

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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DISSIDENT WRITER FACES DEPORTATION FROM U.S.

American-born writer and photographer Margaret Randall is facing deportation from the U.S. where she returned to live in 1984. Randall is being denied the right to remain under a section of the McCarran Walter Act (passed during the last period of intense "anti-Communism" in the 1950's). According to the Act individuals whose work advocates "communism, anarchism, or opposition to organised government - or persons who have associated with Marxists or subversives will be banned from the U.S. The decision by the Immigration and Naturalization Service cites quotes in which Randall criticises civil rights in the U.S. and opposes U.S. intervention in Central America.

Randall's more than forty (40) books include Cuban Women Now, Christians in the Nicaraguan Revolution, Sandino's daughters and Women Brave in the Face of Danger. She has said "I spent almost twenty (20) years chronicling the activities of Third World Women...their political and social struggle needed to be recorded"

Margaret Randall was a U.S. citizen until moved to Mexico in her early 20's, and married a Mexican. Finding it difficult to get employment she volunteered to give her U.S. citizenship - a decision she describes as, "purely economic, if unwise". She is now married again to a U.S. citizen and lives in New Mexico.

Several other writers, including Alice Walker and Toni Morrison, have joined in filing a federal lawsuit challenging the INS decision. In a letter to the press some call on other Americans to "speak out against such undemocratic tactics which can only have one outcome: the diminishing of political freedom".

(Information from New Directories
For Women Volume 15 No.1 Jan/Feb 1986
and Plexus Volume xii No.10, December 1985.

LATIN AMERICANS JOIN SPANISH CELEBRATION

Representatives from Guatamala, Nicaragua and North Africa joined women from the rest of Europe and women from all over Spain for a three day conference to celebrate ten (10) years of Spanish feminism.

General themes were an assessment of the last decade and proposals for the future. Among the subjects debated were, disarmament, pornography, sexuality, education, work and history. There were also workshops in dance and art. However, the most dramatic element of the conference was the carrying out of two illegal abortions in one of the debating rooms.

Four thousand (4,000) women at the conference signed a paper declaring themselves responsible - a gesture of solidarity against Spain's abortion law (passed last year). The Spanish feminists have waged a campaign for free abortion.

Spare Rib No.161 January 1986

WOMEN STRIKE IN ICELAND

Chanting the slogan "we dare, we can, we will" women in Iceland stopped working for a day and took to the streets to protest economic inequality.

The strike called for U.N. Day (October 24, 1985) paralysed the country's telephone communications system, banks, hospitals, schools and the industries where women predominate (fisheries, wool processing and knitting plants). Meanwhile, cafes of Reykjavik (the capital) were filled with men buying breakfast because their wives refused to cook.

The President of Iceland showed her solidarity with other women by staying home the day of the strike which is the second of its kind to be held there. The first in 1975 marked the beginning of the Women's Decade.

New Directions For Women

Volume 15 No.1 Jan/Feb, 1986

U.S. EMPLOYMENT POLICIES JUDGED LACKING

A study by the Family Planning Panel of the Economic Policy Council, has concluded that the American workplace has not adjusted to dramatic changes in the American family.

According to the report, for most Americans there is conflict between their work and family lives. This causes difficulty for the people and is a drain on the nation's resources. Both government and corporations should adopt policies to make it easier for employees to work while raising children.

Specific recommendations include :allowing women six to eight weeks maternity leave with partial pay and guaranteed job return; offering unpaid leave to men and women with newborn and adopted children, with job return guaranteed; improving efforts to provide child care; improving maternal and child health care services; creating more flexible work schedules.

Jobs in the U.S. are still structured as if the typical family was composed of a man going out to work and leaving his wife home with their children. In fact, the study says less than 10% of families in the U.S. fit this model.

The U.S. has not like most other industrialised countries implemented family policies to accommodate the changing economic and social environment.

Off Our Backs Volume xvii No.2
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LANDLORD ENCOURAGED TO LIVE IN HIS OWN SLUM

When handing down sentence a municipal Judge in Los Angeles, California gave a slum landlord the choice of either 60 days in jail or 30 days in jail and 30 days in a room of one of his dilapidated buildings.

The landlord a neurosurgeon by profession, asked for extra time to consider which was worse. He had been found guilty on other occasions without making improvements in his buildings.

Tenants described uninhabitable conditions, little or no security and high rents. The landlord's own lawyer called him inept.

Judge Veronica Simmons McBeth thought the experience of living in one of his buildings would make the landlord bring them up to the standards of the building code.

After announcing sentence Judge McBeth was told that six slum landlords had called to find out what the cost of bringing their buildings up to code would be.

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