DECEMBER 1, 1985

WOMEN PROMOTE AGRO-TOURISM

The inauguration of the first women's agro-tourist cooperatives, which was held on November 9, in an atmosphere of celebration in rural areas and traditional dwellings in the villages of Mesta, Pyrgos, Olympia and Arachova. Many Greek and foreign personalities supported this effort. The tourists are given the opportunity to live with the villagers, enjoy their home-made specialties, go fishing or hiking with them, enjoy their breakfast under the vine or go to the women's restaurant, where the meals are prepared by the women themselves. This arrangement culminates...

Geraldine Ferraro

Former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro and W. German "Green" leader Petra Kelly spoke with humor and bitterness at the Conference on Women and the Mass Media held in Athens and organized by the General Secretariat for the Equality of the Sexes and the General Secretariat for Press and Information.

"I have to say at the beginning that on the whole the press was fair. But did they treat me differently because I was a woman? Absolutely," said Geraldine Ferraro in her presentation. "In the event of a nuclear confrontation, I was asked, are you strong enough to push the button? They should have asked whether I had the knowledge and fortitude to move ahead with arms control negotiations and to prevent getting to the point where we even think of pushing the button."

"And the last point," said Ferraro, "is that women are not just secondary characters. We are not just there to play the role of the woman in the story. We are not just the ones who are going to pay the price for the mismanagement of the politicians."

Ferraro's address was met with some skepticism. "In Greece," said one woman, "we don't have a political tradition."

The conference was addressed by representatives of many women's organizations, who analyzed and criticized the role of the press in the continued presentation of women by means of downgraded role stereotypes and made proposals as to how to change it.

Margaret Papandopoulo, speaking as President of the Union of Greek Women, referred to her address to the influence of the mass media on the position of women. In order for the reader's conscience to be respected, she said, there is an urgent need for a "guide of principles" or "system of ethics" to be formulated within which each newspaper will function.

During an interval, Mrs. Papandopoulo was asked by a SPOTLIGHT reporter how she felt she was portrayed by the media in Greece and abroad: "I feel that I am portrayed more honestly and better abroad than in Greece. I am less well known in Greece. I don't know if people really understand me." said the person, do what I consider, I welcome it when it has to be done. And believe what is not the case of a question of subsidence. I should make clear that I am not talking about newspapers and not television."

At the Prime Minister's home

After the international conference we met Geraldine Ferraro and her husband at the Prime Minister's residence in the Athens suburb of Kastri, and later we talked with her about her meeting with the Prime Minister.

"We discussed the relationship between the US and Greece", said Mrs Ferraro. "I am very pleased to see that we have been able to establish a dialogue of trade between our countries."

"In the end, Ferraro said, "You have to be careful to be both democratic and human relationships and freedom leads to the formation of close relationships."

The co-op movement with its democratic organization has been seen as the General Secretary for Equality as one of the most significant mechanisms for the plan to bring women into production.

The encouragement of women to join the co-op movement is part of the broader political agenda of the socialist Government in the framework of the positive action program to bring women into production.

The General Secretary, Chryssanthi Antoniou Loura, noted that in the long run, it is our aim that men and women together, in the same co-operatives, will continue with their collective labor for the rapid development of the country, and that this development will be achieved by social justice and the social liberation of women.

Geraldine Ferraro, said as she herself, represented the largest Greek community in the US. "My first speech in Congress was on Cyprus. I am for peace in that area."

Asked how Americans saw the improvement in US-Greek relations, Mrs Ferraro replied enthusiastically that "they are very pleased. Greece is very close to us and very strongly about its position with reference to the entire Aegean. We are delighted that our bases are here. And we see our relationship as being good."

She also told SPOTLIGHT that "You cannot separate women from the peace move. We are working with the men's to continue the battle against armaments. Women are gathering for power and are demonstrating and who are demonstrating and protesting. Jess Jackson was represent-"
Former vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro and W. German "Green" leader Petra Kelly spoke with both humor and bitterness at the Conference on Women and the Mass Media held in Greece and organized by the General Secretariat for the Equality of the Sexes and the General Secretariat of Press and Information.

"I have to say at the beginning that the whole press was fair. But did they treat me differently because I was a woman? Absolutely," said Geraldine Ferraro in her presentation. "In the event of a nuclear confrontation, I was asked, are you strong enough to push the button? They should have asked whether I had the knowledge and fortitude to move ahead with arms control negotiations and to prevent getting to the point where we even think of pushing the button."

Later she told SPOTLIGHT that she no longer has the problem with the press that she had during the election period. "Now I am considered a national leader in my country. I now draw crowds. Not only women but men listen to what I have to say. I have become very much a part of national politics."

Petra Kelly had this to say to the conference: "Men predominate in the mass media, which are the most important means by which a change as far as women are concerned could be brought about."

Ben Marr (UK) described the possibilities of promoting women journalists alongside their male colleagues.

Mrs Kathy Bonk, legal adviser to the major women's organization, spoke at the conference about the way in which the media operate in America.

Androula Vlahou, representing the Cyprus Union of Journalists, said the presentation of women in the mass media bore no relation to reality. The women of Cyprus have to fight not only to safeguard their position, but also to ensure their human rights. Their struggle is a dual one - for survival and for liberation - as it is for women in Chile and Salvador.

Among other speakers were: Margaret Gallagher (Ireland) on "Women and information," Gene Wilson (USA), Professor at the University of Missouri, on "The status of women in US media," Maria Polenaki (Greece) on "Women in humor and humor in women," Alexiou (Greece) on "The woman journalist faced with the problem of equality" and Valentina Federevna (USSR) on "Woman and the Soviet press."

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Margaret Papandreou, speaking as President of the Union of Greek Women, referred in her address to the influence of the mass media on the position of women. In order for the reader's intelligence to be respected, Mrs Papandreou said, there is an urgent need for a "ground plan of principles" or "system of ethics" to be formulated within which each newspaper will function.

During an interval, Mrs Papandreou was asked by a SPOTLIGHT reporter how she felt she was portrayed by the media in Greece and abroad.

"In general," she replied, "I am portrayed more honestly and better abroad than I am in Greece. Since I am a political person, I do expect criticism and I welcome it when it has to do with issues. What I find unfair is the attempt to put words in my mouth or to judge my motivation and thus give an image of a woman who is very grasping for power and eats up various ministers and who has extreme ambitions for her children. This is a distorted picture I am talking about newspapers and not television."

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After the international conference we met Geraldine Ferraro and her husband at the Prime Minister's residence in the Athens suburb of Kastri, and we were able to ask her about her meeting with the Prime Minister. "We discussed the relationship between the US and Greece", said Mrs Ferraro. "I am very pleased to see that we are cooperating on issues of terrorism. We have dialogue. We talked freely because we are both democrats."

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She also told SPOTLIGHT that "You can't separate women from the peace movement. It is their duty as well as men's to continue the battle against armaments. Women are the ones who have been demonstrating and who are demonstrating and protesting. Jesse Jackson was representing for a woman's cooperative on the island of Chios. Among the guests were the wife of the Greek Prime Minister and President of the Greek Women's Union, Margaret Papandreou, the adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia Ann Summers and the General Secretary of Equality Chrysanthi Antoniou-Laiou."

Apart from this new effort in Chios, the General Secretariat for Equality has set up four more women's cooperatives in different parts of the country. The experiment has been successful, leading to the implementation of the program in other parts of Greece.

In a country that devotes so much of its energy to tourism, the establishment of agrotourist cooperatives was a good place to start.

The central idea is to rent rooms to tourists in the homes of human relations and often leads to the formation of close friendships.

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