

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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MAKING BABIES FOR WAR

ATHENS--Feminists are criticizing Greek President Christos Sartzetakis for saying publicly that Greek women should have more babies to help Greece in its age-old enmity with Turkey.

"As a nation we must encourage births," Sartzetakis said, "because by the year 2000 AD the Turks will number 85 million and we Greeks only 12 million." Sartzetakis used this as a reason for opposing abortion.

The country's five largest feminist organizations and Margaret Papandreu, the wife of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, issued an announcement that said, "Women are not child-manufacturing machines which must give birth to soldiers for war. It is the unchallenged right of a woman alone to decide whether she will have children, how many and when, and this right cannot be ignored in favour of any national interest or other excuse."

The feminist asked Sartzetakis to receive a delegation of feminists and to issue an apology. Sartzetakis is a former supreme court judge who prosecuted right-wing extremists in the '60s. The movie Z is based on his work during those times.

(The Boston Globe) Off Our Backs
Vol.XVI No.1 January 1986

SPECIAL POLICE STATION FOR WOMEN

The long neglected problem of domestic violence is receiving attention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where the government and feminist groups have established a Special Precinct for the defense of Women.

The Precinct became the busiest police station in the city, visited daily by over 200 women, who previously had difficulty obtaining protection from police officers who viewed violent acts against women as justifiable "crimes of passion." The Precinct is run entirely by women, and has inspired plans to open two more special precincts in Sao Paulo, as well as an already existing precinct in Rio de Janeiro.

Political motivation for the attention to these issues includes the fact that women's votes are being sought for upcoming mayoral elections.

(New York Times) Womanews Vol.7
No.1 December/January 1986

NO "RAPE" PERFUME

A petition for the registration of the name "Rape" for a new perfume was withdrawn as a result of public pressure.

The NOW-New York City Media Reform Task Force was informed by a female attorney working in patents and trademarks about the brand name.

(The NOW-New York Woman)
Womanews Vol.7 No.1 December/
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NEW RESEARCH ON UTERINE CANCER

The link between the use of estrogen and uterine cancer has been found to be more serious than previously believed.

Medical authorities have recognised for a decade that the use of estrogen hormones to treat menopause symptoms increased the risk of localized uterine cancers. They had suggested that these risks would decline after the therapy was stopped.

A recent study by the Boston University School of Medicine, involving over 1,200 women, found that estrogen also increased the risk of more serious, generalized cancers, and that the risks did not decline even 10 years after the therapy was discontinued. Any woman who has not had a hysterectomy and has used estrogen for a year or more at any time in the past should have regular gynecologic examinations.

(The New York Times) Womanews
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A "REASONABLE" WIFE-KILLING

A sympathetic-sounding judge has sentenced an Englishman who murdered his wife to six years in prison.

The convicted man had strangled his wife, hacked her body to pieces, cooked some of them and scattered them around London. He testified that she had provoked him by breaking his pipes and maligning his manhood.

In sentencing the judge remarked that the man was devoted to his children and that "a man of reasonable self control might have been similarly provoked and might have done what you did."

(New York Times) Womanews Vol.7
No.2 February 1986

STATELESS WOMEN LIVE ON WATER

About 13,000 "boat brides", women originally from the Chinese mainland who married Hong Kong fishermen are being deprived of their rights to live and work in Hong Kong.

The women lost their Chinese citizenship when they married but the British government (in Hong Kong) would not give them citizenship and they are confined to the boats except in cases of illness or for child birth and then they must be accompanied by government officials.

The boat brides cannot engage in paid employment, cannot even go to the shop or take their children to school.

If a husband gets work on land he and the children can move but not the women. In June 1984, the government ruled that these women lose their right even to live in the territorial waters when the men take up work on land.

In August 1985, thirteen "boat brides" returned to China where they have to reapply for citizenship, then apply to return to live with their husbands and children. A fourteenth woman left the following month after having a baby (who remained in Hong Kong.)