"A long time male ecumenical leader, truly committed to the full participation of women, commented recently: 'One of the World Council of Churches' problems is that almost every time they choose a woman instead of a man, they lost contact with a key centre of power in that country'." (Alice Wimer, One Step on a Journey. In the Ecumenical Review, Vol. XXVII, 1975, No. 2, p. 115).

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The process of conscientization among churchwomen and -men is reflected in various intercontinental conferences, held during the last five years and dealing with the position of women in church and society:

1971 (Sept. 21-26) Cartigny
: What is ordination coming to? World Council of Churches, Dept. on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society

1973 (August) Louvain
: Visage nouveau de la femme missionnaire. Liberté, responsabilité, ministère. XLIIIe Semaine de Missiologie

1974 (June 15-22) West Berlin
: Sexism in the 1970s. Discrimination against Women. World Council of Churches


') The term "from influence to responsibility" is borrowed from Pro Mundi Vita Bulletin, no. 56, 1975, p. 14
1974 (Oct. 21-26)  
**St. Polten**  

1975 (August 25-30)  
**Heverlee**  
: Women and Men as Partners in Christian Communities. Pro Mundi Vita in collaboration with the WCC, the WUCWO, the Lutheran World Federation, Femmes et hommes dans l'Eglise, Communicacion e Intercambio para el Desarrollo Humano en America Latina, and the Christian Family Movement.

1975 (Nov. 23-Dec. 10)  
**Nairobi**  

Key-words in the process of conscientization are "liberation" and "sisterhood". They had to pass through several stages before getting a more real meaning. Especially at the conference in Berlin women of the "third world" countries became aware that communication with their northern "rich" sisters was hardly possible because of the often totally different situations in the economic, political and socio-cultural sphere and the subsequent priorities and goals set to strive after.

One vivid illustration:

"West Berlin,  
21st June, 1974  

Dear Lord,  

Another of those letters, Lord,  

Let me start by thanking you for this opportunity for the company and fellowship of so many women. And there is a variety, a diversity - cultural, racial and the rest of them.  

But we have had to pay the price of such a rich diversity in various forms of misunderstanding - the main among them being language. We have all had a test of the tower of Babel.  

The price of being hurt because I think they do not understand what I am trying to communicate because I