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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OFFICE
WEST AFRICA
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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UPPER VOLTA
WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

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Women in Development
Agency for International Development
Room 3043, New State
Washington, D. C. 20523
(202) 652-6183

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APRIL 1978

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UPPER VOLTA - WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

WOMEN THROUGHOUT AFRICA ARE CONFRONTING CHANGES OVER WHICH THEY HAVE NO CONTROL AND WHICH FREQUENTLY HAVE DISTRESSING CONSEQUENCES FOR THEM. THEY ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE DEMANDS OF A MODERNIZING ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR TRADITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THEY FIND THEIR NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ROLES POORLY DEFINED. ON THE ONE HAND CONCERNED WOMEN ARE OFTEN CRITICAL OF CURRENT POLICIES WHICH IGNORE THEIR NEEDS, ON THE OTHER THEY ARE OFTEN CRITICAL OF THEMSELVES FOR NOT CLEARLY DEFINING AND STATING THEIR NEEDS AND THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WOULD CREATE THE BEST ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR ADVANCEMENT.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THE TOPIC OF WOMEN'S STATUS AND ROLES HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INNUMERABLE SEMINARS, ARTICLES, STUDIES, AND PROGRAMS. IT IS A SUBJECT ON WHICH NUMEROUS THEORIES COMPETE, SEARCHING FOR A NEW PHILOSOPHY WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE WOMEN AS RATIONAL AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS. IN AFRICA THIS TOPIC HAS IMPASSIONED WOMEN FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE THAN THAT FOUND IN THE WEST. INSTEAD OF SEARCHING FOR NEW FREEDOM FROM FAMILY DEMANDS, AFRICAN WOMEN ARE STRUGGLING TO RETAIN THEIR FORMER INDEPENDENCE AND STATUS WITHIN THE FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND TO CONTINUE THEIR IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ROLES WITHIN THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.

THIS INDEPENDENCE HAS ALREADY BEEN WEAKENED BY WESTERN IDEAS WHICH DEFINE THE WOMAN'S ROLE AS LIMITED TO THE CARE OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND THE HOUSEHOLD, AND BY MODERNIZATION, WHICH IS BRINGING ADVANTAGES TO MEN BUT NOT TO WOMEN. HOWEVER, THE DROUGHT HAD A SUDDEN AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE ROLES OF WOMEN IN SAHARAN COUNTRIES. FIRST, THE VASTLY INCREASED PRESSURES ON THE LAND THREATENED WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND IN AREAS WHERE SHE TRADITIONALLY HAD HER OWN FIELDS. SECOND, THE DROUGHT WAS FOLLOWED BY A PROLIFERATION OF PROGRAMS FREQUENTLY MODELED ON WESTERN IDEAS, WHICH AIDED MEN BUT NOT WOMEN IN FARMING, MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCE.

WOMEN ARE SEEING, HOWEVER, THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND DIVERSE ASSOCIATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO MOBILIZE A PART OF THEIR RESOURCES FOR "WOMEN'S PROGRAMS". THESE PROGRAMS ARE FREQUENTLY CARRIED OUT ON AN AD HOC BASIS WITHOUT ANY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN USING A COMMON APPROACH. CONCERNED WOMEN KNOW THAT PROGRESS DEMANDS THEIR PARTICIPATION AS BOTH CITIZENS AND ECONOMIC AGENTS IN THE CONCEPTION AND EXECUTION OF PLANS WHICH INFLUENCE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. WOMEN IN MANY COUNTRIES ARE ALSO SEEING THAT THIS IS A PERIOD OF POLITICAL RE-ORGANIZATION, AND RE-THINKING OF NATIONAL POLICIES. THEY NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK UP FOR CHANGES THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE.

EDUCATED AND CONCERNED VOLTAIC WOMEN ARE REACTING TO THESE VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRESSURES, AND TO NEW POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES, BY STUDYING THEIR FUTURE AND FINDING WAYS TO VERBALIZE THEIR CONCERNS AND IDEAS. OVER 100 WOMEN WERE INVOLVED IN INTERVIEWS, STUDIES AND SEMINARS CARRIED OUT BY SAED ANTHROPOLOGIST MARILYN HOSKINS AND SOCIOLOGIST JOSÉPHINE GUISSOU AND FINANCED BY AID (REDSO/WA, ABIDJAN). THEIR IDEAS ON THE CHANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN AND THEIR PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS ARE SYNTHESIZED IN THIS PAPER.

ABSTRACT

THE WOMEN STRESSED CERTAIN BASIC IDEAS OVER AND OVER, AND BASED THEIR PROGRAM PROPOSALS UPON THEM. THESE ARE DESCRIBED BRIEFLY HERE AND SUPPORTED WITH DETAILS, EXAMPLES, AND SPECIFIC PROGRAMS IN THE FOLLOWING TEXT.

IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR, THESE WOMEN DISCUSSED EDUCATION, LAW, MEDICINE, AND SOCIAL SERVICES. EACH OF THESE SERVICES WAS ONCE PART OF AN INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SYSTEM, BUT EACH IS NOW OVERLAID BY WESTERNIZED INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT SUPPORTABLE BY COMMUNITY MEANS AND ARE INADAPTED TO REAL NEEDS. EVEN THOUGH FINANCED BY THE TAX REVENUES OF ALL CITIZENS, THEY ARE LIMITED TO SERVING A SMALL NUMBER OF ELITE. BECAUSE THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT WIDESPREAD, THE TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY

STRUCTURES ARE STILL FUNCTIONING TO SOME EXTENT AND ARE AVAILABLE TO DRAW UPON IN DEVISING VOLTAIC SOLUTIONS TO THE CHANGING VOLTAIC NEEDS. THUS INSTEAD OF ASKING HOW TO MAKE THESE SO-CALLED MODERN INSTITUTIONS MORE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN, THE WOMEN ASKED WHAT NEW APPROACHES COULD BE DESIGNED TO FIT THE CHANGING LIFE STYLE IN UPPER VOLTA, UTILIZING THE STRENGTHS OF THE VOLTAIC TRADITIONS AND DRAWING FROM THE ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGIES. AS THEY TALKED, THEY CONTINUALLY STRESSED THAT THESE NEW INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE SUPPORTABLE BY THE COMMUNITY, ADAPTED TO THE REAL NEEDS, AND SHOULD SERVE THE ENTIRE POPULUS. THE WOMEN IDENTIFIED CERTAIN NEW PROBLEMS WHICH NEITHER THE TRADITIONAL NOR THE MODERN SYSTEMS ADDRESSED AND RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THEIR MAIN SUGGESTIONS IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR WERE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED AND-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS BEING GIVEN BASIC TRAINING AND THE MEANS FOR SOLVING MANY OF THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, LEGAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE THE COMMUNITY. THEY WANTED ALL PROGRAMS TO BUILD INDEPENDENCE, NOT DEPENDENCE.

THE VOLTAIC WOMAN HAS ALWAYS CONTRIBUED TO THE FAMILY'S FOOD PRODUCTION WHICH IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY. SHE ALSO HAD A PERSONAL INCOME UNDER HER OWN CONTROL, WHICH SHE USED TO PROVIDE FOR A CERTAIN CLEARLY-PRESCRIBED RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE FAMILY AS WELL AS HER PERSONAL NEEDS. IT IS THIS ROLE OF PROVIDER OF SPECIFIC INDISPENSABLE ITEMS FOR THE FAMILY AND FOR HERSELF, AND A CERTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY WHICH THE WOMEN FEEL IS THREATENED. VOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TEND TO WITHHOLD FROM THE WOMAN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, TOOLS, AND PRODUCTS NECESSARY FOR MODERN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, EDUCATION, AND RESOURCES FOR ENTRY INTO MODERN COMMERCE OR INDUSTRY. SHE THUS BECOMES ECONOMICALLY CRIPPLED IN THE MODERN WORLD. THE WOMEN IN THIS STUDY WANT PLANNERS, VOLTAIC AND FOREIGN ALIKE, AND ALL VOLTAICS (ESPECIALLY HUSBANDS) TO REALIZE THAT ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE FAMILY AND THE COUNTRY IS NEITHER NEW NOR THREATENING. IT IS, INDEED, NECESSARY IF THE WOMAN IS TO CONTINUE HER ROLE AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF AN HARMONIOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL UNIT INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE ESSENTIALLY FOREIGN PATTERN OF BEING LIMITED TO THE ROLE OF WIFE-SERVANT IN THE SERVICE OF THE FAMILY.

THE WOMEN ALSO ADDRESSED THE PROBLEM OF POWER, RECOGNIZING THAT IN THE MODERN SECTOR THEY HAVE VERY LITTLE POLITICAL VOICE. THEIR CONSENSUS WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL WHICH COULD BE A LIAISON BETWEEN WOMEN AND THE GOVERNMENT.

BOTH FEDERATION MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS MENTIONED THAT THE FEDERATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN IS BECOMING A FORUM FOR WOMEN OF ALL SOCIAL LEVELS AND COULD BE USEFUL TO GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN HELPING DESIGN PROGRAMS, IN SUPERVISING PILOT PROJECTS, AND IN EVALUATING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AS THEY AFFECT WOMEN.

S O C I A L S E C T O R

SOCIAL WELFARE TRADITIONALLY IS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED SYSTEM THAT TOUCHES ALL ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE. IT IS A COMMUNITY AFFAIR. THERE ARE EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR THAT VARY BY ETHNIC GROUP, BUT BOTH THE MORE AND THE LESS CENTRALLY ORGANIZED ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BASIC SOCIAL UNITS FROM THE EXTENDED FAMILY TO THE VILLAGE.

EDUCATION

UNDER THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM ANY ADULT CAN CORRECT OR ADVISE A YOUNGSTER ON SOCIAL CONDUCT. THERE ARE NO FORMAL EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURES, HOWEVER THERE ARE SPECIAL TIMES DURING WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER ADULTS CHARGED WITH THEIR EDUCATION (EXCISION FOR GIRLS AND CIRCUMCISION FOR BOYS). MOST EDUCATION IS A PROCESS OF CHILDREN SITTING AND WORKING WITH ADULTS, AND LISTENING TO ADVICE AND COMMENTS ON SUCH THINGS AS RULES OF BEHAVIOR, CAUSES AND CURES FOR AILMENTS, AND OBLIGATIONS TO ELDERS. CHILDREN WORK WHILE LEARNING AND CONTRIBUTE THEIR LABOR AT THE SAME TIME. ALL PHASES OF TRADITIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE ARE KNOWN AND DISCUSSED BY THE COMMUNITY AND ARE REINFORCED BY RITES OF PASSAGE, CEREMONIES, AND FOLK TALES. THE COMMUNITY TEACHES CHILDREN WHAT THEY NEED FOR THEIR ADULT LIVES. IT TEACHES THEM TO BE CONSCIOUS

5

OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY. COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE CHILD'S MORAL, PROFESSIONAL AND EVEN ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT. MOTHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDUCATION OF ALL CHILDREN UNTIL ABOUT SEVEN, AND FOR GIRLS UNTIL THEY MARRY.

HEALTH

TRADITIONAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO HEALTH ALSO REINFORCE THE SOCIAL GROUP. LONG BEFORE EUROPEAN DOCTORS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRESS AND WORRY AS A CAUSE OF ILLNESS, TRADITIONAL VOLTAIC HEALERS WERE WORKING TO HELP THEIR PATIENTS MAKE AMENDS FOR BROKEN RULES AND TO RESOLVE SOCIAL CONFLICTS AS PART OF THEIR HEALTH PROGRAM. MANY POPULAR CURES INCLUDE LEAVES AND HERBS WHICH WOMEN COLLECT AND PREPARE. FOR MORE COMPLICATED ILLNESSES PROFESSIONAL HEALERS ARE CONSULTED. IF THE PATIENT IS PUT TO BED, IT IS AT HIS OWN HOME OR AT THE HOME OF THE HEALER, AND THE PATIENT IS NOT CUT OFF FROM HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THESE CURES ARE NOT RESERVED FOR THE RICH; FREQUENTLY TRADITIONAL HEALERS AND MIDWIVES (WHO ARE ALSO FARMERS) ARE GIVEN SIMPLE GIFTS OF FOOD. THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES ITS EXPERTISE TO HELP CURE A MEMBER AND, IF SOMEONE IS DYING, COMMUNITY MEMBERS STAY WITH HIM AND HIS FAMILY. WOMEN ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM, BEING IN CHARGE OF NUTRITION, HYGIENE, SIMPLE CURES, AND SOMETIMES ACTING AS HEALERS AND MIDWIVES.

LAW

LAWS OR RULES IN THE TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ARE CREATED TO SUPPORT THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND HELP PEOPLE LIVE IN BALANCE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW AND FOLLOW THE SOCIAL RULES, MANY OF WHICH WERE ORIGINATED BY THE ANCESTORS AND CARRY MYSTIC SANCTIONS. THE COMMUNITY FEARS OUTBREAKS OF ILLNESS, FAMINE, OR OTHER TRAGEDIES IF THE RULES ARE BROKEN AND AMENDS NOT MADE. THEY, THEREFORE, MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO HELP EVERYONE LIVE ACCORDING TO THE RULES OR PAY THE PRICE DEMANDED WHEN RULES ARE BROKEN. IN CASE OF DISPUTES WOMEN FREQUENTLY ARE NOT ABLE TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES BEFORE THE ELDERS, BUT MALE MEMBERS OF THEIR NATAL FAMILY CAN SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF. SINCE SUCH HEARINGS ARE HELD BY PEOPLE WHO KNOW ALL THE PARTIES WELL, A WOMAN'S POSITION IS USUALLY WELL UNDERSTOOD.

SOCIAL SERVICES

IN THE VILLAGE, FAMILY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS TRADITIONALLY HELP EACH OTHER. IN TIMES OF CELEBRATION AND CRISES EACH PERSON HAS AN OBLIGATION. NEIGHBORS HELP PREPARE FOOD FOR WEDDINGS, JOIN WORK PARTIES TO BUILD HOUSES AND TO DO FIELD WORK, AND WOMEN OFTEN HAVE INFORMAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS. THIS FEELING OF MUTUAL AID IS BUILT INTO COMMUNITY LIFE AND MEMBERS KNOW THAT, IF THEY HONOR THEIR OBLIGATIONS, THEY WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY WHEN IT IS NEEDED.

THE EVOLVING SOCIAL SITUATION

NEW INSTITUTIONS, BASED ON FOREIGN CONCEPTS AND LIFE STYLES AND OFTEN CONTRARY TO VOLTAIC CUSTOM, HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY IN EACH OF THESE FIELDS. MOST INSTITUTIONS TAKE DECISION-MAKING AND CONTROL OUT OF THE VILLAGE; MOST ARE SO EXPENSIVE THAT THEY CANNOT BE SUPPORTED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND MOST CREATE SOCIAL DIVISIONS BY GIVING SERVICES TO SOME BUT NOT TO OTHERS. THOUGH THE MAJORITY OF VOLTAICS SUPPORT THESE INSTITUTIONS BY THEIR TAXES, ONLY THE MINORITY ARE WELL-SERVED BY THEM. SINCE INDEPENDENCE THE VOLTAIC GOVERNMENT HAS MODIFIED MANY OF THESE INSTITUTIONS, AND IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING SEVERAL BASIC REFORMS TO BRING THE SERVICES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. EACH OF THESE FOUR FIELDS HAS DEVELOPED DIFFERENTLY AND MUST BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

EDUCATION

TRADITIONAL EDUCATION USED THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE FAMILY AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FUTURES. MODERN EDUCATION INTRODUCED THE FOREIGN CONCEPT OF TRAINING FOR A CONSUMPTION-ORIENTED PATTERN RATHER THAN A LIFE OF SUBSISTANCE ALONE. IT TRAINS A SMALL ELITE FOR CERTAIN JOBS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. SCHOOLING FREQUENTLY ACTS TO LIMIT OR CUT OFF COMMUNICATIONS WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AND THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE. AS ONE EDUCATOR REMARKED, "WHEN CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL AND GO TO THE TOP, THEY ARE NO LONGER FIT FOR FARM WORK. CHILDREN WHO ENTER

SCHOOL AND DO NOT SUCCEED ARE ALSO NO LONGER FIT FOR FARM WORK NOR ARE THEY ABLE TO ENTER THE MODERN WORLD. IN A COUNTRY OF 95% RURAL POPULATION IT IS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT LESS THAN 10% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION IS EDUCATED. IF BY MAGIC WE COULD SUDDENLY ENROLL ALL OUR CHILDREN IN THIS SCHOOL SYSTEM, IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE WOULD HAVE A WHOLE GENERATION OF PEOPLE UNABLE TO PAY TAXES TO SUPPORT THE SYSTEM, AND INDEED UNABLE EVEN TO FEED ITSELF." THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOUNG STUDENTS ARE UNABLE TO FINISH THEIR STUDIES FOR LACK OF FUNDS, LACK OF OPPORTUNITY, FAMILY OBLIGATIONS, OR LACK OF INTELLECTUAL APTITUDE. OF OVER 1000 CHILDREN WHO START SCHOOL, ONLY 275 (OR 27%) FINISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 5 (OR 2%) GET A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. THE WOMEN FIND THIS AN APPALLING WASTE OF HUMAN RESOURCES AS MANY OF THE 98% WHO FAIL TO GRADUATE HAVE ONLY TRAINED THEMSELVES INTO PERPETUAL UNEMPLOYMENT.

IT IS NOT ONLY THE LACK OF TRAINING IN VIABLE ECONOMIC SKILLS WHICH SEEMS TO BE WORRYING THE WOMEN. URBAN EDUCATORS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM DOES NOT TRAIN THE "WHOLE" CHILD. IT BEGINS AT AGE SEVEN AND ONLY THE FEW WHO CAN AFFORD PRIVATE NURSERY SCHOOLS CAN OBTAIN SCHOOLING FOR THEIR CHILDREN BEFORE THIS AGE. ESPECIALLY IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT, BUT ALSO IN RURAL SCHOOLS, ONCE A CHILD IS ENROLLED FAMILIES TEND TO LEAVE THE TOTAL TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL, WHILE THE SCHOOL PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO DEAL MERELY WITH THE INTELLECTUAL ASPECTS. MANY PARENTS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PROGRAM AND FEEL INADEQUATE TO "INTERFERE." ONE WOMAN URBAN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SUGGESTS THE NEED OF AN EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH FOR URBAN AS WELL AS RURAL SCHOOLS IN WHICH PARENTS AND TEACHERS WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES IN TRAINING THE COMPLETE CHILD.

WOMEN EDUCATORS ALSO COMPLAIN THAT EVEN THE TASK OF INTELLECTUAL TRAINING OF THE CHILD CANNOT BE DONE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND SCHOOL DORMATORIES ESPECIALLY FOR GIRLS. THE STATE OF MANY THAT EXIST IS DISGRACEFUL. THERE IS A SHOCKING LACK OF LEARNING MATERIALS. WITHOUT BOOKS AND OTHER TRAINING AIDS, TEACHERS CANNOT DO AN ADEQUATE JOB. TEACHERS FEEL MANY MORE PEOPLE WOULD ELECT TO BECOME TEACHERS IF CONDITIONS WERE NOT SO DIFFICULT. THEY PLEAD THAT SOME MORE RATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION BE CHOSEN FOR THE

FUTURE AND THAT IT THEN BE ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED. CURRENTLY IN URBAN CENTERS THERE IS A PROLIFERATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS; MANY OF POOR QUALITY, THAT HAVE SPRUNG UP TO FILL THE GAP FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD THEM.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO REFORM THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. THE WOMEN DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD START THE CHILDREN YOUNGER, USE NATIONAL LANGUAGES FOR THE FIRST EIGHT OR NINE YEARS OF INSTRUCTION, AND WOULD EMPHASIZE AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL TRAINING. IN THIS SYSTEM CHILDREN WOULD NOT BE GIVEN EXAMINATIONS SO THE ATTITUDE WOULD BE COOPERATIVE INSTEAD OF COMPETITIVE, AND THERE WOULD BE NO FAILURE. THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT HAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL PILOT SCHOOLS USING SOME OF THESE IDEAS. WOMEN DISCUSSED OTHER IDEAS ALSO. MANY REJECT ENTIRELY THE FOREIGN MODEL OF THE EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND SUGGEST STARTING AGAIN WITH THE TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE AS A BASE USING VILLAGERS IN TEACHING ROLES AND TRAINED AGENTS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS ADVISORS.

NO MATTER WHAT PROGRAM OF EDUCATION IS FINALLY ADOPTED, WOMEN POINT OUT LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT IT FOR IT TO BE SUCCESSFUL ESPECIALLY IN THE TRAINING OF GIRLS. STARTING FROM COLONIAL TIMES THE FRENCH ASKED TO TRAIN THE SON (NOT DAUGHTERS) OF THE VOLTAIC ELITE. LATER, WHEN EDUCATION WAS INTRODUCED FOR GIRLS, IT WAS MAINLY TO TEACH SOME TYPES OF WESTERNIZED HOUSEHOLD SKILLS. MOTHERS TAKE TRAINING DAUGHTERS SERIOUSLY. TRADITIONALLY, THE GIRL HELPS HER MOTHER WITH HOUSEHOLD TASKS WHILE LEARNING THE SKILLS THAT WILL MAKE HER A GOOD WIFE AND WILL SHOW HOW WELL HER MOTHER TRAINED HER. CURRENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT SENDING DAUGHTERS TO SCHOOL INCLUDED: A GIRL AT SCHOOL HAS LESS TIME TO HELP AT HOME, MAY NOT LEARN NEEDED HOUSEHOLD SKILLS, SHE MAY BE TRAINED INTO UNEMPLOYMENT AND SHE MAY GET SO MUCH EDUCATION SHE WILL HAVE TROUBLE FINDING AND PLEASING A HUSBAND. THESE IDEAS WILL NEED TO BE COUNTERED WITH EXTRA HELP FOR MOTHERS AND DAY CARE CENTERS IF YOUNG GIRLS ARE TO BE FREE FROM HOUSEHOLD DUTIES AND TRAINING THAT WILL TRULY BE USEFUL FOR HER FUTURE. CURRENTLY, IF THE GIRL GOES TO SCHOOL IT IS USUALLY BECAUSE HER FATHER IS EDUCATED HIMSELF OR HAS PERHAPS TRAVELED AND SEEN THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE MODERN SECTOR AND INSISTS THAT HIS DAUGHTERS HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

EVERY ASPECT OF MODERN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE DEMANDS THAT WOMEN HAVE A NEW FORM OF EDUCATION. MOST OF THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY WOMEN IN ORDER TO REALIZE A MORE ACTIVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE IN THEIR COUNTRY, REVOLVED AROUND SOME TYPE OF EDUCATION. WOMEN HAVE AN ENORMOUS STAKE IN THE FORM OF EDUCATION THAT IS OFFERED. AS LIVING PATTERNS CHANGE, WOMEN AS EDUCATORS OF THE YOUNG MUST PREPARE THE CHILDREN FOR THE NEW LIFE. WOMEN HAVE THE MOST TO LOSE BY A SYSTEM THAT CUTS MOTHERS OFF FROM THEIR CHILDREN, AND THAT WITHHOLDS ECONOMIC SKILLS AND GIVES GIRLS TRAINING OF ONLY LIMITED ECONOMIC VALUE. WOMEN MUST BE SURE THAT THE TRAINING OFFERED TO THEM WILL FACILITATE, NOT LIMIT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY. SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE WOMEN FOR IMPROVING THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION IN UPPER VOLTA ARE :

- 1) A BASIC REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM MUST BE ADOPTED SOON. IT SHOULD BE ORGANIZED ON VOLTAIC, NOT FOREIGN IDEAS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL AND GIVE FUNCTIONAL TRAINING. IT SHOULD BE DESIGNED SO FANY CHILD WHO ENTERS SHOULD THEREAFTER BE ABLE TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE COMMUNITY NO MATTER WHAT LEVEL HE OR SHE ATTAINS.
- 2) ONCE THIS REFORM IS ADOPTED ANY NEEDED FACILITIES SHOULD BE BUILT AND WELL MAINTAINED IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS THAT ALL CHILDREN MAY BE SERVED. THESE MAY BE SIMPLE AND CAN BE BUILT BY VILLAGERS.
- 3) ONCE THE SCHOOLS ARE ESTABLISHED THEY SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY FURNISHED WITH APPROPRIATE MATERIALS, AND THE STAFF SHOULD RECEIVE APPROPRIATE TRAINING. VILLAGERS WITH SKILLS SHOULD BE USED AND OFF-SEASON TRAINING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THESE VILLAGERS.
- 4) PRIVATE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED ONLY IF THEIR STANDARDS ARE HIGH AND THEY SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SUPPERVISED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.
- 5) DUE TO THE PROBLEMS GIRLS HAVE FINDING LODGING WHERE THEY "MAY CONTINUE ADVANCED TRAINING, MORE DORMITORIES MUST BE BUILT IN URBAN CENTERS WHERE THIS TRAINING IS OFFERED.
- 6) THE WOMAN'S FEDERATION SHOULD STUDY THE PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND SHOULD HAVE AN INPUT INTO THE DESIGN OF THE REFORM SYSTEM AND A CONTINUING VOICE IN THE DIRECTION AND DECISION MAKING FOR EDUCATION AT EVERY LEVEL.

HEALTH

TRADITIONALLY A GREAT NUMBER OF HEALTH-RELATED DECISIONS ARE MADE WITHIN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY. WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED IN NUTRITION, FIRST AID, HYGIENE, AND OTHER HEALTH ACTIVITIES. MODERNIZATION NOT ONLY BRINGS MANY NEW HEALTH PROBLEMS, BUT IT OFTEN HAS THE EFFECT OF TAKING THE POWER OF DECISION AWAY FROM THE INDIVIDUAL AND OUT OF THE COMMUNITY.

WOMEN WHO WORK IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH COMPLAIN ABOUT THE IGNORANCE AND THE LACK OF INFORMATION WOMEN HAVE ABOUT MODERN HEALTH MATTERS. IF A WOMAN GIVES ONE PILL TO HER CHILD AND THE CHILD GETS BETTER, SHE MAY THEN GIVE IT THREE TO BE SURE IT IS CURED WITHOUT REALIZING THE STRENGTH OF THE DRUG AND THE POTENTIAL DANGER. SHE MAY ALSO BE UNABLE TO DESCRIBE HER SYMPTOMS OR BE UNAWARE OF WHICH SYMPTOMS ARE CONSIDERED SERIOUS TO A MODERN DOCTOR. WITH THE NEW STYLE OF LIVING SHE NEEDS NEW INFORMATION ON TOPICS OF SEX EDUCATION, POSSIBLE DAMAGE WHICH CAN ACCOMPANY AN EXCISION, AND FIRST AID TECHNIQUES FOR TREATING HERSELF AND THOSE AROUND HER.

NEW THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN HER WORLD ABOUT WHICH SHE IS NOT INFORMED. CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS BRINGING A PERMANENT WATER SUPPLY MAY ALSO BRING NEW DISEASES. INTRODUCTION OF CASH CROPS MAY BRING NOT ONLY MONEY BUT ALSO FOOD SHORTAGES OR NEGATIVE DIETARY CHANGES. URBANIZATION OFTEN BRINGS INCREASED SANITATION AND EPIDEMIC PROBLEMS WHICH REQUIRE URBAN PLANNING. IT ALSO INCREASES THE INCIDENCE OF VENERIAL DISEASE WHICH POINTS UP THE NEED FOR SEX EDUCATION. CHANGING DIET AND THE USE OF MODERN DENTIFRICE INSTEAD OF TRADITIONAL TOOTH HYGIENE HAS GREATLY INCREASED THE INCIDENCE OF DENTAL PROBLEMS. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BABY BOTTLE HAS BROUGHT WITH IT INFECTIONS AND CERTAIN TYPES OF MALNUTRITION IN BABIES.

ACCORDING TO THE WOMEN INTERVIEWED, HEALTH PLANNING TAKES VIGILANCE AND CONCERN, IT ALSO REQUIRES CAREFUL RATING OF PRIORITIES TO BE SURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE AS MUCH CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN HEALTH AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT ALL PEOPLE SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF IMPROVED HEALTH CARE.

THE WOMEN SPOKE OF FOUR ASPECTS OF MODERN MEDICAL CARE: 1) HEALTH CARE, PERSONNEL, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS; 2) MEDICINES AND DRUGS; 3) NUTRITION; AND 4) PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE.

1) PERSONNEL, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS : IN UPPER VOLTA THERE ARE CURRENTLY 40 VOLTAIC DOCTORS, MOST OF WHOM LIVE IN URBAN CENTERS, AND SOME OF WHOM ARE ADMINISTRATORS OF PROGRAMS AND NOT PRACTITIONERS. THERE ARE 150,000 PEOPLE PER DOCTOR AND, OF COURSE, IN RURAL AREAS THE RATIO IS MUCH HIGHER. THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDS A MINIMUM OF 1 DOCTOR FOR EACH 10,000 PEOPLE. THIS PROPORTION WOULD REQUIRE 550 DOCTORS SPREAD THROUGHOUT UPPER VOLTA AND MORE THAN 14 NEW DOCTORS PER YEAR JUST TO ACCOUNT FOR THE POPULATION GROWTH. THERE ARE FIVE HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY, OR ONE HOSPITAL FOR EACH 1.40 MILLION PEOPLE. OFTEN THESE HOSPITALS DO NOT HAVE THE PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND MEDICINES NEEDED TO OPERATE EVEN AT MINIMUM LEVELS. CLEARLY THERE IS NO WAY UPPER VOLTA CAN, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OFFER THIS TYPE OF FACILITY TO THE MAJORITY OF ITS CITIZENS.

TRAINED PERSONNEL FREQUENTLY ARE LOATH TO WORK IN RURAL CONDITIONS. THIS, HOWEVER, MAY IMPROVE AS MORE TRAINING IS GIVEN IN UPPER VOLTA UNDER VOLTAIC CONDITIONS, INSTEAD OF IN FRANCE WHERE TECHNIQUES ARE FREQUENTLY ILL-ADAPTED TO CONDITIONS IN AFRICA. SEVERAL WOMEN IN MEDICAL EDUCATION STRESSED HOW IMPORTANT LOCAL TRAINING IS AND HOW MUCH REAL EXPERIENCE STUDENTS RECEIVE IN RURAL AREAS WHERE THERE ARE A VARIETY OF CASES EACH DAY AND STUDENTS MUST FREQUENTLY EXERCISE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPONSIBILITY AND INITIATIVE. IT IS EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING TO TRAIN DOCTORS, AND CLEARLY THERE ARE HEALTH DECISIONS THAT CAN BE MADE BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE PARA-MEDICAL TRAINING.

THE WOMEN POINTED TO MEDICAL PROGRAMS IN TANZANIA AND IN NIGER WHERE HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS START AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL. FROM THE PROGRAM IN NIGER, WOMEN MENTIONED COMMUNITIES THAT ELECT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS AS HEALERS AND MID-WIVES. THEY ARE GIVEN SHORT TERM TRAINING AND MINIMUM SUPPLIES OF MEDICINE AND EQUIPMENT TO BE ABLE TO DETECT CERTAIN COMMON DISEASES, TREAT MINOR AILMENTS AND WOUNDS, AND REFER MORE SERIOUS AILMENTS OR COMPLICATED BIRTHS TO A CLINIC. IN THE TANZANIA PROGRAM WOMEN MENTIONED THE USE OF FLOW CHARTS GREATLY CUTTING THE TIME NEEDED FOR PARA-MEDICS TO DIAGNOSE AILMENTS, AND THE USE OF PARA-MEDICS TO PERFORM MANY SERVICES USUALLY DONE BY DOCTORS INCLUDING CERTAIN TYPES OF ROUTINE SURGERY. THE WOMEN ALSO MENTIONED THAT IN UPPER VOLTA MUCH OF THE TIME OF DOCTORS AND TRAINED HEALTH PERSONNEL IS SPENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS WHICH LOCAL WOMEN COULD BE TRAINED TO DO.

IN UPPER VOLTA, THERE HAS BEEN A PILOT PROJECT RUN BY UNESCO IN WHICH LOCAL MIDWIVES ARE GIVEN SOME TRAINING TO UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS. THIS APPEARS TO BE A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WHICH IF ADOPTED MORE BROADLY COULD BE PART OF A TOTAL VILLAGE HEALTH SYSTEM. IF THIS VILLAGE APPROACH TO HEALTH DELIVERY IS ESTABLISHED, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INCLUDE WOMEN AT EACH LEVEL.

VILLAGERS ARE FREQUENTLY ANXIOUS TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH PROGRAMS. BUT ACCORDING TO SOME RURAL EXTENSION AGENTS THIS IS NOT ALWAYS ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESENT SYSTEM. THEY CITE EXAMPLES OF VILLAGERS WHO WERE ENCOURAGED TO BUILD CLINICS IN CONNECTION WITH A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF EXTENDING RURAL MEDICAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT NEVER PRODUCED THE PROMISED PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. THE "CLINICS" HAVE NEVER BEEN OPENED AND THE VILLAGERS NOW HAVE LITTLE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL EVER OPEN. TO OPEN THIS TYPE OF CLINIC, THE VILLAGE MUST HAVE AID FROM OUTSIDE.

2) MEDICINES: THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF MEDICINES IS ANOTHER ASPECT OF HEALTH AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL. MOST PEOPLE USE SOME LOCAL MEDICINES FROM RECIPES HANDED DOWN BY THEIR MOTHERS OR FRIENDS. MOST ALSO USE TRADITIONAL MEDICINES PRESCRIBED BY TRADITIONAL HEALERS. THESE MEDICINES ARE OF UNEVEN QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS AND SOME ARE ONLY KNOWN IN LIMITED AREAS. BECAUSE MANY OF THESE TRADITIONAL HERBS ARE EFFECTIVE, INEXPENSIVE, AND EASILY AVAILABLE, SOME COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED TO EXPLOIT THIS SOURCE OF MEDICINE. IN UPPER VOLTA, WOMEN POINT OUT THERE ARE SOME SPECIALISTS DOING RESEARCH ON THIS AND CAMES HAS ORGANIZED REGIONAL SEMINARS FOR SHARING INFORMATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR VEGETATION. A NUMBER OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO COLLECT TRADITIONAL MEDICAL RECIPES, STUDY THE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, AND TRAIN HEALTH PERSONNEL IN THEIR USE. IN MALI THEY EVEN PACKAGE AND SELL THEM LOCALLY. THIS MAKES AVAILABLE EFFECTIVE LOW OR SOMETIMES NO COST TREATMENT. UPPER VOLTA HAS NO LABORATORY OR NATIONAL PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SUCH EFFORTS.

MODERN MEDICINES, THOUGH THEY ARE NOT TAXED AND ARE THEREFORE CHEAPER THAN IN SOME NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, ARE STILL FREQUENTLY UNAFFORDABLE BY SICK PEOPLE. SOME PEOPLE BUY PRODUCTS SOLD ILLEGALLY IN THE MARKETS BY VENDORS WHO DO NOT KNOW THEIR USE AND DO NOT KNOW HOW TO STORE AND MAINTAIN THESE MEDICINES, OR WHAT THE DOSAGE SHOULD BE.

THIS IS DANGEROUS AS WELL AS ILLEGAL AND A LOCAL WOMAN DRUGGIST URGED THAT POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS SHOULD MAKE A GREATER EFFORT TO CONTROL THIS PRACTICE.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS CONCERNED BY THE DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS AND THEIR AVAILABILITY AND HAS PROPOSED TO NATIONALIZE THE SALE OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES SO THAT ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PHARMACIES, DISPENSARIES, AND HOSPITALS WILL BE ABLE TO GET THEIR SUPPLIES FROM ONE CENTRAL SUPPLY HOUSE. WOMEN STATE THAT IF THIS WORKS PROPERLY, IT COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH SUPPLIES IN STOCK FOR INDIVIDUAL STORES AND THE LONG WAITING TIME REQUIRED TO ORDER STOCK FROM FRANCE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT IT WILL MAKE ALL DRUG OUTLETS DEPENDENT ON A SINGLE SOURCE. THEY SUPPORTED A PRIVATE PHARMACISTS SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT START THE SYSTEM, SUPPLY ALL THEIR OWN OUTLETS, AND, AFTER PERFECTING THE SYSTEM, INCLUDE THE PRIVATE PHARMACIES IN THE PROGRAM. IN THE MEAN TIME, THE PRIVATE PHARMACIES COULD PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR MEDICINE. THERE ARE SEVERAL PLANS TO ESTABLISH LOCAL PRODUCTION OF VARIOUS MEDICAL ITEMS, SUCH AS ALCOHOL WHICH COULD GREATLY LOWER THEIR COSTS. WOMEN FEEL SUCH EFFORTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

SOME LOCAL WOMEN'S GROUPS ARE ACTIVE IN PROVIDING THEIR COMMUNITIES WITH MEDICINES BY POOLING RESOURCES AND WORKING TO GET A STOCK OF MEDICINES FOR THEIR VILLAGE THROUGH A NURSE OR A PERSON WITH A FEW MONTHS OF PHARMACY TRAINING. A WOMAN PHARMACIST SAID HANDLING MEDICINES IN THE VILLAGE WAS A GOOD FIELD FOR WOMEN.

3) NUTRITION: IN UPPER VOLTA THERE IS BOTH THE PROBLEM OF LACK OF ENOUGH FOOD, ESPECIALLY AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR, AND LACK OF THE RIGHT NUTRITION CONTENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG GROUPS NEEDING PARTICULARLY ENRICHED DIETS. THIS LAST GROUP INCLUDES SMALL GROWING CHILDREN AND PREGNANT AND NURSING MOTHERS. NUTRITION IS RECOGNIZED AS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL AT THE TIME OF WEANING AND ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THIS AGE GROUP. IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO SEE THAT 70% OF THE VOLTAIC DEATHS EACH YEAR ARE IN THE AGE GROUP UNDER FIVE YEARS TO REALIZE WHAT A SERIOUS PROBLEM THIS IS. THE WOMEN FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NATIONAL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE FAMINE AND IMPROVE NUTRITION. FIRST, FERTILE LANDS COULD BE USED MORE INTENSELY, PROGRAMS COULD CONCENTRATE ON FOOD INSTEAD

OF CASH CROPS, PRICES OF FOOD ITEM COULD BE CONTROLLED WHEN THEY GOT TOO HIGH AND VILLAGES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO STORE GRAIN FOR TIMES OF SCARCITY. SECOND, A NATIONAL NUTRITION CENTER SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHERE TESTING OF FOODS, ESPECIALLY WEANING FOODS COULD BE DONE. THE CONTENT OF ITEMS SOLD IN THE MARKET, SUCH AS THE "TOMATO POWDER" WHICH IN REALITY CONTAINS NO TOMATO, COULD BE TESTED AND CONTROLLED WHEN NECESSARY. A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INFORMING WOMEN OF THE EFFECTS OF BOTTLE FEEDING, OF FOOD TABOOS, AND OF GOOD NUTRITION SHOULD BE MOUNTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4) PREVENTIVE MEDICINE: PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IS A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ANY MEDICAL PROGRAM. THIS IS THE ASPECT OF HEALTH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS DECIDED TO STRESS. THIS INCLUDES PLANS FOR SAFER WATER SOURCES, TREATMENT OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL, AND MORE PROGRAMS FOR MATERNAL AND INFANT CARE ESPECIALLY RELATING TO NUTRITION. THE WOMEN SUGGESTED THAT SINCE ACCIDENTS ARE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF ADULT DEATHS, LAWS FOR SAFETY SHOULD BE STRESSED AS SHOULD FIRST AID EDUCATION. WOMEN VILLAGE WORKERS CITE THE NEED FOR VACCINATION AND HEALTH CARDS, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN, FOR ANY EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE PROGRAM.

THE WOMEN MADE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HEALTH :

- 1) THE ENTIRE HEALTH STRUCTURE SHOULD BE REORGANIZED AND ADAPTED TO THE LOCAL NEEDS. A NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IS NEEDED SO HEALTH SERVICES CAN REACH EVERYONE, AND IT SHOULD BE BASED ON A LESS EXPENSIVE SYSTEM WITH MORE COMMUNITY CONTROL.
- 2) THERE SHOULD BE A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO INFORM THE POPULATION ON HEALTH MATTERS AND PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE PART IN DECISIONS MAKING THAT AFFECTS THEIR HEALTH
- 3) BECAUSE OF THE COST OF MODERN MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SERVICES AND THEIR LACK OF AVAILABILITY TO THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE, THERE SHOULD BE A SERIOUS NATIONAL EFFORT TO USE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND TRADITIONAL HEALERS AND MID-WIVES, AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM.
- 4) THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH SHOULD NOT REQUIRE PRIVATE DRUGGISTS TO BUY THEIR MEDICINES FROM A NATIONALIZED SYSTEM. IF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM SUCCESSFULLY SUPPLIED GOVERNMENT SERVICES, PRIVATE DRUGGISTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ALSO USE IT.

- 5) THERE SHOULD BE A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO DO AWAY WITH FAMINE AND HUNGER AND FIGHT THE RISING COST OF BASIC DIETARY ESSENTIALS. THIS SHOULD CONCERN THOSE PLANNING AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS WHICH SHOULD STRESS GROWING THE MOST PROMISING CROPS IN EACH LOCAL, EMERGENCY PRICE CONTROL, AND A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR GOOD NUTRITION.

LAW

IN SO FAR AS TRADITIONAL "LEGAL" RULES AND PROBLEMS CAN BE SEPARATED FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF TRADITIONAL VILLAGE LIFE, THEY WERE TAUGHT, SUPPORTED, AND APPLIED BY THE COMMUNITY, AND THE RULES THEMSELVES HELPED ASSURE COMMUNITY COHESION. BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY WAS CONCERNED WITH THE RESULTS OF INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES THEY APPLIED SOCIAL PRESSURE TO POTENTIAL RULE-BREAKERS, HELPED THOSE FOR WHOM THEY FELT REFORM WAS POSSIBLE, AND WHEN INFRACTIONS WERE TOO GREAT, APPLIED SANCTIONS TO RE-ESTABLISH A HARMONIOUS SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL BALANCE. NO ONE WOULD SUGGEST THAT USING THIS SYSTEM FITS THE NEEDS OF THE CHANGING LIFE STYLE IN UPPER VOLTA. IN FACT WOMEN POINT OUT THAT UPPER VOLTA IS THE ONLY WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY WITH NO FAMILY CODE. THIS LACK OF CODIFIED LAWS GOVERNING MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP TENDS TO INCREASE THE INSTABILITY OF THE FAMILY AND IS USUALLY CONTRARY TO WOMEN'S INTERESTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY TRAINING AND SOCIAL PRESSURE FOR PREVENTING INFRACTIONS AS WELL AS REFORMING LAW BREAKERS.

THE CURRENT SYSTEM BASED ON THE FRENCH MODEL COURTS EXISTING IN TANDEM WITH CUSTOMARY OR TRADITIONAL COURTS, MAKES FOR CONFUSION AND INCONSISTENCY WITH BOTH SYSTEMS BEING POORLY ADAPTED TO THE REALITIES OF PRESENT DAY UPPER VOLTA. THE MODERN SYSTEM ALLOWS WOMEN TO TESTIFY FOR THEMSELVES (IF THEY UNDERSTAND THE PROCEDURE AND ARE INDEED ABLE TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES), BUT ITS APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS FOR SUCH THINGS AS ADULTERY OR ABANDONMENT OF DOMICILE OFTEN GIVES HEAVY PUNISHMENTS TO WOMEN WHILE THE MEN INVOLVED GO FREE. ALL THESE MATTERS NEED TO BE EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IS IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING A REFORM OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM. THOUGH THIS PROPOSED NEW CODE HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED PUBLICALLY, THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS ASKED THE FEDERATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN TO REVIEW THE SECTION ON FAMILY LAW AND COMMENT UPON IT. WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS BELIEVE IF IT IS ADOPTED IT WILL LEAD TO A MORE STABLE FAMILY LIFE BY, FOR INSTANCE, MAKING DIVORCE HARDER TO OBTAIN THAN MARRIAGE. THEY FEEL ON THE WHOLE IT REFLECTS AN EQUALITY OF TREATMENT FOR WOMEN NOT FOUND IN TRADITIONAL PRACTICES.

HOWEVER, THEY POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE SOME NEW SITUATIONS WHICH WOMEN SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER AS THERE ARE NO GUIDELINES OFFERED BY THE TRADITIONAL OR CURRENT COURT PRACTICES. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS THE NEW SITUATION OF WIDOWS. TRADITIONALLY THERE REALLY WERE NO WIDOWS. THIS MAY SEEM LIKE AN OVER-STATEMENT, BUT A WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND DIED WAS TAKEN AS PART OF THE "GOODS" LEFT TO HIS FAMILY AND SHE WAS USUALLY RE-MARRIED TO A BROTHER OR COUSIN DESIGNATED BY THE FAMILY HEAD. HER CHILDREN WERE EITHER KEPT WITH HER OR SENT TO LIVE WITH OTHER RELATIVES. A WOMAN DID NOT INHERIT FROM HER HUSBAND, BUT HER HUSBAND'S FAMILY CONTINUED TO PROVIDE THE HUSBAND'S ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE WIFE AND CHILDREN. CHANGING TIMES HAVE CREATED THE CONCEPT OF WIDOWHOOD. IT IS NOT JUST THAT SOME WOMEN ARE REFUSING TO BE SEPARATED FROM THEIR CHILDREN OR MARRY A RELATIVE OF THEIR DEAD HUSBAND CHOSEN BY THE CHIEF OF THE FAMILY. THIS CAN HAPPEN. BUT SINCE THE DROUGHT MANY MEN IN RURAL AREAS ARE HESITATING TO TAKE ON EXTRA FAMILY MEMBERS IF THERE IS LIMITED LAND, IF THE WOMAN IS OLDER, OR IF SHE HAS MANY CHILDREN. IN URBAN CENTERS WITH THE RISING COST OF LIVING, MEN WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP, FIND THEY ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT AN EXTRA WIFE WITH HER CHILDREN AND ALSO TAKE PROPER CARE OF THEIR OWN. A YOUNG, HEALTHY, STRONG WOMAN OF CHILD-BEARING AGE WHO HAS FEW OR NO CHILDREN MAY EASILY FIND A HUSBAND. BUT HOW MANY WOMEN ARE WIDOWED UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS? WIDOWS SHOULD HAVE SOCIAL CONSIDERATION AND SECURITY BUT THEY ARE GENERALLY MORALLY ISOLATED AND MATERIALLY DEPRIVED. WHEN THEY JOIN TOGETHER, AS SEVERAL HUNDRED HAVE DONE IN A WIDOW'S ASSOCIATION, TO FORM COOPERATIVES AND IMPROVE THEIR SITUATION, THEY COMPLAIN THAT THEY MUST FIGHT INDIFFERENCE AND ACTUAL OPPOSITION. THEY FEEL THIS IS DUE TO THE ANCIENT BELIEF THAT WIDOWS ARE WITCHES WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR HUSBAND'S DEATH. MARRIED WOMEN REFUSE TO FOCUS ON THEIR OWN POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING

WIDOWS, AND MEN DO NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS. EVEN UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW CODE A WIDOW WILL PROBABLY NOT INHERIT FROM HER HUSBAND, THOUGH HER CHILDREN PROBABLY WILL. NEXT IN LINE TO INHERIT AFTER THE CHILDREN ARE A MAN'S PARENTS OR THEIR DESCENDANTS, FOLLOWED BY HIS GRANDPARENTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, FOLLOWED BY HIS GREAT GRANDPARENTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS. ONLY IF NONE OF THESE RELATIVES IS ALIVE IS THE WIFE ABLE TO INHERIT. WHEN RELATIVES TOOK CHARGE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE WIFE AND RAISED HER CHILDREN, THIS TYPE OF INHERITANCE PATTERN MIGHT HAVE BEEN REASONABLE. BUT IF THE WOMAN IS TO SUPPORT HERSELF AND HER CHILDREN, A NEW PATTERN OF INHERITANCE IS REQUIRED. WOMEN COMPLAIN THAT FREQUENTLY OTHER RELATIVES WHO INHERIT DO NOT USE THESE RESOURCES FOR THE CHILDREN. THEREFORE THE CHILDREN SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE MOTHER AND THE INHERITANCE SHOULD BE USED ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

MOREOVER, IT IS NOT ONLY CREATING JUST LAWS BUT UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THEM THAT IS NECESSARY. DURING INTERVIEWS WITH JUDGES, JUSTICES OF PEACE, AND OTHER EXPERTS IT WAS FREQUENTLY POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WOMEN HAVE WITH THE LAW WOULD BE LESSENERED IF GIRLS AND WOMEN UNDERSTOOD THE RIGHTS THEY ALREADY HAVE AND HAD SOME WAY TO DEFEND THEM. COMPULSORY MARRIAGE AND EXAGGERATED DOWERIES STILL EXIST IN CERTAIN AREAS THOUGH BOTH ARE AGAINST THE LAW. AS ONE WOMAN EXPERT SAID, "WE EXPOUND A LOT ABOUT CHANGING THE LAWS, BUT WHEN WE GO TO APPLY WHAT WE HAVE WE OFTEN FIND OURSELVES RETURNING TO CUSTOMARY PATTERNS WHICH UNDER MODERN CONDITIONS ALWAYS GIVE THE ADVANTAGE TO THE MEN." WOMEN DO NOT SERVE IN THE CUSTOMARY COURTS AND WOMEN SUGGESTED THIS SHOULD BE CHANGED. THE NEW CODE WILL HAVE TO BE UNDERSTOOD AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL AND SINCE WOMEN HAVE THE MOST TO GAIN THEY WILL HAVE TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND THEIR NEW RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

ANOTHER PROBLEM IN ADOPTING THE NEW CODE WILL BE PERSONNEL. THIS CODE WILL DO AWAY WITH TRADITIONAL COURTS PLACING MANY MORE CASES UNDER THE MODERN COURT SYSTEM. THE PRESENT COURT SYSTEM IS OVERLOADED AND THERE ARE LONG DELAYS IN HEARING CASES. THE WOMEN DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING PARA-LEGAL PERSONNEL AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL TO SETTLE SIMPLE DISPUTES AND TRAVELING JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS HEARING MORE COMPLICATED DISPUTES AT REGULAR INTERVALS AND SENDING DIFFICULT

DECISIONS AND APPEALS TO DISTRICT COURTS. THEY FEEL WOMEN SHOULD PARTICIPATE AS PARA-LEGAL AND LEGAL PERSONNEL AT ALL LEVELS.

LAWS REFLECT NOT ONLY EXISTING PATTERNS OF LIFE BUT IDEALS OR GOALS THAT SOCIETY HAS FOR ITSELF, AND THE DIRECTION IT WOULD LIKE TO GO. THE VOLTAIC WOMEN ARE DETERMINED, THEREFORE, TO HELP FORMULATE THESE. THEY HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTS THE NEW CODE THE FEDERATION WILL STUDY ALL ASPECTS AND MAKE APPROPRIATE SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE THE FEDERATION FOR RE-WRITING THE CODE, FOR HELPING INFORM VILLAGERS ABOUT THE NEW CODE, AND FOR HELPING ALTER IT IF THIS SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE.
- 2) UNTIL THE NEW CODE IS ADOPTED WOMEN SHOULD BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CUSTOMARY COURTS
- 3) WHEN THE NEW CODE IS ADOPTED, LOCAL COMMITTEES WITH BOTH MEN AND WOMEN MEMBERS SHOULD AID IN A NATION-WIDE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN THE NEW CODE TO VILLAGERS. THEY COULD FORM THE BASE OF PARA-LEGAL TEAMS THAT COULD ALSO HEAR CERTAIN TYPES OF SIMPLE CASES AND COULD BE A PERMANENT PART OF THE LEGAL STRUCTURE. MORE COMPLICATED CASES WOULD BE HANDLED BY MORE HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONNEL AND CIRCUIT JUDGES OR JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS WOULD VISIT THE VILLAGES TO BE SURE THE SYSTEM WAS WORKING. THESE PARA-LEGAL TEAMS SHOULD HAVE REFRESHER COURSES PERIODICALLY.

THE WOMEN ALSO SUGGESTED SEVERAL SPECIFIC LAWS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADOPTED :

- 4) WHEN THE FATHER DIES THE MOTHER SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY GET CUSTODY OF THE CHILD UNLESS THERE ARE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. SHE SHOULD ALSO INHERIT THE MONEY FOR THE USE OF THE CHILD.
- 5) WHEN AN EMPLOYED MOTHER DIES, HER PENSION SHOULD BE GIVEN AUTOMATICALLY TO HER HUSBAND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY YOUNG CHILDREN.
- 6) THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD AID THE WIDOW'S ASSOCIATION IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FORM COOPERATIVES SUCH AS THE ONES THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN IN MAKING PEANUT OIL AND PREPARED FOODS.
- 7) THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO SEE THAT NEEDY ORPHANS HAVE EVERY POSSIBLE CHANCE TO GO TO SCHOOL.

SOCIAL SERVICES

TWO ACTIVITIES ARE GENERALLY INCLUDED IN THE TERM "SOCIAL SERVICES": 1) AID FOR ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY, OR PHYSICALLY DISADVANTAGED; AND 2) AID FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. TRADITIONALLY THERE WAS NO SPECIAL ORGANIZATION OR PROGRAM FOR SUCH SERVICES AS THEY WERE BUILT INTO THE COMMUNITY STRUCTURE. THE CUSTOMARY FAMILY OR COMMUNITY MUTUAL AID AND RECIPROCITY BENEFITTED THOSE TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY DISADVANTAGED. TRADITIONALLY SANCTIONED POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES ORGANIZED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS, MARKET BUILDING, OR OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

ALTHOUGH VILLAGE ORGANIZATION STILL EXISTS AND RURAL AND URBAN MUTUAL AID GROUPS STILL FUNCTION, THESE STRUCTURES ARE NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY ONCE WERE. FIRST, URBANIZATION, MODERNIZATION, CASH CROPPING AND MOBILITY HAVE ALL DIMINISHED THE INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY, LEAVING THE DISADVANTAGED WITHOUT THEIR TRADITIONAL SUPPORT. SECOND, MODERN FARMING AND MARKETING METHODS HAVE DIMINISHED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP WHICH CANNOT PROVIDE THE NEW TYPES OF EDUCATION, EQUIPMENT, RESOURCES, AND INFRA-STRUCTURE REQUIRED BY AN ACTIVE MODERN COMMUNITY.

THE VOLTAIC GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A NUMBER OF AGENCIES TO DEAL WITH ASPECTS OF THIS NEW SITUATION. TWO OF THESE ARE IDENTIFIED AS SOCIAL SERVICE: THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND THE DIVISION OF RURAL DOMESTIC ECONOMY IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THESE PROGRAMS SHOW VAGUE, ALL-ENCOMPASSING GOALS WITH NO CLEAR DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THESE AND OTHER SERVICES. BOTH HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING EXTENSION WORKERS, EDUCATING WOMEN IN ECONOMICS, NUTRITION, SANITATION AND HOMEMAKING SKILLS, AND IN DOING RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS IS, HOWEVER, DESCRIBED IN EVEN BROADER TERMS. IT IS ALSO TO WORK IN URBAN AREAS, WITH SOCIAL LEGISLATION, WITH ALL NATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH DEAL WITH IMPROVEMENT IN "SOCIAL CONDITIONS," "QUALITY OF LIFE," OR "INCREASED LIFE EXPECTANCY." IT IS TO HELP PROTECT THE FAMILY, THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, THE AGED, AND THE HANDICAPED. WITH SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE MANDATE ONE WOULD EXPECT IT TO HAVE

GREAT POWER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. IN PRACTICE, WOMEN STATE IT IS LOOKED UPON AS A WOMAN'S DIVISION AND HAS A VERY SMALL BUDGET. MOST OF ITS PROGRAMS ARE LIMITED TO URBAN SOCIAL CENTERS TEACHING HANDICRAFTS, TO CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION CENTERS, AND TO A FEW PILOT PROJECTS.

THE RURAL DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DIVISION ORGANIZES WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS, AND WHILE IT ALSO HAS HOMEMAKING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, IT IS MORE DIRECTED TOWARD AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND WOMEN'S COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IT MANAGES A PILOT PROJECT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR VIABLE ECONOMIC PROJECTS WOMEN CONCEIVE AND ORGANIZE. THIS PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO SEE WHETHER MAKING AVAILABLE LOW INTEREST CREDIT, NOT PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE TO WOMEN, WOULD MOTIVATE THEM TO UNDERTAKE NEW ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

THE BASIC CRITICISM OF MOST SOCIAL PROGRAMS APPEARS TO BE WITH THE PHILOSOPHY OF TRAINING WOMEN IN HOMEMAKING SKILLS WHILE TEACHING NEW ECONOMIC SKILLS ONLY TO MEN. THIS SUPPORTS THE PURELY WESTERN IDEA THAT THE ROLE OF THE WOMAN STOPS WITH MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE STATUS OF THE RURAL AFRICAN WOMAN AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A HARMONIOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNIT BECOMES TRANSFORMED INTO THE STATUS OF WIFE-SERVANT IN THE SERVICE OF THE FAMILY.

MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE ALSO POORLY ADAPTED TO THE REAL NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES OF LOCAL WOMEN. IT IS VAIN TO TRY TO CONVINCE A WOMAN TO ADOPT NEW WESTERN PRINCIPLES OF SANITATION, NUTRITION AND HEALTH WHEN SHE MUST WALK 20 KM A DAY FOR WATER, HAS AN EMPTY GRAINERY, AND HAS LITTLE OR NO ACCESS TO A CLINIC OR MEDICINES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HEALTH, SANITATION AND NUTRITION EDUCATION ARE IMPORTANT, BUT THEY SHOULD BE SEEN WITHIN THE TOTAL VILLAGE CONTEXT, BE INTRODUCED WHEN THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLYING THEM, AND NEVER BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR TEACHING NEEDED ECONOMIC SKILLS.

WHEN THESE SERVICES INTRODUCE WOMEN'S PROGRAMS FOR INCREASING AGRICULTURAL SKILLS, THE EXTENSION AGENTS SAY THEY ARE FREQUENTLY GIVEN LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT, FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND SOMETIMES EVEN FROM VILLAGE LEADERS. THEY CITE AS TYPICAL A CASE WHERE WOMEN WERE GIVEN A FIELD BUT AFTER THEY IMPROVED IT, A LESS VALUABLE PIECE OF LAND WAS SUBSTITUTED THE FOLLOWING YEAR. WOMEN

SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE GETTING PERMISSION FROM THEIR HUSBANDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROJECTS OR TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY OBLIGATIONS TO TAKE ON THESE ACTIVITIES.

SOCIAL SERVICES IN UPPER VOLTA NEED TO BE EVALUATED IN LIGHT OF THE REAL NEEDS OF THE DISADVANTAGED AND THE COMMUNITY. WOMEN FELT THEY SHOULD IDENTIFY THEIR PLACE WITHIN SUCH A SERVICE AND EXAMINE WHICH, IF ANY, OF THEIR NEEDS MUST BE HANDLED SEPARATELY FROM OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE ONLY RECOMMENDATION THE WOMEN MADE THAT CONCERNED SOCIAL SERVICES WAS THAT THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED AND RE-ORGANIZED, THAT IT SHOULD BE GIVEN REALISTIC GOALS IN HELPING THE DISADVANTAGED AND COORDINATING PROGRAMS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND IT SHOULD BE GIVEN THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO REACH THESE GOALS.

E C O N O M I C S E C T O R

TRADITIONAL SYSTEM

THE TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM WAS BASED ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY. THERE WERE CAREFULLY PRESCRIBED RECIPROCAL WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND MUTUAL AID PATTERNS THROUGH WHICH THE COMMUNITY ASSURED PROTECTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL UNIT, ESPECIALLY THE DISADVANTAGED. GIRLS LEARNED ALL NEEDED SKILLS FROM THEIR FAMILIES AS DID THE BOYS. MEN AND WOMEN USUALLY DID SEPARATE THOUGH COMPLEMENTARY TASKS, BUT WHEN THEY PERFORMED THE SAME WORK THEIR LABOUR WAS CONSIDERED OF EQUAL WORTH.

IN MOST VOLTAIC ETHNIC GROUPS WOMEN PLAYED A VALUED, DISTINCT, AND INDISPENSABLE PART IN GAINING THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE. FOR INSTANCE, IT IS COMMON FOR MOST ABLE BODIED FAMILY MEMBERS TO WORK IN THE FAMILY FIELD. FROM THIS FIELD THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES THE FAMILY GRAIN AND ANY SURPLUS HE SELLS FOR HIS OWN NEEDS. THE WOMEN ALSO HAVE A PERSONAL FIELD IN WHICH SHE GROWS VEGETABLES AND HERBS FOR THE SAUCES THAT ACCOMPANY EACH MEAL AND SOMETIMES PEANUTS AND COTTON TO PROCESS

AND SELL. ANY PROFIT FROM SURPLUS ITEMS SHE GROWS OR MAKES IS HER OWN. FROM THIS SHE IS EXPECTED TO SUPPLY SALT OR OTHER NEEDED ITEMS FOR SAUCES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, SCHOOL EXPENSES, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HERSELF AND HER CHILDREN AS WELL AS HER TOILETRIES AND PERSONAL NEEDS. SHE TRIES ALSO TO HAVE SOME SAVINGS IN CASH AND IN KIND FOR EMERGENCIES AND FOR SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS (MARRIAGES, FUNERALS, FESTIVALS AND DAPTISMS).

IN ETHNIC AREAS WHERE THE WOMAN TRADITIONALLY HAS NO FIELD SHE HAS ANOTHER SOURCE OF PERSONAL INCOME. FOR INSTANCE, THE PEUL WOMEN SELL MILK AND BUTTER; THE LOBI WOMEN ARE GIVEN GRAIN FOR THEIR SERVICES IN HELPING THE MEN PLANTS, SINCE IN THAT GROUP ONLY WOMEN MAY SEED THE FIELDS.

MOST WOMEN IN THE TRADITIONAL MILIEU HAVE SOME CRAFT (POTTERY, BASKETRY, SPINNING OF COTTON, CLOTH DYEING, ETC.) OR PROCESSED ITEM (SMALL CAKES OR OTHER PREPARED FOOD ITEMS, DOLO OR MILLET BEER, PEANUT OIL, KARITE BUTTER, COW'S BUTTER, SOAP, ETC.) THAT SHE TRADES OR SELLS. SHE MAY ALSO MAKE A PROFIT FROM HER LABOR SUCH AS CARRYING WATER, COLLECTING LEAVES FOR SAUCES OR MEDICINES, OR COLLECTING AND CARRYING FIREWOOD. THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING POSITIVE REINFORCEMENTS FOR WOMEN:

- 1) FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CUSTOMS AND PRESSURE HELPED PROTECT THE WORKER AND THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND OFFERED MUTUAL AID WHEN NEEDED,
- 2) ADEQUATE TRAINING FOR GIRLS FOR THEIR ECONOMIC FUTURE,
- 3) ACCESS TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES NEEDED BY WOMEN FOR THEIR WORK,
- 4) A VALUED ECONOMIC ROLE WITH A CHANCE FOR SOME ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, AND
- 5) AN ACCEPTED LIFE STYLE THAT COMPLEMENTED THE WORK ROUTINE.

THE EVOLVING ECONOMIC SITUATION

THE VOLTAIC WOMAN IS PART OF THE RURAL POPULATION WHICH HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY A DEVELOPMENTAL PHILOSOPHY POORLY ADAPTED TO ITS NEEDS.

THE VOLTAIC DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM HAS NOT CHANGED ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES SINCE COLONIAL TIME. IT IS ESSENTIALLY BASED ON INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRINCIPALLY OF CASH CROPS SUCH AS COTTON AND PEANUTS. THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION (SEEDS, FERTILIZER, PLOWS AND INSECTICIDES) WERE PUT AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE MALE FARMER, BUT TO OBTAIN THEM, HE WAS FREQUENTLY DRAWN INTO A CIRCLE OF DEBT AND SELDOM REALIZED A REAL PROFIT FROM HIS LABOR. THIS PHILOSOPHY NEGLECTED THE FOOD CROPS INDISPENSABLE TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE POPULATION AND NOT UNTIL THE FAMINE OF 1973 DID THE SATISFACTION OF FOOD REQUIREMENTS FIGURE IN THE LIST OF GOVERNMENTAL PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

FREQUENTLY WOMEN WERE LEFT TO TEND THE MILLET FIELDS WITH TRADITIONAL TOOLS, WHILE THE MAN WAS BUSY WITH HIS CASH CROP FIELD. WHILE MEN WERE OFFERED AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, NEW TOOLS, AND CREDIT, WOMEN WERE PRESENTED EDUCATION IN HOOMEMAKING SKILLS BASED ON THE NEEDS OF WESTERN HOUSEHOLDS WHICH THEY FREQUENTLY FOUND OF ONLY PERIPHERAL INTEREST WHILE STRUGGLING TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TODAY COMPLAIN PRINCIPALLY OF THREE THINGS WHICH ARE MAKING THEIR JOB INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. THEY LACK MEANS OF PRODUCTION, TIME, AND EDUCATION TO CONTINUE THEIR TRADITIONAL DUAL ROLE PRODUCING FAMILY GRAIN AND VEGETABLES AND EARNING A SEPARATE INCOME FOR OTHER FAMILY AND PERSONAL NEEDS.

BASIC TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS LAND, AND THIS IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT FOR WOMEN TO OBTAIN. LAND OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE HANDS FOR THE MEN. TRADITIONALLY, EACH YEAR THE WIFE REQUESTED A PORTION OF HER NEEDS, WHICH THE MAN RECOGNIZED AS PART OF THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILY. AS DROUGHT CAUSED DESERTIFICATION AND DECREASED FERTILITY OF LARGE TRACTS OF LAND, FERTILE REGIONS ARE IN MUCH GREATER DEMAND. AT THE SAME TIME, NEED FOR LAND FOR CASH CROPS IS INCREASING, REDUCING EVEN MORE THE AMOUNT OF LAND THE MAN COULD GIVE HIS WIFE. MANY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, SUCH AS RESETTLEMENT COMMUNITIES, RESERVE NO LAND FOR THE WOMAN'S USE. A SOCIAL WORKER FROM A GOVERNMENT-RUN RICE PROJECT IN THE VALLEY DU KOU REPORTS THAT THE INCOME TO THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY IN THAT AREA IS QUITE HIGH. HOWEVER, THE NUTRITIONAL LEVEL MAINTAINED BY THE VITAMIN CONTENT IN THE SAUCE, CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS ORDINARILY SUPPLIED BY THE WIFE ARE AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN FOUND IN TRADITIONAL VILLAGES. IN THIS COMMUNITY THE WIFE MUST WORK ALONG WITH THE HUSBAND

BUT IT IS CONSIDERED HIS FIELD AND THE PROFITS ARE CONSIDERED HIS. FROM HIS FIELD HE PROVIDES THE EXPECTED GRAIN FOR THE FAMILY AND THE SURPLUS HE USES FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES. THE WIFE HAS NEITHER LAND NOR TIME FREE TO INDULGE IN MONEY-MAKING PROJECTS AND HER TRADITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ARE NEGLECTED. IN SOME COMMUNITIES WHERE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH LAND FOR WOMAN'S PERSONAL FIELDS FEMALE RURAL EXTENSION AGENTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE CO-OPERATIVE FIELDS FOR WOMEN, BUT FREQUENTLY THE MEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS NEW IDEA AND DO NOT SUPPORT IT.

OTHER MEANS OF PRODUCTION INCLUDE NEW TYPES OF SEED, TOOLS, AND AIDS SUCH AS CARTS FOR CARRYING PRODUCE. THESE ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEN BY EXTENSION AGENTS, BY MEN'S CO-OPERATIVES, AND BY CREDIT OFFERED THE MAN FREQUENTLY BASED ON HIS LAND HOLDINGS. WOMEN WHO HAVE NO LARGE HOLDINGS OR OTHER COLLATERAL FOR LOANS AND WHOSE PROGRAMS USUALLY DO NOT INCLUDE ORGANIZATION OF CO-OPERATIVES OR ACCESS TO THESE GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS ARE LEFT BEHIND.

THE SECOND CONCERN, LACK OF EDUCATION, IS AGAIN A PART OF THE PHILOSOPHY, THAT, THOUGH WOMEN PRODUCE HALF OF THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, THE MEN ALONE SHOULD BE GIVEN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN NEW METHODS AND IN USE OF TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

WOMEN HAVE ASKED HOW ONE CAN RAISE PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY INCREASE BOTH THE FAMILY AND THE WOMAN'S INDIVIDUAL INCOME WITHOUT DISTURBING THE FAMILY UNIT. SOME ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION SUGGESTED BY THE WOMEN ARE:

- 1) A CAMPAIGN TO INFORM THE POPULUS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESIGNERS OF THE NEED FOR WOMEN TO HAVE A PERSONAL INCOME BY HAVING FIELDS OR OTHER INCOME-PRODUCING ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS RAISING POULTRY OR SMALL ANIMALS.
- 2) IF WOMEN ARE LIMITED IN THEIR CHANCE TO EARN PRIVATE INCOME BY THE DEMANDS OF FULL TIME LABOR IN FAMILY FIELDS, THEY SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THAT FAMILY INCOME TO WHICH THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME AND LABOR
- 3) THERE SHOULD BE SOME ATTEMPT TO LEGALIZE WOMEN'S AND MEN'S USE OF LAND AND MODERNIZE LAND OWNERSHIP LAWS THROUGHOUT RURAL AS WELL AS URBAN AREAS.

- 4) ALL POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO INCLUDE WOMEN'S INTERESTS IN ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD GIVE HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN HER STATUS AS A CAPABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.

MANUFACTURE, COMMERCE AND LABOR

TRADITIONALLY WOMEN ARE IN CONTROL OF PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING MANY PRODUCTS WHICH THEY USE IN THEIR HOMES. THE SURPLUS THEY TRADE OR SELL. AS MODERN PRODUCTS ARE INTRODUCED, THE MARKET FOR HOME-MADE ITEMS DIMINISHES. IN MANY CASES, INDUSTRIALIZATION CHANGES THE ITEM FROM WOMAN'S DOMAIN TO THAT OF THE MAN'S. WHEN THE DOLO (TRADITIONAL MILLET BEER) PARLOR BECOMES A BAR, WHEN POTTERY PIECES BECOME IMPORTED PLASTIC OR METAL HARDWARE, WHEN TRADITIONAL COTTON THREAD IS REPLACED BY FACTORY MANUFACTURED THREAD, WOMEN LOSE CONTROL OF BOTH PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THESE PRODUCTS. IF WOMEN WISH TO BUY MODERN PRODUCTS, THIS NEW DEMAND FOR MONEY COMES AT THE VERY TIME THEIR SOURCE OF MONEY FROM TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS IS DECLINING.

WOMEN DESPERATELY NEED RELIEF FROM SOME OF THE PHYSICALLY ENERVATING AND TIME-CONSUMING TRADITIONAL TASKS THROUGH ADAPTATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES. THEY ALSO NEED CONTROL OVER THE PROFITS MADE FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES. WOMEN FREQUENTLY MENTION THAT PROCESSING MILLET FLOUR IS THE WORST PART OF BEING A WOMAN. IT TAKES 4 TO 6 HOURS TO PREPARE FOOD FOR A HOT MEAL AND MOST OF THIS IS THE POUNDING OF MILLET. WHEN TECHNICAL HELP IS DEvised, THE PROCESS USUALLY BECOMES THE DOMAIN OF MEN. THIS MEANS THAT SOMETHING THAT USED TO BE LABORIOUS AND TIME-CONSUMING BUT WHICH COST NOTHING AND SOMETIMES WAS A SOURCE OF INCOME FOR WOMEN, IS TAKEN OVER BY MACHINES RUN BY MEN. WOMEN NOW HAVE TO PAY FOR THE SERVICE. WOMEN ARE LOOKING FOR TECHNOLOGIES THAT WILL EASE THEIR LABOR BUT WHICH THEY CAN CONTROL IN CO-OPERATIVE OR OTHER GROUP FORM OR AS INDIVIDUALS. IF THEY CANNOT RETAIN CONTROL OF PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING, THEY NEED ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF INCOME, AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE NEW EXPENSES PLUS THE AMOUNTS FORMERLY MADE FROM SELLING SURPLUSES.

THE MAJORITY OF VOLTAIC ARTISANS ARE WOMEN WHO PLY THEIR CRAFT DURING SLACK TIMES IN THE FIELDS. SOME WOMEN ARTISANS HAVE SAID THEY FEAR THEIR PRODUCTS MAY LOSE OUT TO MODERN ITEMS. THEY COMPLAIN OF THE LACK OF TRAINING, SELLING OUTLETS, TIME, SUPPLIES, AND BASIC MATERIALS. THEY REGRET THE ABSENCE OF CO-OPERATIVE UNITS, AND NEEDED TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION.

THERE IS VERY LITTLE FACTORY MANUFACTURING IN UPPER VOLTA. HISTORICALLY THE FRENCH ESTABLISHED A POLICY OF EXPORTING NON-PROCESSED OR SEMI-PROCESSED ITEMS AND IMPORTING FRENCH MANUFACTURED GOODS. THIS MEANT THAT WHEN UPPER VOLTA STARTED INCREASING ITS EXPORTS, IT DID NOT AT THE SAME TIME INCREASE ITS MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES. THE WOMEN POINTED OUT THAT VOLTAIC INDUSTRY IS GROWING RAPIDLY AND FREQUENTLY IN DOMAINS FORMERLY CONTROLLED BY WOMEN, SUCH AS COTTON PROCESSING, THE MAKING OF VEGETABLE OILS, BUTTER AND SOAP. WOMEN HAVE YET TO FIND THEIR PLACE IN MODERN INDUSTRY, BUT THIS MAY SOON BE ONE OF THE BEST SOURCES OF NEW INCOME-PRODUCING JOBS AND WOMEN FEAR TO LOSE OUT ON THESE NEW OPPORTUNITIES IF THEY DO NOT RECEIVE PROPER TRAINING.

WOMEN HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE BACKBONE OF THE MARKET PLACE, AND COMMERCE SEEMS TO BE A WAY OF LIFE FOR VOLTAIC WOMEN. HOWEVER, WHEN TRADE INCLUDES FACTORY MANUFACTURED OR IMPORTED ITEMS, WOMEN ARE SELDOM INVOLVED. MODERN TRADE REQUIRES MOBILITY, TRAINING EITHER IN SCHOOLS OR AS APPRENTICES, AND CAPITAL. NONE OF THESE ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO WOMEN. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF MOBILITY. ISLAM OFFERED A NETWORK OF CONTACTS OUTSIDE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THAT WAS THE KEY FOR MOST YOUNG MEN MOVING BETWEEN COMMUNITIES TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AS TRADERS. ISLAMIC PRECEPTS FORDID WOMEN THE SAME MOBILITY THAT IT MADE AVAILABLE TO MEN. ANOTHER LIMITING FACTOR IS TRANSPORTATION. WHEN MALE MERCHANTS ARE ASKED WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THEY NEED FOR ENTERING COMMERCE, THEY FREQUENTLY ANSWER "STRENGTH" ONE CAN HARDY FAIL TO APPRECIATE THAT WHEN ONE OBSERVES THEM RIDE BICYCLES MILE AFTER MILE IN THE HOT SUN TO BUY A FEW SUPPLIES FOR TRADE. EVEN IF WOMEN HAD THE TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY DUTIES, PERMISSION TO TRAVEL, AND THE STRENGTH TO TAKE THESE LONG TRIPS, THEY LACK ACCESS TO PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THEN, FOR WOMEN THAT UPPER VOLTA DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

IN THE URBAN MARKETS THERE ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OF WOMEN VENDORS, BUT THESE TEND TO OFFER ONLY MUTUAL AID FOR TIMES OF CELEBRATION OR CRISES. THEY HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE LEVEL OF SAVINGS AND LOAN ORGANIZATIONS, OF BUYING AND SELLING CO-OPERATIVES, OR OF A PRESSURE GROUP PRESENTING AN UNITED FRONT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO OBTAIN NEEDED BENEFITS.

SOME MEN'S CO-OPERATIVES HAVE OFFERED THESE SERVICES WHEN MEN HAVE HAD THE EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL BACKING TO ORGANIZE THEM. WOMEN LACK FAMILIARITY WITH BANKING SERVICES USED BY MANY MEN'S CO-OPERATIVES OR INDIVIDUAL TRADERS, WHICH ONCE AGAIN PUTS THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE IN ENTERING THE MODERN SECTOR.

A TRADITIONAL FORM OF LABOR, THAT OF COLLECTING AND SELLING WATER, HERBS AND LEAVES, AND WOOD IS ALSO BECOMING LESS AVAILABLE TO WOMEN. WOMEN NOT ONLY HAVE LESS TIME LEFT FROM THEIR FARMING REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE ACTIVITIES, BUT MEN ARE MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY BUYING CARTS FOR TRANSPORTATION WHICH WOMEN DO NOT HAVE THE FINANCES TO BUY. THE LEAVES AND HERBS FOR SAUCES AND MEDICINES, AND THE WOOD ARE ALSO BECOMING MORE SCARCE. WOMEN BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED THE TRADITIONAL LOCAL VARIETIES OF TREES, AND BELIEVE IT HAS OPTED ONLY FOR FAST-GROWING TREES THAT NEITHER PROVIDE LEAVES FOR SAUCE NOR PARTICULARLY CHOICE WOOD FOR FUEL.

A NEW TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LIES IN THE MODERN SECTOR. HOWEVER, ONLY 13% OF SALARIED POSITIONS ARE HELD BY WOMEN AND ALMOST ALL OF THESE ARE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE. THIS TYPE OF WORKING SITUATION REQUIRES WOMEN TO BE ABSENT THE MAJOR PART OF THE DAY FROM THE HOUSEHOLD, MAKING ADEQUATE CHILD CARE AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE DIFFICULT. IN OFFICES THEY HAVE LOWER-PAYING JOBS, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY LACK THE BASIC TRAINING AND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN FURTHER ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IMPROVING JOB SKILLS.

THE WOMEN DISCUSSED SUCH JOBS, AS SALESWOMEN AND WAITRESSES, WHICH WITH SOME TRAINING WOULD BE OPEN TO VOLTAIC WOMEN. THEY ALSO CONSIDERED THE DIFFICULT QUESTION OF BAR GIRLS WHO OFTEN HAVE THE REPUTATION OF BEING PROSTITUTES. THESE JOBS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS HELD BY NON-VOLTAICS. IF GIRLS COULD BE TRAINED TO WORK AS WAITRESSES IN BARS AND THE JOB WERE TO BE REDEFINED TO EXCLUDE PROSTITUTION, IT WOULD OPEN UP MANY NEW JOBS FOR VOLTAIC GIRLS.

SOME PRIVATE SCHOOLS HAVE OPENED, BUT WOMEN CITED MANY EXAMPLES OF INADEQUATE TRAINING OFFERED BY THESE SCHOOLS. FOR INSTANCE, GIRLS WHOSE PARENTS PAY TO SEND THEM TWO YEARS TO SECRETARIAL SCHOOL OFTEN GRADUATE TYPING 15 WORDS A MINUTE WITH MANY MISTAKES AND THEY STILL LOOK AT THE KEYS. ANOTHER HANDICAP IS THE ATTITUDE OF SOME MEN, MAINLY EMPLOYERS AND HUSBANDS. EMPLOYERS KNOW THAT WOMEN HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO MATERNITY LEAVE AND SOME HESITATE TO HIRE WOMEN BECAUSE OF THIS. OTHERS HESITATE BECAUSE A WOMAN IS LESS AVAILABLE IN EVENINGS AND ON WEEK-ENDS WHEN THERE MAY BE AN EXTRA WORKLOAD. THERE ARE HUSBANDS ALSO WHO PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THE FACT THAT THEIR WIVES DO NOT WORK. SOME FEAR TO HAVE THEIR WIVES WORKING IN THE NON-MODERN SECTOR IF THEY THEMSELVES WORK IN AN OFFICE. SOME HUSBANDS ALSO FEAR THEIR WIVES WILL REACH A HIGHER POSITION THAN THEY. ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS ARE A REFLECTION OF THINKING FOREIGN TO VOLTAICS WHO HAVE ALWAYS PRIDED THEMSELVES ON THE CONTRIBUTION WOMEN MAKE TO THE FAMILY. AS ONE WOMAN PUT IT, "MEN DON'T CONSIDER THAT WE WOMEN HAVE NO EXTRA-ORDINARY USE FOR OUR MONEY. IT GOES TO OUR FAMILIES. WE DON'T KEEP MEN ON THE SIDE AS MEN KEEP WOMEN. OUR EARNING MONEY IS NOT A THREAT BUT A SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY."

VOLTAIC WOMEN BELIEVE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS SEVERAL SERVICES WHICH WITH EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATION, WELL-DEFINED MANAGEMENT, SUFFICIENT FINANCING AND SUPPORT, AND AN AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S NEEDS CAN BE USEFUL TO WOMEN IN THE FIELDS OF MANUFACTURING, COMMERCE AND SALARIED EMPLOYMENT. THESE INCLUDE THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (OPEV), THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT (ONPE), AND THE OFFICE OF RURAL ARTISAN TRAINING (CNPART). THESE OFFICES ARE CHARGED WITH TRAINING, CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, HELPING CREATE BUSINESSES, AND DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES, ALL OF WHICH RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE EXPRESSED NEEDS OF WOMEN.

FOLLOWING ARE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS THE WOMEN MADE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES, AND WHICH PROVIDE IDEAS THAT SHOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND DONOR AGENCIES.

- 1) STUDY AND DEVELOP TECHNOLOGIES APPROPRIATE TO VILLAGE AND FAMILY NEEDS WHICH WILL LIGHTEN THE WORK LOAD OF WOMEN AND GIVE THEM MORE TIME FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES. INTRODUCE TO WOMEN AS MANY OF

THESE TECHNOLOGIES AS POSSIBLE, SO THEY MAY MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THEIR TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES (SUCH AS CARTS FOR HAULING WOOD, ETC..) (CNPAR)

2) MAKE EFFECTIVE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AS ARE MADE FOR ALL NEW INDUSTRIES, TO ANALYZE WHICH PRODUCTS MADE BY WOMEN CAN COMPETE WITH MODERN GOODS, WHICH NEED IMPROVEMENT, AND WHICH ITEMS CAN BE SUBSTITUTED IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEIR PRODUCTS HAVE NO FUTURE (OPEV). ASK THE SERVICE OF EXPORT TRADE PROMOTION OFFICE (CNAC) TO INVESTIGATE EXPORT POSSIBILITIES.

3) WHEN VIABLE PRODUCTS ARE IDENTIFIED MAKE NECESSARY TECHNICAL STUDIES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EASE OF MAKING WOMAN'S PRODUCTS (CNPAR)

4) ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED VILLAGE ENTERPRISES. MAKE CREDIT AVAILABLE SO WOMEN MAY OWN AND OPERATE SOME OF THESE; MAKE TRAINING AVAILABLE SO WOMEN MAY ALSO FIND EMPLOYMENT THERE (OPEV AND ONPE).

5) DO MARKETING RESEARCH TO HELP WOMEN FIND OUTLETS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS. HELP DEVISE A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS, BETTER ORGANIZED AND CONTROLLED MARKETS, AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEEDED.

6) MOUNT A CAMPAIGN OF TRAINING WOMEN SO THEY CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AVAILABLE EMPLOYMENT AND OPEN NEW EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES SO WOMEN MAY BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN THE SALARIED SECTOR. ORGANIZE SEMINARS AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR WOMEN SO THEY MAY MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS. TRAIN HOUSEHOLD HELP AND PERSONNEL FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS, SALESWOMEN, WAITRESSES, ETC. SUPERVISE, HELP ORGANIZE, AND PERHAPS LICENSE PRIVATE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS SO THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION CAN BE IMPROVED (ONPE)

7) TRAIN WOMEN ON THE METHODS OF OBTAINING CREDIT, ON HANDLING OF FINANCES, AND ENCOURAGE BANKING SERVICES TO DO THE SAME. MAKE CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS AND TO WOMEN INDIVIDUALLY.

8) ENCOURAGE, IN ALL FIELDS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S GROUPS AND CO-OPERATIVES WHICH CAN HELP WITH GROUP BUYING AND SELLING, SAVINGS AND LOANS, AND PROTECTION AND PROMOTION.

9) MOUNT A PROGRAM OF ECOLOGY THAT PROTECTS THE LOCAL TREES AND PLANTS WOMEN TRADITIONALLY UTILIZE FOR FOOD, MEDICINE, AND CRAFTS, AND ENCOURAGES REPLACEMENT OF THOSE PLANTS WHICH ARE BECOMING SCARCE.

10) HAVE BETTER TOTAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION SO THAT ONE BRANCH IS NOT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS, WHILE ANOTHER IS SUBSIDISING IMPORTS OF THE SAME PRODUCT. WHEN TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE THAT SAVES TIME AND LABOR BUT CUTS DOWN WOMEN'S INCOMES, CO-ORDINATE THE INTRODUCTION OF OTHER ECONOMICALLY SOUND PROJECTS FOR WOMEN, ETC.

1) ORGANIZE A NATIONWIDE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN MAKING BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN, AND OF THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LABORERS. IT SHOULD ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO HIRE WOMEN ON AN EQUAL BASIS, AND AT THE SAME TIME ENFORCE LAWS THAT REQUIRE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. ORGANIZE A POOL OF TRAINED PERSONNEL WHO CAN TEMPORILY REPLACE WOMEN ON MATERNITY LEAVE SO THIS IS NOT SUCH A HARDSHIP FOR EMPLOYERS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS THESE WOMEN MADE IN INTERVIEWS AND IN SEMINARS WOULD HELP REPLACE SOME OF THE SUPPORTS FOUND IN THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM AS UPPER VOLTA BECOMES INCREASINGLY MODERNIZED.

1) GROUPING WOMEN IN CO-OPERATIVES AND LABOR GROUPS WOULD HELP TO PROTECT THE WORKER AND THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND OFFER MUTUAL AID WHEN NEEDED.

2) TRAINING PROGRAMS WOULD HELP REPLACE THE EDUCATION IN THE HOME WHICH IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR MODERN EMPLOYMENT.

3) NEW PROGRAMS WOULD HELP MAKE NECESSARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN. THIS IS ESPECIALLY CRUCIAL AS LAND BECOMES SCARCER.

4) THESE PROGRAMS WOULD HELP WOMEN CONTINUE THEIR VALUED ECONOMIC ROLE AND GUARD THEIR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

5) HELPING IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS THROUGH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF VILLAGE ENTERPRISES AND HELPING TRAIN RESPONSIBLE HOUSEHOLD AND CHILD CARE HELP WOULD ASSIST WOMEN TO MAINTAIN AN ACCEPTABLE COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN THE LIFE STYLE AND WORK ROUTINE IN BOTH THE TRADITIONAL AND MODERN WORKING SITUATIONS.

C O N C L U S I O N S

THE VOLTAIC WOMEN WHO TOOK PART IN THIS STUDY WERE WELL INFORMED, RESPONSIBLE, CONCERNED, INTERESTED IN DELVING DEEPLY INTO THESE PROBLEMS, AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CONSIDERING AND WORKING ON POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

IN GENERAL, THEY WANTED CO-OPERATIVE OR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AIMED FIRST AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL AND GIVING PEOPLE MORE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. THEY URGED THE VOLTAIC GOVERNMENT TO APPROACH ITS PLANNING FROM THIS BASIS AND CO-ORDINATE ALL ITS PROGRAMS SO THAT THERE IS LESS LOSS, LESS OVERLAPPING, AND LESS CONFUSION AMONG AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS. THEY WERE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT ALL PROPOSED PROJECTS COMING FROM THE VOLTAIC GOVERNMENT, NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OR DONOR MISSIONS, BE JUDGED ON THE BASIS THAT IT HELPS THE INDIVIDUAL, THE COMMUNITY, OR THE COUNTRY BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT, NOT MORE DEPENDENT. THEY CITED EXAMPLES SUCH AS THOSE WHERE WELL-MEANING OUTSIDERS PUT IN WATER TOWERS, BUT NEVER MADE THE VILLAGERS FEEL THESE BELONGED TO THEM AND NEVER PROVIDED TRAINING IN UP-KEEP OR REPAIR. THE TOWERS FELL IN DIS-REPAIR SOON AFTER THE OUTSIDERS LEFT AND THE WHOLE ADVANTAGE WAS LOST. THE WOMEN JUDGED A PROGRAM OF NUTRITION IN YAKO AS BEING SUPERIOR TO OTHERS BECAUSE IT USED MOSTLY LOCAL PRODUCTS AND TAUGHT THE WOMEN TO FEED THEIR CHILDREN NUTRITIOUS MEALS OUT OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE PRODUCTS INSTEAD OF DEPENDING SOLELY ON IMPORTED FOOD SUPPLIMENTS. THEY WERE UNEASY ABOUT AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS THAT MAKE THE FARMERS DEPENDENT ON SUCH THINGS AS IMPORTED FERTILIZERS, ETC.

THE WOMEN WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS THAT WERE SPECIAL TO WOMEN, AND FELT A NEED TO CONTINUE TO URGE A FOCUS ON THESE CONCERNS IN GOVERNMENT PLANNING, PROBABLY THROUGH CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMAN'S COUNCIL; THEY ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THIS PARTICULAR PLAN. HOWEVER, MANY FELT THAT THE NEED FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN WAS FOR A LIMITED TIME, AND THAT EVEN NOW MANY OF THEIR NEEDS WOULD BE ADEQUATELY HANDLED IF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CONSIDERED THEM AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS TREATING THEIR NEEDS WHEN DESIGNING PROGRAMS.

BOTH THE MEMBERS AND THE NON-MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN BELIEVE THAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS A POTENTIALLY POWERFUL VOICE FOR

ALL VOLTAIC WOMEN. THEY ARE ENCOURAGING MEMBERSHIP FROM WOMEN IN ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY, FURNISHING TRANSLATORS FOR LOCAL LANGUAGES FOR THE WOMEN WHO DO NOT SPEAK FRENCH. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION IS NOW RE-EVALUATING ITS AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE, REMEMBERING ITS GOAL IS TO HELP ALL VOLTAIC WOMEN TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. CURRENTLY THEY HAVE A COMMISSION STUDYING THE NEW FAMILY CODE AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. THEY HAVE DONE SOME WORK ON EDUCATION REFORM PLANNING FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED PILOT ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM AND CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS BUT ARE WONDERING IF THESE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THEIR PROGRAMS OR IF THEY WILL BE TREATED AS PILOT PROJECTS AND IF SUCCESSFUL EVENTUALLY BE SUPPORTED AND EXPANDED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE PROJECTED PLANS TO CREATE AN OUTLET FOR ARTISAN PRODUCTS ESPECIALLY THOSE COMING FROM WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVES. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SET UP MORE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVES SUCH AS THE WIDOW'S ASSOCIATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN, PERHAPS WITH THE HELP OF A REVOLVING FUND. THE FEDERATION IS OPERATING AS A FRAMEWORK FOR ORGANIZING PROJECTS IN WHICH BOTH MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE.

VOLTAIC WOMEN ARE CURRENTLY EXCITED BY THE IDEA OF WORKING TO SOLVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED. THESE INTERESTS AND PROJECTS ARE EMBRYONIC, BUT THE ENTHUSIASM IS THERE. IT COULD GROW AND THE WOMEN COULD BECOME A VERY POSITIVE FORCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY IF THEY SEE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THEIR EFFORTS -- IF THE FAMILY CODE IS MODIFIED DUE TO THEIR INPUT, IF FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SOME OF THEIR PROJECTS, OR IF NEW PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED REFLECTING THEIR CONCERNS. AS ONE WOMAN SAID, "WE HAVE HAD SOME GOOD TIME TO THINK AND TALK. BUT TO TAKE A RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN A CHANGING SOCIETY THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. WE NEED TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF SOLVING SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS AND I THINK THE CONCERNS SHOWN AT THE SEMINARS IS A REFLECTION OF THE FACT WE ARE READY TO DO JUST THAT."

A P P E N D I X

METHODOLOGY AND COURSE OF STUDY

PHASES I AND II - INTERVIEWS

THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS STUDY WAS TO CONDUCT LIFE HISTORY INTERVIEWS AND TO ENCOURAGE WRITTEN LIFE HISTORIES FROM VOLTAIC WOMEN. THE SECOND PHASE WAS TO ASK THESE SAME WOMEN TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM THE POSITION OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE. THE WOMEN CHOSEN APPEARED TO BE SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATED IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, THEY ARE ACTIVE IN LEADERSHIP OR DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS IN SELECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS. THERE WAS A DUAL PURPOSE ENVISAGED FOR THE INFORMATION FROM PHASE I, I.E., TO HELP IDENTIFY FACTORS INFLUENCING WOMEN'S ABILITY TO ARRIVE AT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN A DEVELOPING SOCIETY, AND TO LEARN HOW THESE WOMEN PERCEIVE AND EVALUATE ALTERATIONS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE TAKING PLACE IN THEIR CHANGING SOCIETY. THE GOAL OF THE SECOND PHASE WAS TO ENCOURAGE EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS WOMEN FACE AND HOW THEY MAY MORE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN RESOLVING THEM.

IN PHASE II, WE INTERVIEWED 26 WOMEN ABOUT THEIR FIELD OF EXPERTISE. THE WOMEN IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS WERE INVOLVED WITH PROGRAMS HELPING THE RURAL WOMAN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, (4) INVOLVED IN MANUFACTURING OR COMMERCE, (5), OR IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT (3). THOSE IN PROFESSIONS DEALING WITH THE SOCIAL ASPECTS WERE IN EDUCATION (5), LAW (3), SOCIAL SERVICES (3), AND MEDICINE (4). THE INFORMATION GAINED FROM THIS PHASE AND SOURCES SUGGESTED IN THESE INTERVIEWS FORMED THE BASIS OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS USED FOR THE SEMINARS, AND IS COMBINED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SEMINAR TO FORM THE BASIC REPORT.

PHASE III - ANALYSE AND CIRCULATE INFORMATION

THE MATERIAL FROM THE PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEWS WAS ANALYZED AND WAS CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED AT THE SUGGESTION OF MANY OF THOSE INTERVIEWED. MANY PARTICIPANTS SUGGESTED RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, AND INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICULAR EXPERTS OR WITH THOSE OPINIONS MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE REPRESENTED.

WOMEN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF WOMEN IN THE LOWER SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS BE REPRESENTED IN THE STUDY. WE INCLUDED INFORMATION FROM INTERVIEWS WITH RURAL WOMEN, WITH WOMEN AT AN EXPERIMENTAL URBAN PROJECT IN OUAGADOUGOU, WITH WOMEN ARTISANS, AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AN URBAN MARKET WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION. THIS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION WAS SYNTHESIZED AND ANALYZED ALONG WITH THE INTERVIEW PHASE OF THE STUDY. IT WAS ALSO SENT TO WOMEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN PHASE IV, THE SEMINARS.

PHASE IV - SEMINAR

ORIGINALLY, THE PLAN WAS TO HAVE A TWO DAY SEMINAR IN OUAGADOUGOU TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES RAISED IN PHASE I-III. HOWEVER, THERE WAS SUCH INTEREST AMONG VOLTAIC WOMEN ON SO MANY ASPECTS OF THESE TOPICS THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO EXPAND THE TIME AND THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. WE GAVE TWO SEMINARS OF TWO DAYS EACH JOINTLY WITH THE FEDERATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN.

THE FEDERATION, AN ORGANIZATION OF OVER 1500 MEMBERS, IS MADE UP OF FOUR VOLTAIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS AND MANY AFFILIATED GROUPS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IT WAS ORGANIZED IN 1974 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRY. THEY ARE CURRENTLY RE-EVALUATING THEIR METHODS OF APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A SEMINAR. THE FIRST SEMINAR ENTITLED "WAYS AND MEANS OF AN ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY" WAS HELD AT HOTEL DE LA FRONTIERE, FEBRUARY 2-5, AT BITTOU, UPPER VOLTA, AND INVOLVED 46 PARTICIPANTS AND 8 TECHNICIANS FROM THE MEDIA.

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED 5 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INTERVIEW PHASE WITH EXPERTISE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, 17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERATION AND 4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. THE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES ACKNOWLEDGED PROGRAMS CONCERNING WOMEN WERE AS YET NOT WELL DEFINED IN THEIR AGENCIES AND THEY WERE EAGER FOR BETTER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE WOMEN TO HELP CLARIFY POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS.

THE SECOND SEMINAR WAS HELD IN OUAGADOUGOU FEBRUARY 15-17, 1978, ON "WAYS AND MEANS OF AN ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN IN NATIONAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT". THIS MEETING INCLUDED 27 PARTICIPANTS, 2 FROM THE INTERVIEW PHASE, 15 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FEDERATION.

34

3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, JUSTICE, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND SEVERAL OBSERVERS.

AT BOTH SEMINARS THE INTEREST LEVEL WAS HIGH. WOMEN WORKED THROUGH REST TIMES, DELAYED MEALS, AND DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS EVEN AS THEY ATE. THEY COMMENTED ON THE PLEASURE OF FINDING OTHER WOMEN WHO WERE ALSO SO CONCERNED, AND WITH WHOM THEY COULD DISCUSS THEIR IDEAS. THEY FELT THE SEMINARS WERE TOO SHORT, PARTICULARLY THE ONE IN OUGADOUGOU WHERE THEIR OFFICE AND FAMILY OBLIGATIONS PROHIBITED THEM FROM WORKING AS MANY HOURS AND WITH AS MUCH CONCENTRATION AS THEY HAD WISHED.

IN DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE SEMINARS THE WOMEN MADE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS :

- 1) THEY WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS BUT HOPED THESE IDEAS WOULD RESULT IN SOME SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THEY WANTED TO USE THESE IDEAS AS A BASIS FOR WRITING SPECIFIC PROJECT PROPOSALS AS THEY FELT THIS HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY DONE DUE TO TIME LIMITATIONS. THEY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH COMMISSIONS TO STUDY CERTAIN QUESTIONS FURTHER.
- 2) THEY HOPED THERE COULD BE MORE CONFERENCES. THEY PLANNED TO TAKE THE REPORT WITH ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND USE IT AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION IN VARIOUS CHAPTERS OF THE FEDERATION. THEY FELT THAT MORE MEN, WOMEN FROM LOWER SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS, AND RURAL WOMEN CONFERENCE DISCUSSING WOMEN'S POLITICAL ROLE AND POWER.

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 18; 1978, THE DAY AFTER THE SECOND SEMINAR, THE BOARD OF THE FEDERATION OF VOLTAIC WOMEN HELD AN ADVISORY SESSION DURING WHICH THEY SELECTED THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONS TO STUDY FURTHER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS BROUGHT UP DURING THE SEMINARS :

- 1) A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FAMILY CODE AND REVISION OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM. IT WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FOR CHANGES OF THE PROPOSED CODE BEFORE IT IS ADOPTED, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE POPULATION COULD LEARN ABOUT AND MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE NEW SYSTEM.
- 35

- 2) A commission to discuss the problem of women's power and influence in the future government. They discussed the possibility of recommending the establishment of a Minister of women's affairs and rejected it in favor of suggesting a permanent women's council. The commission's to study how should be organized and how it could function effectively.
- 3) They resolved to take recommendations given at the two seminars and synthesize them into one program suggesting specific projects SAED has agreed to help them reproduce these documents and officers of the Federation will present them to various officials of the voltaic government and to non-governmental and donor organizations concerned with these types of projects.

PHASE V- PUBLISHING MATERIAL PUBLICLY

It was originally planned to publish a small local work giving recognition to the women in the study and hopefully gaining support for their ideas. Due to the strong desires stated by women both for personal anonymity and for publicity for their ideas, the form of publication was altered, in order to disseminate this material to as wide an audience as possible the following articles, broadcasts, films and document distributions are being prepared :

- 1) Articles in Developpement Voltaique on
 - a) women's problems in the rural areas
 - b) the results of the interviews
 - c) the results of research on women in the commercial and artisan sectors (TBP)
 - d) the report of the first seminar
 - e) background papers on each of the four social aspects (TBP)
 - f) the report of the second seminar (TBP)
- 2) A movie made by the Ministry of information at the first seminar which will be used in the rural movie circuit, and which the Federation hopes to use in stimulating discussions
- 3) Four radio-news programs discussing the two seminars and the recommendations made there.
- 4) An article in the government news bulletin