

know if you may be able to help me, however the perate circumstance require me to ask. I am an American student living in Egypt who is faced with an unwanted pregnancy, being in a muslim country and having few financial resources. I don't know where to turn."

"I'm 19, I live in Poland, few days ago I have passed my enter exams and now I'm a student of University. Today I went to the doctor and I know that I'm pregnant (it's 5th week). I was surprised that I'm pregnant for few weeks and I have been thinking what to do for a long time. Now I'm at home, I'm not ready to be mother to give her and home, take care and responsibility for other human being. That's why I and my boy friend decided that the best way is abortion. But in my country it's illegal and I need your help. Could you send me some informations about places in Poland or Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia where I could make an abortion. I'm also waiting for information about possibilities to get a help from your organisation ( maybe join "The Aurora") I don't have much time and I need your help. I'm waiting for

"Hi i hope you can help me. I tried to ring the contact number but the message box was full. I have loads of questions to ask you, here are some of them, i really hope you can help me, please reply to me. Will the ship be here on Thursday the 14th of june and how long will it be staying for? If someone is about 7-8 weeks pregnant can you just come along or do you need to make an appointment, and what happens? do you take a pill or do you have an abortion or what happens i dont really understand it and im afraid to talk to anyone about it. How much does it cost? Are there any health risks involved? how long does it take? Will there be TV cameras there? I hope you can answer these questions, please do. Thanks"

"Could you please E-mail me and let me know where and how long the Aurora is going to be docked in Cork and which days (if any) you will be sailing to International waters to perform abortions. If the procedure is available, should I make an appointment before travelling to Cork?" I'd like to let you know that I believe this is a great thing that you are doing and hopefully it will make the

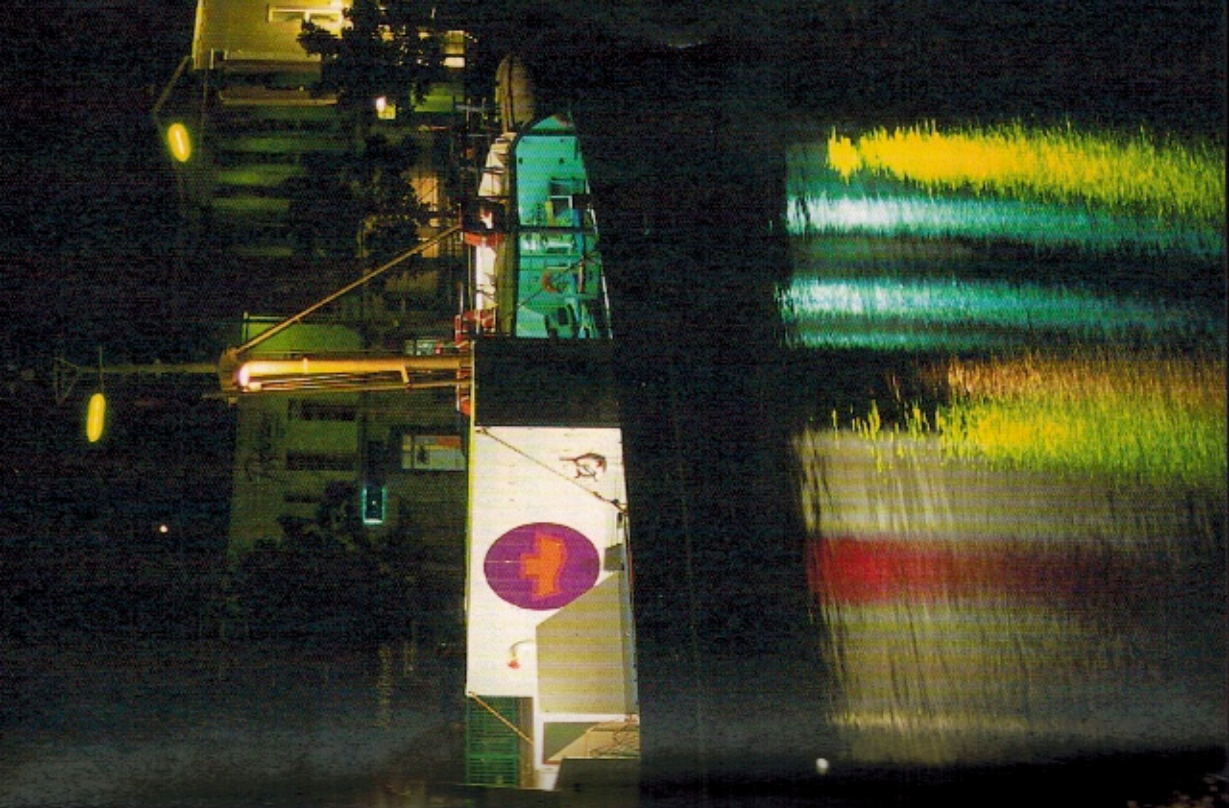
Irish Government and People more aware of what should be a womans right to choose."

"I am from Southern Ireland and i am interested in Women on Waves. Could u tell me if i was planning to hav a termination, wot would be the maximum time limit i would hav to stay in Dublin, councelling inclusive and all other possible delays. As i am from Southern Ireland i would prefer to spend a minimum amount of time in Dublin, due to accomdation costs etc."

"I am urgently looking for information about your services and contacts to use your services in International waters off the Irish coast. It is important to me that I get this Information as soon as possible. Please contact me soon."

" I live in ireland and am finding it difficult to know how to get to you in person can i just turn up at the port you come into and walk on board, or should i book in with someone first? will there be any opposition to you do you think? when will you be here? someone said Thursday, a paper said wednesday? can a friend come with me? where will you be? for how long? what if i need help





**Making Waves** On June 11, 2001, Women on Waves set sail to Ireland on a 18 day journey. We were invited by Irish abortion rights groups. Two medical doctors and a nurse were on board the ship. In the harbors of Dublin and Cork we provided contraceptives, counseling, information and hosted workshops to create a platform for dialogue. We also planned to legally dispense the abortion-pill outside Ireland's territorial waters to women with unwanted pregnancies who requested our help.

In Ireland, abortion is illegal. It has the most restrictive abortion laws in the European Union. Every year more than 6500 Irish women must travel to England to get an abortion. For many others, this is not an option.

By bringing attention to the lack of reproductive freedom, Women on Waves hopes to serve as a catalyst for change.

The obstacles we overcame and challenges we faced prior and during this first trip to Ireland are documented in this book.

Hopefully these pages will inform, empower and inspire. This was the first of many Women on Waves journeys.

This book is dedicated to all the women with unwanted pregnancies that face overwhelming obstacles and even risk their lives to exercise their right to reproductive freedom and healthcare.

Dr. Rebecca Gomperts  
Founder Women on Waves

**Sad reality** According to the World Health Organization 20 million of the 53 million abortions every year are performed under unsafe and illegal conditions. As a result 80,000 to 100,000 women die annually because they are denied access to safe and legal abortion services. Many more women suffer from medical complications and are socially ostracized.

Abortion is a criminal offence in most of Africa, Asia, Latin America as well as in some European countries. Restrictive laws either ban abortion entirely or permit it only to save the life or health of the woman. In places like Chile, Nepal and even Portugal, women and their doctors are prosecuted and jailed. Making abortion illegal does not reduce the number of abortions but leads to expensive underground abortions, abortion tourism and medically unsafe procedures. Legal abortion can prevent the unnecessary suffering and death of women due to medically unsafe procedures.

Women on Waves is committed to preventing unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions. Good sexual education and accessible contraceptives can prevent many but not all unwanted pregnancies. Sex and contraception are private matters. If a woman decides to end an unwanted pregnancy, then it should be her personal decision.

### 1997 - The inspiration for Women on Waves

After her training as an abortion provider in the Netherlands, Rebecca Gomperts works as a doctor on board Greenpeace ships. In South America she meets many women who greatly suffer both physically and psychologically due to unwanted pregnancies and lack of access to safe, legal abortion. Their stories are all heart-wrenching. There are women who have been raped. There are women who have no means of support. And there are women who are ostracized from their communities. These women and their stories are the inspiration for Women on Waves. By creating a reproductive health clinic on a ship, Women on Waves can offer reproductive healthcare including abortion in countries where abortion is illegal. Outside territorial waters (12 miles off the coast) local law no longer applies. The law of the country where the ship is registered does. By providing this much needed service, we call attention to the problems of illegal and unsafe abortion. At the same time, Women on Waves supports the efforts of local organizations to change the laws in their country.

**1998** Rebecca Gomperts researches the idea with some initial funding by the Mama Cash Foundation. She starts developing contacts with international reproductive rights and health organizations, attends nautical school to learn more about ships and studies the international and maritime laws that apply to such a project.

**March 1999 - First Dutch press** The Women on Waves project is written about in the Dutch press. The Dutch Minister of International Development Eveline Herfkens praises it as a "concrete solution to a concrete problem" and states that the Dutch government should support it. This leads to a parliamentary debate and extensive media coverage in the Netherlands. Although Minister Herfkens does not actually provide financial support, the idea of Women on Waves draws attention to the problems of illegal abortion.

**May 1999** Women on Waves is officially registered as a non-profit foundation.

**September 1999** As a result of the media attention, a private donor comes forward and donates funds for legal research concerning criminal liability and other judicial aspects of the project.

**April 2000** Ms. Magazine in the US writes about Women on Waves. It is the first article in an English language publication. We create our own website [www.womenonwaves.org](http://www.womenonwaves.org).

**May 2000 - The "A-Portable"** The idea to develop a mobile medical facility that can be loaded on board a chartered ship, makes an initial pilot project possible. By placing the mobile gynecological unit on a truck Women on Waves

can also provide reproductive health services in countries where such services are legal but largely unavailable.

A former marine nurse helps us with the program and design requirements for such a mobile facility. After visiting several types of such medical units, we ask the artist Joep van Lieshout to design and construct the gynecological treatment room in a container. Van Lieshout has extensive experience in rethinking spaces and is sensitive to not only the technical and functional aspects, but also to the way a space can influence people. Art can work in different contexts and this way the project crosses legal, medical, navigational and also aesthetic territories. We want a clinical environment that is comfortable, state-of-the-art and mobile. It shall be called the "A-Portable".

### June 2000 - International press coverage

The anti-abortion group Human Life International distributes a press release denouncing Women on Waves. They incorrectly claim that Dr. Comperis performed abortions on the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior II. The British Sunday Telegraph interviews Women on Waves and publishes an article.

A Maltese journalist starts a rumor that Women on Waves will undertake its initial activity in Malta. The Archbishop of Malta and its government condemn Women on Waves. They threaten to prosecute everybody cooperating with the project. The heated and unprecedented debate that follows is covered extensively in the local and international press.

**July 2000** Women on Waves and Atelier van Lieshout present the design drawings for the A-Portable at the Witte de Wit Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam in June 2000. We apply to the Mondriaan Foundation for a grant to actually get it build. In September, they agree to finance 60% of the costs for the A-Portable treatment room provided that we are able to finance the rest.

We discover that the domain name [www.womenonwaves.com](http://www.womenonwaves.com) has been purchased by Operation Rescue, an extremist anti-abortion group. Unsuspecting women are sent to an anti-abortion website containing images of late term abortions. An American professor who specializes in internet law offers his support and submits a complaint to WIPO, an international organization dealing with domain name disputes. We win the case (D2000-1608).

The [www.womenonwaves.com](http://www.womenonwaves.com) address is now ours.

### October 2000 - Fundraising for a pilot-project

After the initial international press coverage we raise enough money for a two-week pilot project. Based on earlier discussions with Irish abortion rights groups we choose Ireland as our first destination. It has the most restrictive abortion laws in the EU and is only two days sailing from the Netherlands. An engineer and former Greenpeace colleague of Rebecca's, helps us find the perfect ship, the Aurora. It is 34 meters long,

has a large mess room suitable for public events, a deck that can carry a 20-foot container, low fuel consumption and an affordable charter price. It can be rented on a "bare boat" basis, which means without a crew. This gives us the flexibility to select our own crew.

To make women feel more comfortable, we try to recruit an all female crew. Our first crew members join. Dr. Gunilla Kleiverda, who worked with women that were violated and raped during the war in the former Yugoslavia, will be our gynecologist. Margreet Bunnik, an experienced activist and one of the very few female captains, will be in charge of the Women on Waves ship.

**December 2000 - Ireland** We present the Women on Waves idea to all Dublin abortion rights groups. There is a combination of enthusiasm and apprehension. Some welcome the idea as it presents an opportunity for bold action. Others fear that such an action will set things back by alienating those "in the middle" who support very limited abortion rights. There has not been a significant outpouring of support in almost a decade. Anti-abortion voices dominate the public debate. Historically abortion rights activists have been on the defensive struggling against a hostile government and a powerful Catholic Church.

Ireland has the most restrictive abortion laws in the European Union. Abortion is illegal in all circumstances. The only excep-

tion is if there is a substantial risk to the life of the pregnant woman. In practice, abortion is never performed in Ireland even in life preserving circumstances because the Medical Council takes a very anti-abortion stance.

Each year over 6,500 Irish women travel abroad to obtain abortion services. Many delay their trip because of financial and logistic hurdles, resulting in high rates of late term abortions. This is called "the Irish solution to the Irish problem."

**Julie, a lawyer in Ireland:** "In a 1992 Irish Supreme Court case, called the X case, a 14 year old girl who was pregnant and suicidal as a result of rape had been restrained from leaving the country to obtain an abortion. Facing a court order against them, the family returned from England without the girl having had an abortion. Eventually they won the right to have the abortion in Ireland, although the girl returned to England for the procedure."

Providing information on abortion is also severely restricted by law. Under the Regulation of Information Act 1995, abortion information can only be given in the context of non-directive pregnancy counseling. This means a woman must attend a counseling session even if all she wants is the most basic abortion information or the phone number of a British clinic. In practice, the act results in anti-abortion counseling services that provide false and biased information to women. For

**Facts** Every year nearly 1/4 of all pregnant women worldwide choose to have an abortion. 20 million of the 53 million abortions each year are unsafe and illegal. As a result every few minutes a woman dies because of a backstreet abortion. It is primarily women without financial means who take recourse to unsafe abortion methods.

Making abortion illegal does not reduce the number of abortions.

**Les faits** Chaque année, mondialement, presque 1/4 de tous les femmes enceintes choisissent pour un avortement. 20 des 53 millions d'avortements annuels sont dangereux et illégaux. Ceci provoque la mort d'une femme toutes les quelques minutes. Ce sont principalement les femmes financièrement malaisées qui ont recours à des méthodes d'interruption de grossesse douteuses.

Maintenir l'avortement illégal n'en réduit pas son nombre.

**Hechos** Cada año casi un cuarto de todas las mujeres embarazadas en el mundo elige para un aborto. 20 millones de las 53 millones de los abortos anuales están ejecutados de modo peligroso y ilegal. Por consecuencia cada cinco minutos hay una mujer que muere por un aborto de riesgo. Sobre todo las mujeres con pocos recursos económicos acaban por teniendo un aborto de riesgo.

Mantener el aborto en la ilegalidad no reduce el número de los abortos.

## **Women on Waves for a safe and legal choice**

Empower women to make conscious, well informed decisions about family planning.

Prevent unwanted pregnancy.

Ensure safe and legal abortion.

Reduce unnecessary physical or psychological suffering and deaths from illegal abortions.

Catalyze support for liberalization of abortion laws.

## **Women on Waves pour un choix sûr et légal**

Donner à la femme le pouvoir libre et conscient de décider de leur planning familial.

Prévenir les grossesses accidentelles et involuées.

Assurer l'avortement sûr et légal.

Diminuer les douleurs physiques et psychologiques inutiles ainsi que les décès causés par les avortements illégaux.

Ouvrir les débats pour la libération de l'avortement légal.

## **Women on Waves para poder elegir para una opción segura y legal**

Apoyar a las mujeres para que estén capaz de decidirse sobre planificación familiar.

Prevención de embarazos indeseables.

Asegurar el aborto seguro y legal.

Reducir sufrimientos físicos y psíquicos innecesarios y muertes por causa de abortos ilegales.

Promocionar apoyo para liberación de las leyes con respecto al aborto.



women living in rural Ireland, non-directive counseling services and information on abortion clinics in England are not easily available.

**January 2001 - The first obstacle** The ship's owner informs us that his insurance company refuses to insure the ship during our journey, fearing legal action will be taken against the ship. Without insurance, we can not charter the ship. Ultimately we start to negotiate with another insurance firm. We present them legal research from our Irish solicitor showing that the ship can not be impounded if the government takes action against us. To overcome obstacles like this, we need to be persuasive and resourceful.

**February 2001 - Ireland, establishment of Irish Women on Waves** Word about Women on Waves spreads throughout Ireland's pro-choice community. Many people hear Rebecca speak on the popular Late Late Show. The Cork Women's Right to Choose and the Dublin Abortion Rights groups invite the Women on Waves ship to Ireland. From February until June, we travel monthly to Ireland to coordinate the preparations. In Dublin, Women on Waves Ireland is established to organize events around the ship's visit.

**February 2001 - The Netherlands** Kees Ruyter, a talented graphic designer, offers to design our logo. Gunilla, the gynecologist, starts contacting other medical professionals and organizations in the Netherlands to build a boarder network of support.

**Gunilla, the gynecologist:** "We realized that Dutch support could be important for future activities and started to write letters to several organizations explaining the aims, goals and intended activities of Women on Waves. The project was discussed with the Consultancy for Maternal Health and Family Planning, a group of Dutch obstetricians very much aware of the worldwide impact of illegal and unsafe abortion on maternal morbidity and mortality. Though full support for the project was achieved, some colleagues were anxious about the possibility of complications of vacuum curettage at sea, even if occurring very seldom. Other organizations, such as the Dutch Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists hesitated giving their support. Even in the Netherlands where abortion is legal, it is still a critical emotional issue and not easy to gain support for."

**March 2001 - Ireland, organizing the events** The Irish Women on Waves group starts to organize the logistics for the ship's visit. Others start organizing medical and legal workshops. Everyone gives generously and donates

time, meals and even mobile telephones. To broaden the context of the problems facing women and abortion, Women on Waves wants to host artists and writers workshops. Art and literature have always played an important role in breaking taboos and introducing social change.

We also try to initiate a small film series in the Irish Film Center but this fails. Instead, we obtain feature films (such as the Cider House Rules) and documentaries dealing with the abortion issue to show on board the ship.

We still need to find a shipping agent to inform us about the logistics of visiting the harbors in Ireland.

**March 2001 - The Netherlands** Lizet Kraal, an event organizer and long term activist joins Rebecca to organize the pilot project.

**April 1/7, 2001 - The Netherlands, ongoing preparations** There is a lot to do but not much time to do it. In the Netherlands, the construction of the treatment room has to be supervised and we have to make sure it will be ready in time. Leaflets and a procedure handbook have to be written. Medical and ship insurance coverage has to be negotiated. The ship's charter has to be ensured. Medical equipment has to be obtained. Medicines and contraceptives have to be purchased. Press requests have to be managed. Some crew members still need to be recruited. We need to find surveillance camera and

set up a mobile communication system.

During this time, we start meeting journalists and documentary makers to carefully select those we want to work with. We need to be very cautious to ensure our security and avoid a media frenzy. No information can be leaked. We don't even tell anyone our destination.

**April 7/9, 2001 - Ireland, dealing with concerns** Initially, some people involved with Women on Waves Ireland do not want the ship to offer abortion services for two reasons. They feel women will not request abortion services on board anyway. They assume women will be discouraged by press and expected protests and will easily prefer to travel to England for reasons of privacy. They are also concerned about the safety of the procedure at sea and the consequences if a complication should arise.

A decision is made. The ship will only offer the abortion pill. No vacuum aspirations will be performed. This seems a safer and more acceptable option. Two drugs are used for medically induced abortion. Mifepristone (200 milligram), know as RU 486 is responsible for inducing a spontaneous abortion and can be given in international waters on board the ship. After 48 hours, women need a second drug, Misoprostol (800 microgram), that is administered vaginally and stimulates the uterus to contract and causes bleeding. This medicine will be used when the ship is back in the harbor. By providing the

abortion pill at sea there are no risks of complications. Security is another major consideration. Women on Waves Ireland is uneasy about maintaining the security of the ship and volunteers for more than three days. But our aim is to facilitate reproductive health and abortion services. In just three days, it will be impossible to actually help any women. The Irish groups feel that 24 hour professional security is necessary. Women on Waves does not have the means to pay for this costly expense. Meanwhile, the objections to a longer stay are persistent and the Irish groups suggest looking at possibilities to sail to Belfast as well.

### April 17, 2001 - The Netherlands, last hurdles

A ship's insurance company agrees to insure the Aurora. We also find a company to insure the medical activities of the project. After providing the procedure handbook, we negotiate affordable coverage for treatments with RU 468. With the insurance issues settled, we are ready to sign the charter contract for the Aurora.

### April 17/24, 2001 - Applying for the abortion clinic license

Since the Aurora is registered in the Netherlands, Dutch law will apply outside territorial waters. According to Dutch law, a clinic needs a special license to provide pregnancy terminations. However, early pregnancy termination (up to 45 days) also called the overtime-treatment





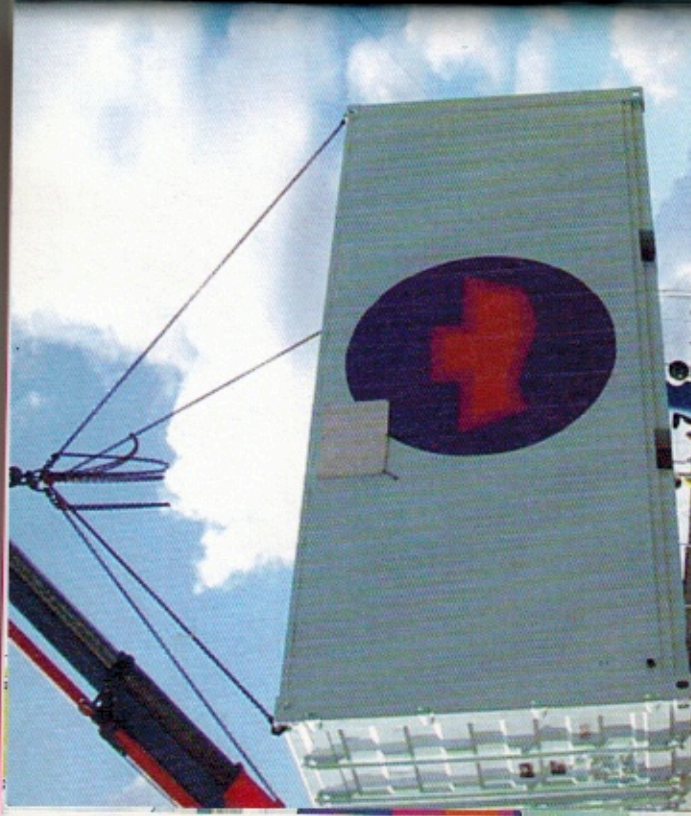
Crew and Supporters - Equipage et supporters -  
La tripulación con sus hinchas



Volunteers loading supplies - Volontaires embar-  
quent les provisions - Voluntarios cargan el barco  
con las existencias



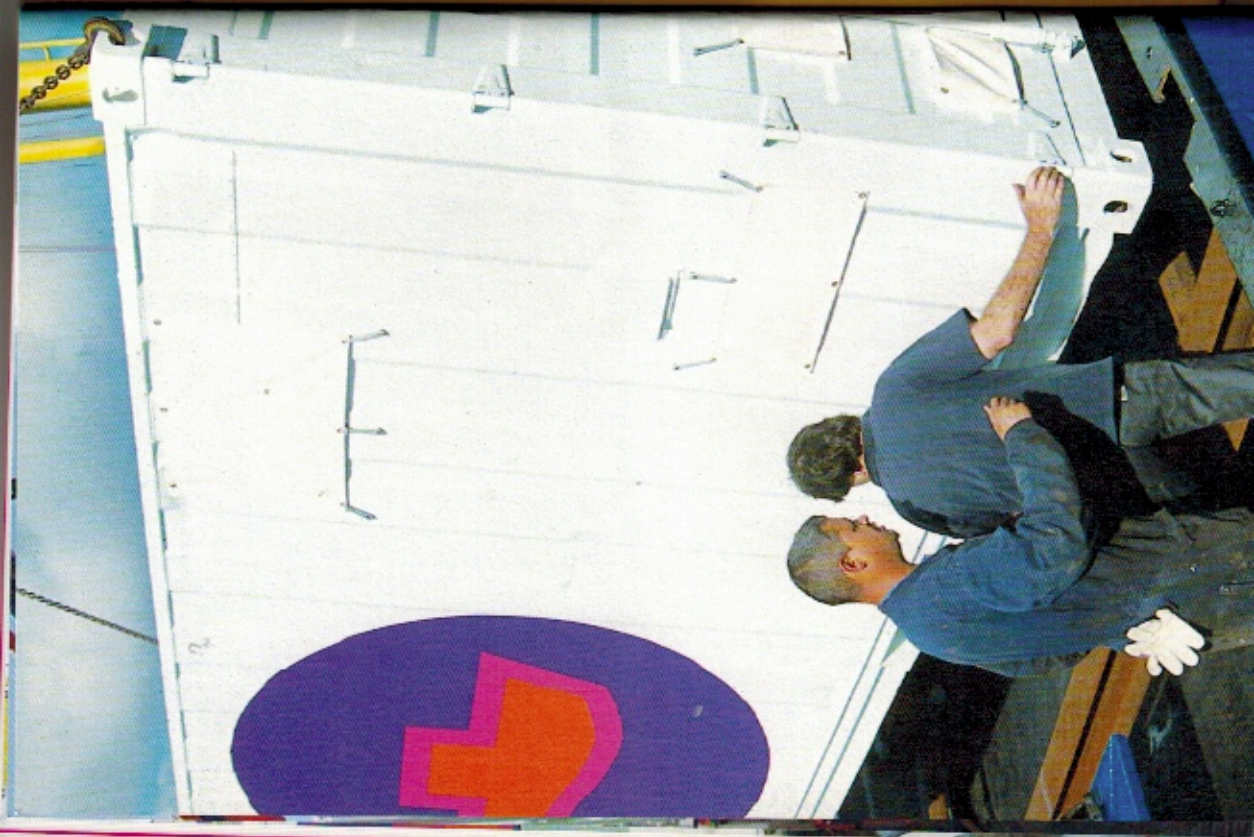
Anna buying supplies - achètent les provisions -  
comprando las existencias



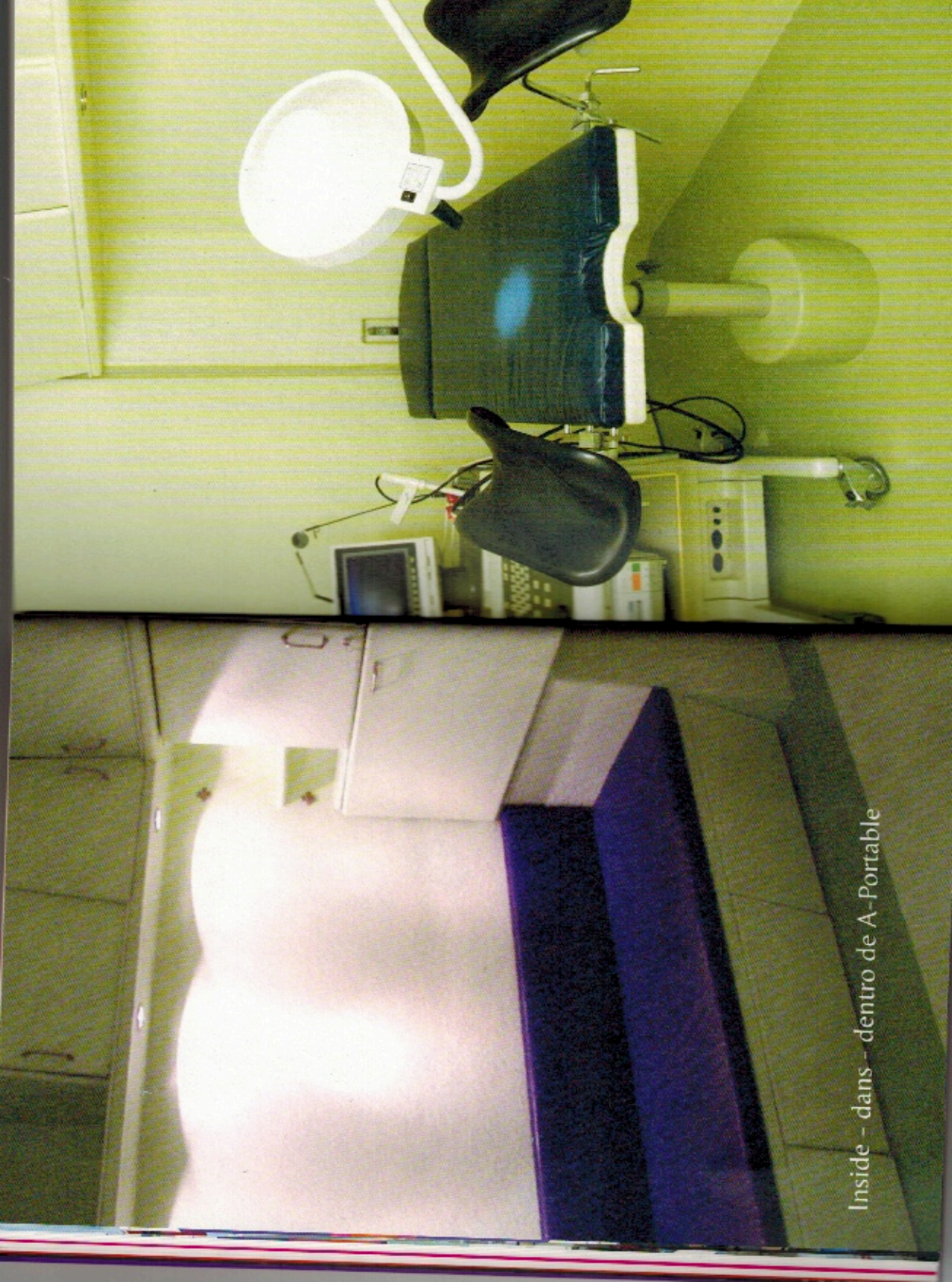
Mobility makes direct action a possibility - La  
mobilitate rend possible l'acci3n directe - La movili-  
dad facilita a acci3n directa



Margaret, captain - capitana



Inside - dans - dentro de A-Portable



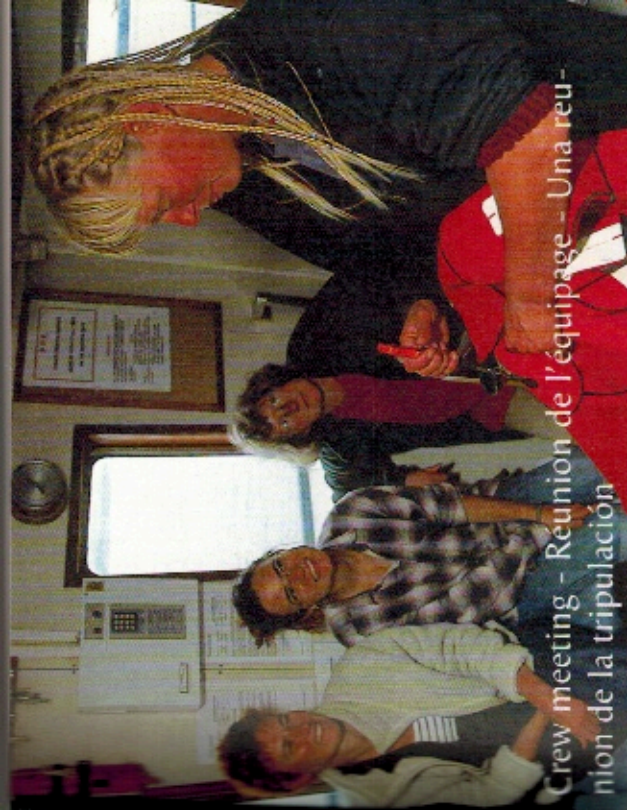
Inside - dans - dentro de A-Portable

Press - Presse - La Prensa, Scheveningen

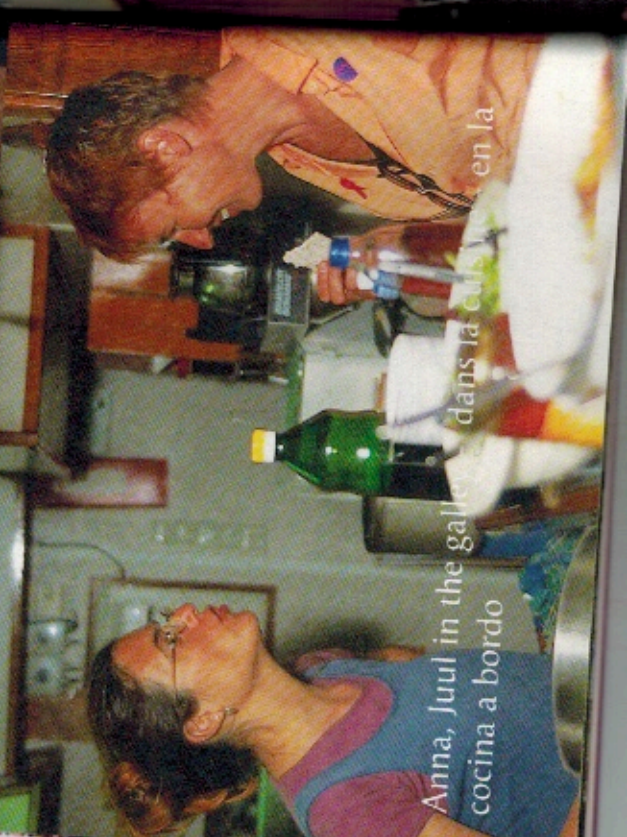




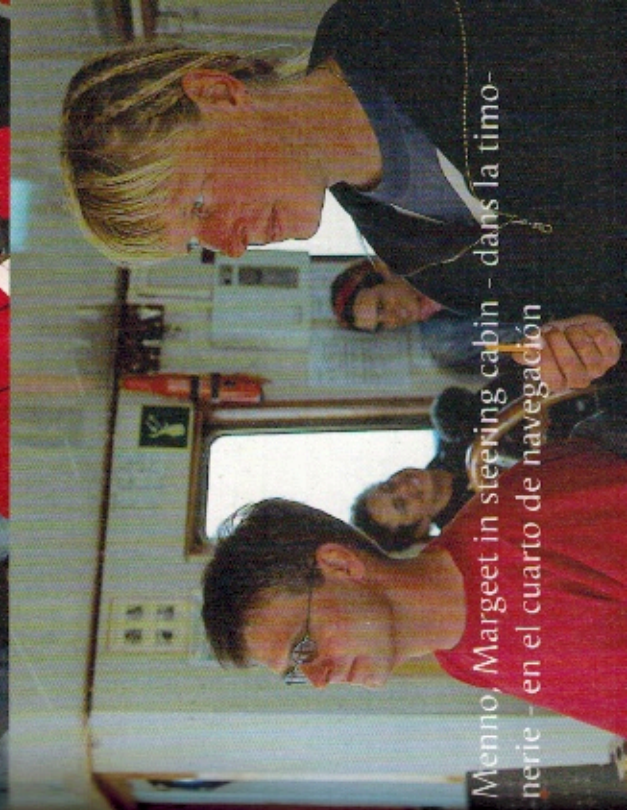
Riki, deckhand - matelot - la marinera



Crew meeting - Reunion de l'équipage - Una reunión de la tripulación



Anna, Juul in the galley - dans la cuisine - en la cocina a bordo



Menno, Margeet in sleeping cabin - dans la timonerie - en el cuarto de navegación

has a special legal status, which falls outside the Dutch abortion law. In the Netherlands, the abortion pill is registered for administration until day 49 of pregnancy and is mostly used as over-the-counter treatment. In practice, it can safely be used for abortions until day 63 of pregnancy and even later.

The Dutch abortion law took effect in 1984, long before the abortion pill was introduced in 1999. There is no clear legal ruling in Dutch law regarding this method of ending early pregnancies. We interpret this to mean that we do not need a license to prescribe the abortion pill, as it falls outside the regulations of the Dutch law. Nevertheless, we apply for the license after completing an extensive procedure handbook that covers medical and other protocols. We already informed the Minister of Health, Els Borst, about the project a year ago. No indication whatsoever about possible criminal liability was given to us. We consider this as an indication that we can go ahead with our preparations for the project in Ireland.

**April 25, 2001** The ship's owner is having second thoughts about renting his ship to Women on Waves. There is no time to find another ship. Our Dutch lawyer advises us how to negotiate with him and writes up a contract.

**May 17, 2001** After a long meeting with the ship's owner during which we provide more insight to our aims and goals, he finally agrees to sign the charter contract.



Gunilla, Rebecca

### May 17/31, 2001

The remaining crew members are recruited. Our nurse, Juul Böckling works at clinic for sexual transmitted diseases. Our cook, Anna Centellas, is also a trained biologist. Our deckhand, Riki van Gorp, takes a special course to update her seaman's certification. Our first mate and only male crew member, Menno Bos, is an experienced activist and skilled engineer. They join Gunilla Kleiverda and Margreet Bunnik. We hold our first crew meeting. Hillary Heath gives the crew media training. She will also join us on board to film.

### May 2001 Ireland - Growing support

Women on Waves Ireland organizes two events to raise funds and awareness of the ship's visit. Many more people join the project and Women on Waves Ireland grows into an organization with over 100 volunteers. The volunteers hand out leaflets at events with large crowds. Some organize workshops. Others work behind the scenes. Everyone is working in unison.

Several well known artists and writers lend their names to the project and are among our earliest public supporters. For many of them, this is the first time they participate in abortion rights activities. More groups agree to support the ship's efforts. Some women's organizations, however, fear that by supporting us they will appear too strident on this issue. Since abortion is so controversial in Ireland, many who sympathize with our cause are hesitant to support us publicly due to concerns about their families and jobs.

### May 19/22, 2001 - Ireland, Security training

The Feminist Majority Foundation, a group specialized in clinic defense, trains volunteers in Cork and Dublin on security issues and procedures. This training prepares us to deal with a variety of scenarios such as bomb threats, large scale protests and individuals disrupting programs. We do not know what to expect.

It appears that extremist American anti-abortion groups such as Operation Rescue trained the Irish Youth Defense, an aggressive anti-abortion group. Furthermore, the murderer of Dr. Slepian, an American doctor who performed abortions, had found refuge in Ireland for over a year.

We have been very fortunate to find an anonymous private donor to cover the entire cost of the professional security. Now, the main objections to a longer stay have been taken care of. We can always decide to leave Dublin earlier if the situation so requires.

We meet with the Belfast abortion rights community to determine the feasibility of sailing there during our first voyage. But since we will be sailing in three weeks, we agree there isn't enough time to properly plan a Belfast visit.

### May 27, 2001 - Ireland, news leak

A journalist gains access to the minutes of a Women on Waves Ireland meeting. The minutes are published in a tabloid newspaper. The same weekend an Irish volunteer writes a story about the

ship's visit, which is published in the Sunday Times. As a result of these stories, our destination is now public knowledge in Ireland. Our press representatives in Ireland organize several interviews to try regain control of the message that is getting out. The Dutch and international press are also interested. We are now overwhelmed with press requests. Joke van Kampen, a former UN press officer has just volunteered to handle all international press requests.

**May 29, 2001** Women on Waves Ireland has its first public event and runs a fund-raising quiz for supporters.

**June 2/7, 2001 - First abortion requests** We start receiving e-mails and telephone calls from Irish women asking for an abortion. We can hardly believe these requests are real. We suspect that they might come from the opposition or the press but refer them to non-directive counseling centers in Ireland.

For the entire week, we are unable to reach the harbor masters of Dublin and Cork to confirm our berthing places. This means we are going to sail to Ireland without knowing if and where the ship will be docked.

The A-Portable is finally finished. It has separate spaces for intake, treatment and a private toilet. The A-Portable has its

own generator and water supply so it can function independently. A model of the treatment room will also be displayed at the Venice Biennial, a prestigious art festival.

**June 7, 2001 - Last minute complications** NRC, a Dutch newspaper, reports that Women on Waves has not yet been granted a clinic license. They also disclose that the Dutch government has indirectly funded the A-portable via the Ministry of Culture, which funds the Mondriaan Foundation. This quickly dominates Dutch news and it is the beginning of negative press coverage in the Netherlands. Now provided with arguments to criticize the project, the Dutch anti-abortion organizations and political parties start their attack. Women on Waves, in the final stressful stage of the project preparations, finds it impossible to clarify the inconsistencies of the Dutch law concerning the overtime treatment and the abortion pill.

**June 8, 2001 - Health inspection** The Dutch Inspector of Health contacts us to make an appointment for the inspection of the A-Portable. A meeting is scheduled for July 11 after the ship has returned to the Netherlands. Due to other obligations, they do not have time to inspect the A-Portable before departure. Anna, the ship's cook arrives in Amsterdam.

**June 9, 2001 - Groceries** Anna and Lizet buy all the basic necessities, such as fruit, cheese, vegetables, pasta, beer, wine, toilet paper and other things to supply the ship.

**June 9, 2001, 16.00 hrs - Ireland** Women on Waves Ireland invites the press for a photo opportunity. The next day all Irish newspapers publish photos of our hotline number.

**June 10, 2001 - Search for the "abortion ship"**  
The press has been pursuing us for a few weeks. Magazines and newspapers offer large sums of money for the first photo of the "abortion ship". We keep the harbor and place of departure a secret so we can prepare the ship without interruptions.

Dutch anti-abortion groups threaten to block the harbor with fishing vessels to prevent us from sailing. Fortunately, they do not know our exact location. For the entire weekend, journalists and anti-abortion groups search all docks at the Amsterdam and Rotterdam harbors for a ship named "Sea Change".

**June 11, 2001, 07.00 hrs** The A-Portable is loaded on a truck and driven to Scheveningen, our point of departure. The truck is stuck in a traffic jam and arrives much later than planned. A specially designed steel construction that carries the container is welded on the deck of the ship. Extra cables are tied to the container to secure it and protect it from blowing overboard in case of windstorms.

**June 11, 2001, 11.00 hrs** Several volunteers arrive at the dock to help load the groceries on the ship. A security specialist installs surveillance cameras on the steering cabin. Shortly thereafter, the first journalists arrive. Although our press conference is planned for 17:00, the dock becomes a hectic gathering of cameras and microphones long before that. All crew members and even the crowd on the quay are being interviewed.

**June 11, 2001, 15.30 hrs** The ship's owner arrives in panic due to the negative press we have received in the last days. All of a sudden he orders us to sail immediately or not at all. We try to calm him down. We have to wait for customs.

**June 11, 2001, 16.00 hrs** Customs clears the ship and we sail an hour earlier than planned. The press conference does not take place, depriving us from the opportunity to explain the project in depth to the Dutch media. This might alienate some of them even more. Our invited guests have yet to arrive. Outside the harbor, the ship hits the restless waves of the North Sea. After the strenuous day, this is a bit too much. Most of the crew gets seasick and goes to bed.

**June 12, 2001 - Aurora, problem solving** While the crew sits on deck enjoying the sun, the ship's owner calls. He insists we immediately sail to the nearest British harbor

**Requirements project ship:** Charter-contract, Supplies (*Food, Sea-charts, Nautical books, Survival suits, safety net*)

**Crew:** Gynecologist, Nurse, Deckhand, Cook, Mate, Engineer, Captain (*Medical certificate, Seamans-book, Nautical certificates*)

**Insurance:** Medical liability; Ship, Treatment-room

**Mobile communicationsystem:** Mobile phones, Computer,

**Worldwide server Security:** Surveillance camera's,

**Professional security, Training program volunteers** Legal

**research:** General, Netherlands, Ireland, European, Charter

**contract** Logo and stationery: General information folder,

**Folder about contraceptives, Folder about STD's, Folder on**

**abortion services, Informed consent form, Information folder**

**about RU 468** Shipping agent: Harbor regulations

**Harbormaster:** Berthing Ireland (Dublin and Cork); Monthly

**meetings, Web-site, Organization on-board events (Writers**

**seminar, Artist seminar, Medical workshop, Legal workshop, Film-**

**series)** Press: newspapers, magazines, television, radio, docu-

**mentary Fundraising**

## Requirements A-portable General: Generator,

Water-tanks, Chemical toilet, Intake and rest space, Treatment space

**Medication:** Scandaine 1% +adrenaline, Lidocaine 20 ml 1%, Paracetamol 1000 mg, Naproxen 275 mg, Paracetamol suppositories, Naproxen sup 250 mg, Na-Cl I.V. 0.9% fluid 500 ml, Haemacel inf v1/, Taveril 1mg/ml 2ml, amp 2, Noradren 1mg/ml, Diadreson-F 25 mg, Ergometrine tablets 0,3 mg,

Methergin 0,2 mg/ml, Syntocinon 5 IE/ml 1 ml, Anti-D

immunoglobuline, Anti-Determination Eldoncard 2511,

Metronidazol 2g, Doxycycline 5 x 100 mg, Phenergan 50 mg=2

ml, Motion-sickness tablets, Atropine 0,5 mg/ml, Ventolin

ampoules, Glucose ampoules 4 gr/10 ml, Diazepam-clysm 5

mg, Valium 5 mg/ml 2 ml Abortion medication: RU 486

(mifeprstone), Misoprostol 200 microgram, Contraceptives:

Condoms, Oral contraceptives, IUD's, Morning after pill,

**Medical Equipment:** Operation lamp, Electrical vacuum aspi-

**rator, Ultrasonograph, Gynecological chair, Sterilizer** Medical

**instruments:** Specula, Hysterometer, Dilators, Tenaculum,

Scissors, Tongue

**General supplies:** Pregnancy tests, Needle

**containers, Needles, Syringes, Disinfectant soap, Absorption**

**pats, Paper-rolls, Sterile gaussees, Alcohol, Betadine,**

**Examination gloves, Sterile gloves, Cleaning material,**

**Sonograph gel, Thermometer, Sterilization paper, Blood-pres-**

**sure measure, Oxymetre, Vacuum curettes** Procedure hand-

**book, License**