance of safer sex. Discussing AIDS prevention in Argentina, the newsletter says that the influence of the Catholic Church has caused AIDS prevention campaigns to focus on the monogamous couple, excluding many people in need of AIDS education. Another article offers guidelines for management of STDs, while another outlines a programme which uses role playing exercises to introduce safer sex methods to barmaids, emphasizing that once education has been introduced there must be sufficient supplies of condoms. (*AIDS Action*, Issue 13, Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG), London, UK, March 1991)

Mexican prostitutes spread AIDS prevention message

In addition to carrying identification cards showing they have had AIDS

tests, Mexican prostitutes are now said to be whispering to their clients "Protect your family, use condoms". Prostitutes are reported to be playing an important role in the government's effort to combat the heterosexual spread of AIDS. "We tell the woman to put the condom on the man, rather than letting him do it himself. And if they suspect he might be infected, we even tell them to put on two," said María de Carmen Martínez, a social worker at one of the nine government clinics working with prostitutes. (*The Times*, UK, 3 June 1991)

Sri Lankan FPA talks to 'beach boys' about AIDS

The FPA of Sri Lanka recently held two seminars on AIDS education and prevention for 'beach boys', young sex workers making a living mainly from tourist trade, reports *Capital Gay*. Held in Tangalle and Hambatota, the seminars attracted between 20 and 30 young men each, who demonstrated little knowledge of the nature of AIDS and responded favourably to the seminars. The FPA recognizes that prostitution, which offers compensation such as hard currency, travel opportunities and gifts ranging from bicycles to land and houses, is viewed by the workers and their families as the best economic route open to them. The article points out that there are no active gay groups in Sri Lanka to which the boys can turn for support and information. The author of the article, Professor Nandasega Ratnapala, concludes that the issue is too complex to tackle solely with education, and that "we have to find a satisfying alternative lifestyle for these young people". (*Capital Gay*, UK, 31 May 1991)

AIDS in Thailand

Experts have predicted that 150,000 people in Thailand have been infected by the HIV virus, and that this number will increase to one million by the end of 1992. *Development and Cooperation* reports that the spread of the disease is aided by the thriving Thai sex business. Leading politician and family planning pioneer Meechai Viravaidja has suggested that all mas-

sage parlours, bars and brothels should be closed down. Criticizing the lack of commitment by the government to curb the spread of the disease, he said that "We have to make clear to everyone who is active in the sex business and earning money from it that this is a death industry". (*Development and Cooperation*, No 3, 1991)

USAID supports AIDS prevention in Uganda

Uganda's fight against the spread of AIDS has received a US \$12 million boost from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the largest country-specific grant given by USAID to fight AIDS. A press release from The Experiment in International Living, a USA-based organization which administers USAID's grants to Uganda, reports that the grant will be used in part to expand AIDS testing and counselling services beyond Kampala, the capital city, and to develop a pilot programme providing care for children orphaned by AIDS. (The Experiment in International Living press release, Vermont, USA, 29 May 1991)

USA reverts back to AIDS testing of immigrants

The USA government has decided not to reverse its ban on non-nationals with AIDS from entering the country. In January, the Department of Health announced that it would no longer test prospective immigrants for AIDS or exclude those with the virus, following protests by numerous organizations including the World Health Organization and the International Societies of the Red Cross. However, the resulting uproar over easing the restrictions has forced the Bush administration to cancel its decision to remove the ban. (*International Herald Tribune*, France, 27 May 1991, *The Daily Telegraph*, UK, 28 May 1991)

Status of Women

Status of Women

IPPF medical consultant discusses female genital mutilation

In some parts of the world women have their clitoris cut out when they are seven months pregnant because it is thought to cause infant mortality, said IPPF medical consultant Dr Malika Ladjali in an interview for the BBC World Service programme 'Development '91'. She described the various forms of female genital mutilation (FGM) to programme presenter Margaret Percy, and her experience of shock and horror upon witnessing the operation being performed on a baby in Nigeria. When asked about the psychological problems resulting from FGM, Dr Ladjali replied, "Women who have been circumcised are then cut open again two days before their wedding night. They bleed and the pain is so bad that often they cannot be fully penetrated for up to three months. How can you talk of psychological effects when this is happening?" The programme was broadcast world-wide in English. Dr Ladjali has also appeared on the BBC 'Afrique Dernière' programme, where she emphasized the need for women to be given the power to deal with the problem of FGM themselves so that the practice will be permanently eradicated from all societies.

Dr Ladjali has had an article published in a new book entitled *Women and Health in Africa*. The article, entitled 'Conception, Contraception - Do Algerian Women Really Have a Choice?', describes Dr Ladjali's battle to introduce family planning services into Algeria. She examines the social pressures and attitudes towards childbearing and ways of making services more acceptable. Dr Ladjali also highlighted the continuing practice of female genital mutilation - not present in Algeria, but suffered by women in other African countries. Other subjects discussed in the book include enforced contraception in Namibia, the risk of AIDS in Zaire and women and child health in Côte d'Ivoire. ('Afrique Dernière', BBC World Service, UK, 2 June 1991, 'De-

velopment '91', BBC World Service, UK, 11 June 1991; *Women and Health in Africa*, edited by Meredith Turshen, World Press, New Jersey, USA, 1991, US \$14.95)

Expansion of the International Women's Health Coalition

The International Women's Health Coalition has expanded, and various staff changes have been made. Program Director for Latin America is now Deborah Rogow, formerly Senior Program Consultant. The new Program Officer for Latin America is Sônia de Souza Bendorf, and the Program Secretary is Mônica Rocha Gurley. Seble Dawit has joined the staff as Special Assistant to the President. Finally, Sandra Kabir, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, has joined the Board of Directors.

Developing links and forging solidarity in Eastern Europe

Representatives from women's organizations met in June in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, to take part in workshops and share experiences. Karen Newman, who represented IPPF's Europe Region at the meeting, reports that there was a great deal of interest in prospective research and study into issues affecting and relating to women, and that American attendees also discussed the possibility of fellowships to travel to USA colleges and universities. The meeting was particularly timely since many Eastern European countries are currently reviewing and rewriting their constitutions. Within this context, attendees were urged to ensure that governments honour ratification of the Human Right to Family Planning, and that, where possible, they should encourage utilization of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Desire for large

populations in Europe and women's desire for fertility choice was also discussed at the meeting. Ms Newman says that the meeting, which was organized by the Network of East-West Women (NEWW), provided an important arena for communication and dissemination of information. An NEWW statement indicates that meetings will be held annually in different countries to ensure that "women take an active role in shaping the new profile of Eastern and Central Europe".

Women's productive and reproductive roles: FAO strategy

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is seeking project approaches that will have a positive influence on both productive and reproductive roles of women. A pilot study in the Yemen Arab Republic enlists agricultural extension workers in a population education programme. Pilot studies in Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Lesotho and Zimbabwe have shown increases in women farmers' productivity and income and improved attitudes toward the number and spacing of children desired. Women who participate in FAO's income-producing projects were found to express more interest in information on family planning and child feeding practices than did non-participants. (*Women in Agricultural Development*, Plan of Action, FAO, Rome, Italy, 1990)

Seminar on the needs of disabled women

"Disabled women should have access to family-planning methods as well as to information on the sexual functioning of their bodies," reads paragraph 38 of the report of recommendations from a Seminar on Women and Disability, held in Vienna in August, 1990, by the United Nations' Division for the Advancement of Women. The latest issue of *Women 2000* is devoted to discussion of the needs of disabled women, including the need to address disabled women's special physical and psychological vulnerability to sexual abuse. Contact: Division for

the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

(*Women 2000*, No 1, Division for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations, Vienna, Austria, 1991)

Articles about female genital mutilation

The Spring issue of *Women's International Network News* offers summaries of several articles on female genital mutilation (FGM). *Le Nouvel Observateur* reported the case of a young woman who fled to France after being persecuted for refusing to be excised. Her refusal, after a friend had died from the procedure, was punished by beatings and banishment from her family and community. She has applied to remain in France, but cannot prove she is a political refugee under the Geneva Convention. Another article describes the efforts of organizations in The Gambia to promote awareness of FGM, including training of traditional birth attendants, organization of seminars and workshops. A third article, from the *Kenya Daily Nation*, reports on the efforts of the Social Development Office in Meru, Kenya, to educate the community about the harmful effects of FGM, both physically and psychologically. Celina Kiruki, District Social Development Officer, comments that FGM had declined in the 1960s and 1970s, but is presently increasing in occurrence, in reaction to social changes in the district. (*Women's International Network News*, Vol 17, No 2, Spring 1991)

Contraception from a woman's point of view

"The fact that a [contraceptive] method is possible or efficient does not necessarily mean it is desirable," argues Amparo Claro, Co-ordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, in *Women's Health Journal*. Questioning the criteria used to determine the direction of contraceptive research, Ms Claro calls for researchers to actively

liaise with women and women health professionals in order to develop contraceptives which are satisfactory and comfortable for women. She says that research priorities should be determined according to what women want from a contraceptive, such as methods which do not remove control from the user or alter a woman's psychological state by causing anxiety through the alteration of menstrual processes. The journal also reports on a recent conference called 'Women's Perspectives on the Introduction of Fertility Regulation Technologies', organized by the World Health Organization's Special Program of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction and the US-Based International Women's Health Coalition, which brought women's health advocates and scientists together to discuss this issue. (*Women's Health Journal*, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, No 1, Santiago, Chile, 1991)

African women hold the key to the environment

Rural women in Africa are the crucial people to reach with environmental protection education, recommended participants at an April 1991 seminar in Bujumbura (Burundi) under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), attended by representatives, many of them women, of six Central African countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, reports *UNESCO Sources*, the traditional division of labour between men and women is changing as men shift to industrialized jobs or cash crops while women are increasingly responsible for the cultivation of food for domestic use. The aim of the proposed educational effort is to create an "environmental culture" founded on the awareness and modification of cultural practices which threaten sustainable development. (*UNESCO Sources*, No 26, UNESCO, Paris, France, May 1991)

European Community invests in women for development

Since women run 30 to 40 per cent of households and are often the main food providers in many African countries, the European Community's (EC) policy on Women in Development (WID) is addressing the need to invest in women in development programmes, reports *Europa Development*. The WID strategy aims to equip women to improve productivity and income by integrating them into the distribution of capital, technology and training components of development programmes and by building "human capital" for the long-term through the provision of education, family planning services and other health care services for women. To enact this policy, the EC is conducting an awareness and information campaign for the European Commission, developing training materials and evaluating existing projects. It also provides WID consultancies to Commission Delegations in selected countries to assist in the inclusion of WID strategy in EC-financed projects. The newsletter lists examples of existing projects implementing WID policy. (*Europa Development*, No 23, EC, Belgium, April 1991)

Women pay for development in India

Although the Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) irrigation project has saved time and generated money for men in Rajasthan, India, the health and status of women in the area has declined correspondingly, reports a Panos Feature by Aisha Ram, an Indian journalist. The mechanization of work has been confined to men's jobs, while women are still working the land by hand, and the new cash crops are being grown at the expense of staple food crops, says Ram. Furthermore, money earned by the cash crops goes directly to pay for the loans which made the crops possible. The health of girls and women in unirrigated areas is worse than those in non-irrigated areas, while the health of boys and men is no different in the two areas. Dr Veena Muzam-

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der of the Delhi-based Centre for Women's Development Studies says that the declining sex ratio is the final indicator that women in India are "losing out on all fronts", in health, prosperity and social status. (Ram, Aisha. 'Women's Health the Cost of Development in India', Panos Features, the Panos Institute, London, UK, 24 May 1991)

Unorganized female labour and family planning in India

Recommendations from a study of female workers in India include efforts to upgrade the levels of education, knowledge and awareness among women, since "it is likely that the higher the level of women's education, the lower the size of the family she is likely to have". The report also recommends that women should be informed about all family planning services provided by the government and educated in the advantages and disadvantages of available family planning methods. The report discusses the status of these female workers in terms of early marriage, restriction of self control of fertility, differing values attached to sons and daughters and discrimination in education and employment. Contact: Population Centre, UP, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016, India. (*Status of Women and Acceptance of Family Planning in an Un-Organized Sector: A study of bidi making women*, Population Centre, India, March 1990)

Lowering births through education in Mexico

In Mexico, uneducated women have an average of 8.0 children, while those with seven or more years of education have an average 2.7, reports *Calypso Log*, in an article on the effects of the education of girls and women on family size. Educated women are more likely to marry later, be more involved in family decisions, plan their families, seek ante-natal health care and seek health care for children of both sexes. They are also more likely to live in cities and be employed, factors related to lower birth rates. The article discusses some of the myths which make women "hostages of ignorance" in the developing world. Programmes for men are just as important, teaching that masculinity does not depend on the number of children, but upon a man's ability to care for those he has. Men's programmes, such as those in Kenya, can provide room in the workplace for men to gather socially to discuss their own experiences and needs. The article reiterates the common theme that millions of women desire to limit or space their families but are denied the information or means to do so. (Batten, Mary. 'Lowering Births Through Education', *Calypso Log*, The Cousteau Society, California, USA, April 1991)

Pakistan committed to improving status of women

On 20 May 1991 Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the integration of women in the mainstream of national development and called for international co-operation to ensure the ad-

vancement of women. Speaking in the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, Pakistani delegate Ashraf Qureshi said his government considered upholding the status of women as a "national imperative" and not a "patronizing concession". He said a ministry for women's development had been established and had already undertaken programmes in health, education, vocational training and community development. (*The News*, Pakistan, 21 May 1991)

The effects of rape in Uganda

Now that relative peace prevails in Uganda, the Ugandan branch of the Medical Foundation for Care of Victims of Torture is able to begin addressing the effects of rape, which was prevalent during the violence of the past decade, reports *Oxfam News*. Funded by Oxfam, the Foundation reports that the level of suffering from the after effects of rape is still "considerable", including feelings of guilt, shame, sexual problems, recurring nightmares and anger. The Foundation's rape counselling service has discovered that the trauma was considered an inevitable consequence of war and was not discussed further until women members of village Resistance Committees (Uganda's new form of local government) encouraged women to discuss their experiences. More than half of 200 women in one survey in the Lowero Triangle had never discussed their ordeal because of "deeply-felt" guilt. (*Oxfam News*, Oxfam, Oxford, UK, Summer 1991)

REPORTS

- **Population and environment in Asia**

A new report from the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) outlines the links between population, environment and development. The report develops themes of economic expansion and the environment, population pressure on the environment and also migration, urbanization and population distribution. (*Population, Development and Environment in Japan: Asian Experience*, Tokyo: APDA, 1991. Population and Development Series No 13). **Contact:** APDA, Room No 710, Nagatacho TBR Building, 10-2 Nagatacho 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100 Japan.

- **Inter-African conference on harmful traditional practices**

The summary report of the Inter-African Committee (IAC) Conference on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children is now available from the IAC. A video tape on the topic, shown at the conference, is also available, while the final report is in preparation. **Contact:** IAC 147, rue de Lausanne, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

- **Family planning in the South Pacific**

A new study of family planning in the South Pacific has been produced by the Australian National Centre for Development Studies. The study includes an overview of fertility and family planning in the region and also available demographic information. (McMurray, Christine and David Lucas. *Fertility and family planning in the South Pacific*. Canberra: National Centre for Development Studies, 1990, Islands/Australia Working Paper No 90/10, Aus \$7.00). **Contact:** National Centre for Development Studies, Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia.

BOOKS

- **ICAF study of adolescent pregnancy prevention**

A collection of information and analysis of the nature and level of services for adolescent pregnancy prevention in Latin America, Asia and Africa is provided in a new publication from the International Center for Population Options (ICAF). The booklet is also being prepared in Spanish. (*Serving the Future: An Update on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Programs in Developing Countries*. Washington, DC: ICAF, April 1991).

Contact: ICAF, 1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20005, USA, Tel: 202 347-5700.

- **ILO projections for women and work**

The International Labour Office (ILO) has published statistical analysis and projections for women in the workplace up to the year 2000. The book evaluates past trends and future prospects by age, economic sector and years of working life. (Nuss, Shirley. *Women in the world of work: statistical analysis and projections to the year 2000*. Geneva: ILO, 1989, SW.fr. 20). **Contact:** ILO, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.

- **Technology, Gender and Power in Africa**

The author of this book argues that the study of gender relations and the power of women is central to an evaluation of development efforts in Africa. The book examines and critiques existing conceptual frameworks, case studies and research findings on the subject. (Stamp, Patricia. *Technology, Gender and Power in Africa*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre, 1991). **Contact:** International Development Research Centre, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9.

- **Dictionary of Environment and Development**

Earthscan Publications have released a dictionary of environment and development, covering people, places, ideas and organizations from 'Aborigines' to 'Zinc'. (Crump, Andy. *Dictionary of Environment and Development*. London: Earthscan Publications, 1991, £15.00). **Contact:** Earthscan Publications Ltd, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK, Tel: 071 388 2117.

- **Fertility transition and population growth**

Fertility transition and predictions of population change are the subjects of a new book by Loraine Donaldson. The book presents a history of theories and models that have been utilized to predict population change in different societies, and suggests a new theoretical treatment to explain conditions and causes of transition from high to low fertility rates. (Donaldson, Loraine. *Fertility Transition: The Social Dynamics of Population Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1991, £35.00). **Contact:** Basil Blackwell Ltd, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK.

• Political history of population aid

Catholic interference has deprived American women of important new fertility control products and has crippled USA assistance to family planning programmes overseas, claims Dr R T Ravenholt, former Director of the Global Population Programme of the USA Agency for International Development (USAID), in his new report. (Ravenholt, R T. *Pronatalist Zealotry and Population Pressure Conflicts: how Catholics seized control of US family planning programs*. Research Triangle Park, NC: Center for Research on Population and Security, 1991). Contact: Center for Research on Population and Security, PO Box 13067, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, USA.

• Population policy manual

This manual for policy-makers and planners examines the substance and common elements of written population policies from 28 countries, with the aim of assisting in the development of national population policies. It is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. (Isaacs, Stephen and Andrea Irvin. *Population Policy: a manual for policymakers and planners*. 2nd edition. New York: Development Law and Policy Program, Center for Population and Family Health, Columbia University, 1991). Contact: Development Law and Policy Program, Center for Population and Family Health, Columbia University, 60 Haven Avenue, New York, NY 10032, USA.

• Managing district health systems

The World Health Organization has produced a guide to managing district health systems based on primary health care. The book describes possible improvements to current health systems, health indicators, the setting of targets and objectives and also types of support that can be expected for district management from the national level. (Tarimo, E. *Towards a healthy district: organizing and managing district health systems based on primary health care*. Geneva: WHO, 1991, Sw.fr. 19./US \$17.10 or Sw.fr.13.30 in developing countries). Contact: Distribution and Sales, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

ESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, F-75700 Paris, France, Tel: 33 1 45 68 17 43, Fax: 33 1 47 34 77 66.

• AIDSED Centre accessions

The AIDSED Centre (an AIDS documentation centre) of the UNESCO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has published a list of its accessions during the period 1 October 1990 to 31 December 1990. Contact: AIDSED Centre, UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 920 Sukhumvit Road, PO Box 967, Prakanong Post Office, Bangkok 10110, Thailand, Tel: 391 0577.

MEETINGS

• ICVA meetings schedule

The following meetings are scheduled in Geneva by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA): Special meeting on strategic planning for ICVA, 30 September 1991; Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population, Sub-Group on Africa, Standing Committee on Integrating Women in Decision-making, 30 September 1991; Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population, Sub-Group on Central America, 1 October 1991; Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population, Sub-Group on the Middle East, 1 October 1991. Contact: ICVA, 13 rue Gautier, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: 732 66 00.

• Fertility transition in sub-Saharan Africa

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) will hold a seminar on 'The Course of Fertility Transition in sub-Saharan Africa' from 19 to 22 November 1991 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Contact: IUSSP, 34 rue des Augustins, 4000 Liège, Belgium, Tel: 041/22.40.80.

• Philanthropists reschedule

The World Congress on Philanthropy has been rescheduled to 5 to 8 December 1991, at the Doral Resort, Miami, Florida, USA. Contact: World Congress on Philanthropy Educational Foundation, 901 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, USA, Tel: 703 683-0000.

• Issues relating to antiprogestin drugs

'Antiprogestin Drugs: Ethical, Legal and Medical Issues' is the title of an American Society of Law and Medicine seminar to be held in Arlington, Virginia, USA, from 6 to 7 December 1991. Co-operating organ-

INFORMATION SERVICES

• New press service from UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has commenced publication of UNESCOPRESSE, a weekly compilation of major articles distributed to the news media by UNESCO's Office of Public Information. The service is currently available in English and French, with Spanish editions expected in the summer. Contact: UN-

Resources & Meetings

izations at the conference include the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Population Council, Population Crisis Committee and the Alan Guttmacher Institute. **Contact:** American Society of Law and Medicine, 765 Commonwealth Avenue, 16th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA.

- **International Conference on the Family**

The International Conference on the Family and the Role of Parents will take place in Belgium from 8 to 10 February 1992. The conference is being organized in preparation for the International Year of the Family (IYF), by the International Council of Women and the National Council of Women of Belgium, in collaboration with the UN Department of Social Affairs. Mr H. Sokalaski, Co-ordinator for the IYF with the UN, will be the keynote speaker. The theme will be 'Changing Families in Changing Societies'. **Contact:** International Council of Women, 13 Rue Caumartin, 75009 Paris, France, Tel: 4742 19 40.

- **Eighth International Conference on AIDS**

The Eighth International Conference on AIDS/Third STD World Congress will take place from 24 to 29 May 1992 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. It is sponsored by Harvard University, the City of Boston, the World Health Organization and the International AIDS Society. **Contact:** Dana Van Gorder, Director of

Community Relations, 8th International Conference on AIDS, 8 Story Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA.

TRAINING COURSES

- **Training workshops in family health and planning**

The International Health Programs (IHP) of California, USA, conducts training workshops in English, Spanish, French and Arabic for international family health programme personnel. Courses on offer in 1991 include 'Family Planning Program Management and Supervision', 'Information, Education and Communication Program Management'. **Contact:** IHP, 210 High Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060, USA.

- **Sexual and reproductive health of adolescents course**

'Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents' is a course being offered by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe during September and October 1991. **Contact:** Dr Pierotti, Regional Adviser for Sexuality and Family Planning, WHO, Regional Office for Europe, 8 Scherfigsvej, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark, Tel: 45 31 29 01 11.

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