

To Promote Health, Etc.—

Prominent Indian Women Organize

SAN FRANCISCO—Prominent Indian women from the United States, Canada and Alaska's reservation and urban areas are gathering in San Francisco, October 31, to form a native American Indian women's international organization designed to strengthen the Indian family.

The temporary name will be the "National Indian Women's Action Corps" or "NIWAC".

"NIWAC's" first general assembly, including approval of interim officers and the constitution, workshop and discussions about objectives and procedures, will be held at the San Francisco American Indian Center, 225 Valencia Street, October 31, 1970, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Any Indian woman may become a member of NIWAC if she is of duly recognized Native American descent, is interested in the purpose of the Corps, and is willing to take an active part.

The purpose of the organization is: to promote health, education, and welfare, to preserve the culture and heritage, to ensure the religious and civil rights of the American Indian. An important objective is to preserve the beauty and protect the ecology of Indian lands.

The women plan to cooperate with existing Indian organizations in order to foster unity. This is to be a self-help organization geared toward encouraging Indian women to take a more active role in their communities.

NIWAC was started informally at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel, August 21, 1970. A handful of concerned Indian women met to discuss the need for such an organization as a way to find creative and workable solutions to national and local Indian problems.

Interim officers are: Dorothy Miller (Blackfoot), President; Grace Thorpe (Sauk-Fox), First Vice-President; Stella Leach (Colville-Sioux) Second Vice-President; Jenny Joe (Navajo) Third

Vice-President; Marie Bonifant (Tlingit) Fourth Vice-President; Woesha Cloud North (Winnebago-Chippewa) Recording Secretary; and Henrietta Whiteman (Cheyenne) Treasurer.

Also helping in the initial organization are: Lucy Covington (Coleville); Mary Cornelius (Chippewa); Janet McCloud (Tulalip); Linda Longoria (Caddo); Bea Medicine (Sioux); Cleo Waterman (Seneca); Lola Buxton (Tlingit); Georgette Boyer (Sioux); Theresa McKay (Sioux); Laura Wong Franco (Colville); and Mary Hall Wong (Colville).