

FUTURE PLANS FOR IWSAW

It was in an atmosphere of impending political trouble, in 1973, that the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World came into existence. The result of a daring step, it has been able to go on in spite of war conditions which have prevailed in Lebanon for seven years. As Dr. Albert Badre, BUC President, said in a lecture he gave at Goethe Institute on "Science Programs at BUC": "IWSAW has gained recognition in Arab and Western countries."

Faithful to its initial plan of concentrating on three important activities, research, documentation and communication, the Institute has tried to expand within those limits.

First, in the field of research, on-going projects will continue and new ones will be initiated: "Factors Affecting the Employment of Women in Lebanon", "Tasks of Women in Industry", "Effect of Male Emigration on Women's Productivity and Status in Jordan and Lebanon", "Effect of War on Children".

Second, in the field of documentation, new books and documents will be added continuously to the library. The Documentation Center will be opened to the public twice a week regularly, otherwise by appointment.

Third, in the field of communication:

a. Al-Raida will continue to be published in English probably in an enlarged form. Each number will also include a 4-page leaflet in Arabic. It is our hope that it will have a wider circulation and that it will be possible to publish it again in Arabic if funds are secured.

b. Monograph series: two more in English will come out, one on contemporary women poets in the Arab world, another on contemporary women novelists and short story writers. Other monographs in preparation are: "Sex-Role Orientation of Arab University Students", "Image of Woman in Arabic Textbooks for School Children", "Legal Status of Women in Lebanon".

c. Books to be published: "Women Artists in Lebanon", "Women Employment and Development in the Arab World", "A Bibliography on Women in Egypt", "A Biography of Salwa Nassar".

d. A course on "Women in the Arab World" will be given in 1982 at BUC, for the fourth time, as part of the Women's Studies Program.

e. A travelling seminar will be organized in three member institutes of the AWI (Asian Women's Institute).

f. A regional conference on Continuing Education will take place next Fall. In addition to these usual activities, action projects will be initiated, including "A community development project in South Lebanon", "A television program for women", and "A radio program on nutrition and child rearing".

Still relying on the support of our many friends, we hope to continue our forward march, particularly if the year 1982 succeeds in bringing peace to Lebanon and to other parts of the world suffering from war, a wish that every one should take much to heart.