Message by H.E. Mr. J. B. Tito, President of the
Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to greet all the participants at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome in particular the fact that the initiative for convening this Conference has come from the United Nations and that it is being held in friendly Mexico, a peace-loving and non-aligned country, that has, on several occasions and in various ways, fully proved its readiness to have the world issues solved through broad international co-operation and agreement. On behalf of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and my own, I wish the Conference every success in its work.

I consider it extremely important that at present particular attention is being devoted to the problem of the status of women, both by the world community and by the United Nations. I see in this fact the growing importance of the role of the United Nations and expression of the strengthening of the forces of peace and progress in the world as well as a success of their struggle for the solution of the pressing problems in international relations, especially the economic ones. This is the way to make it possible for mankind, for every country and for individuals, to advance even more resolutely toward the world of peace, freedom, equality of nations and social justice. I am deeply convinced that the social role and position of women show the level of general evolution of every society and that, therefore, every action directed toward the solution of the problem of the situation of women constitutes a contribution to the general prosperity of the entire society, and thereby to the progress of the whole world community and vice versa. There is one and indivisible struggle for social progress and all human rights, of which the equality of women is an integral part.

The profound awareness of this fact among all nations of Yugoslavia, men and women, was expressed in the liberation war against the Nazi-Fascist invaders. This was a struggle for new social relations in Yugoslavia as a part of world-wide struggle, during World War II and throughout the post-war period, against the roots of fascism. Even nowadays, fascism, in various old and new forms is attempting to subjugate and oppress peoples and individuals and thus prolonging the discrimination of women. Through their active and mass participation in liberation war, Yugoslav women have won for themselves the right to be one of the decisive factors, in times of peace as well, in the creation and development of new socialist relations in the society, based on self-management, of which an equal position of women is an indispensable ingredient. In that way women have become an active factor in the shaping of new socio-economic conditions in which they take...
part, on an equal footing, as citizens, workers and active participants in self-management in all spheres of social, political and economic life, both on the national level, and in the struggle waged by the socialist, non-aligned Yugoslavia for peace in the world, established upon equality of all peoples, and their right to decide freely on their own future.

May I extend, once more, my best wishes for the full success of the Conference.

Brdo pri Krenju
3 June 1975