

# SEMINAR ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE LEBANESE WORKING WOMAN: A SERIOUS EFFORT FOR HER PROMOTION.

Closely following the Seminar on Arab Journalists, 3-8 February 1981<sup>(1)</sup>, a seminar on the «Social Problems of the Lebanese Working Woman» was held in Beirut on February 16-26. The participants were Mr. Hamid Khoury, director of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the representatives of the General Confederation of Labor and of the Permanent Syndical Training and Workers Committees, besides delegates of the Arab Labor Office and other participants.

The recommendations favoring the promotion of the Lebanese Working Woman, which ended the sessions of the Seminar, are hereby reported:

## A. LEGISLATION

Require the legislative authorities to approve and apply the labor laws promulgated by both International and Arab Labor Organizations concerning the working woman, including:

- 1) The Arab agreement No. 5 regarding the working woman, and requiring that the maternity leave be raised to three paid months; also the application of Article 14 allowing the working woman an unpaid leave if she claims such a leave for the care of her children.
- 2) Approval of the agreement concerning a paid study leave.
- 3) Issue a law allowing government employees and officials to form their own syndicates.
- 4) Amend the laws of Social Security concerning family and health indemnities to allow a secured woman to receive her children's indemnity when her husband is not secured, without limiting this right to cases of divorce, widowhood and husband's disability.
- 5) Give the working married woman the right to obtain her full indemnities when she claims them without consideration of time limit.
- 6) Amend the Lebanese Labor Law so that it may include rural laborers.

## B. GENERAL EDUCATION

- 1) Compulsory free education until the end of the intermediate stage.
- 2) Improve the quality of elementary and intermediate textbooks by eliminating from them all forms of discrimination against woman and all traditional ideas which impose on her a marginal role in society.

- 3) Develop the «National Council for the Elimination of Illiteracy» so that it will include within its activities all Lebanese districts and, for this purpose, public school buildings could be used for adult education during hours when these buildings are free.

## C. VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

- 1) Create in the various districts of the country centers for vocational training which will comply with local market demands and concentrate on vocations that agree with woman's capacities.
- 2) Include in the buildings special quarters for vocational training for women students coming from far districts, with the possibility of providing them with transportation facilities.
- 3) Provide training sessions for men and women workers with the aim of developing and updating their technical knowledge.

## D. THE SOCIAL FIELD

- 1) Create for working women, in all districts of the country, day nurseries for their children, financed through the joint cooperation of the State, the employers and the National Fund of Social Security.
- 2) Increase the credits allotted for syndical training and worker's education.

## E. INFORMATION

- 1) Information programs should be created on radio and television broadcasting stations, emphasizing woman's role in all development activities. The programs should be supervised by the General Worker's Federation and the Syndical Training Commission.
- 2) A special program for workers and syndicates should be presented by radio and television, prepared by the General Confederation of Labor and the Syndical Training Commission.
- 3) Avoid the exploitation and degradation of woman's image in publicity and advertisement programs.

*(An-Nahar 27-2-1981)*

(1) See Al-Raida, May 1981, vol. IV, No. 16.