



July 12, 1995

Dear friend:

As you may know, Beijing, China is the location of the United Nations World Conference on Women. Within this conference is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum, which will allow activists, grassroots organizers, and non-profit organizations from all over the world to congregate. There will be an unprecedented exchange of ideas, a creation of networks, and a concerted effort to influence government policy-making at the "official" conference. Women who attend the NGO Forum will have access to government representatives and will be able to directly express their needs on crucial issues including poverty, education, health and violence against women. DYKE TV — as part of the global community of women committed to social change — will be in Beijing. Our aim is to record the proceedings of both conferences particularly as they pertain to issues relevant to lesbians. This documentation will bring the women and the issues of the conferences to a wider forum of women unable to go to Beijing. We will produce 6-8 pieces which will be aired this fall in 61 cities on our weekly show and shown in their entirety at community screenings.

In preparatory conferences for the UN Conference in Beijing there has been major debate over whether or not sexuality should be on the agenda. The Vatican, the Chinese government, and other right-wing factions have been active opponents to the discussion of sexuality at the conference. In addition, though a large percentage of the women working within the NGO sector are lesbians or are sympathetic to lesbian issues, many delegates are torn between their "primary focus" (hunger, land rights, peace strategies in war-torn areas, etc.) and sexual liberation for all women. DYKE TV's goal is to clarify how acknowledging sexual autonomy or orientation could directly impact women's ability to take control of their own bodies and even their own lives. In other words, in a society where basic human rights are given only to men, a woman who chooses not to marry faces the threat of receiving diminished access to education and economic stability, and can be an increased target for violent attack. We must therefore work globally towards sexual autonomy and freedom of orientation to ensure the well-being of all women.

While all women who love women may not fall into the culturally specific terms "dyke" or "lesbian," women who live within homophobic or patriarchal cultures share many similarities. The NGO Forum will allow women to share their common experiences. Part of the goal of DYKE TV's Project Beijing is to record personal testimonies from a diverse representation of lesbians and supporters. We will use these stories, and footage from both conferences, to report thoroughly on Beijing '95 on 61 public-access cable stations around the U.S. In addition, we are working with the Institute for Global Communications on an Internet project which will bring images and testimonies of women in Beijing to Internet users throughout the world. And, in order to widen our audience even further, we are currently collaborating with FIRE (Feminist International Radio Endeavor) to place the testimonies on short-wave radio.

Other activities DYKE TV will cover at the NGO Forum in Beijing include daily plenary sessions, working group meetings, networking meetings, and cultural events. Part of our

focus will be on the Lesbian Tent which will be set up by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission as in international think tank, work area, and marketplace. As press, we will have access to lobbying efforts of several organizations including Gay People's Health Forum, from South Africa, Arkadija-Lesbian and Gay Lobby, from Serbia, and the San Francisco Asian Women's Center.

DYKE TV's Beijing Project is part of a global movement to encourage the United Nations to pay attention to women who envision themselves differently in the world. We need human rights protections. We don't want to have to go through bureaucratic governmental red tape every ten years in order to live the fulfilling, strong, creative and *safe* lives we know we must live. The Beijing Project is an important step in this direction because it will document the connections between all movements so that we can move forward together. The fight for sexual autonomy is one part of a whole—that whole is all the struggles that women face. Autonomy of women's sexuality and sexual orientations must be included in the protective designation of International Human Rights if the women's movement is to achieve complete victory.

DYKE TV needs your financial help to document and amplify the lesbian presence in Beijing and the rest of the world. Send what you can. All donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law under our 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit incorporation, Sang Froid.

checks can be made out to: Sang Froid/The Beijing Project
mail to: DYKE TV, attn: Beijing
PO Box 55
Prince Street Station
New York, NY 10012

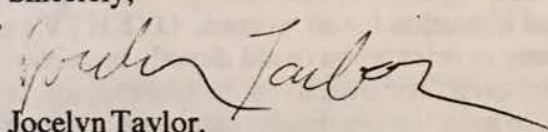
If you'd like more information about DYKE TV or this project, please contact me at 718-875-9010, or call the DYKE TV office at 212-343-9335. Thank you in advance for your support of this vital project.

Sincerely,



Mary Patierno,
Executive Director

Sincerely,



Jocelyn Taylor,
Beijing Project Coordinator