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INTERVIEW NO. <u>CF/HST/INT/CRC/BRI</u>

CLAIRE BRISSET Chief, Information & Development Education Section UNICEF Geneva 2 February 1990

(Interview was in French, this is rough translation as it is being transcribed)

(Discussion about CB and Khmer children--PHS has read articles, asks in what capacity CB wrote about these children. CB went to Cambodia for UNICEF in 1988. CB has been at UNICEF/Geneva for 2 1/2 years, went to Cambodia for UNICEF. Before had worked for UNICEF in Paris as consultant. Before was journalist for <u>Le Monde</u>, <u>Le Monde Diplomatique</u>. She was in Cambodia, but not on border, because U had been asked not to work on border. She was in Cambodia two times in 1988 to observe work of UNICEF, then wrote article for <u>Le Monde Diplomatique</u>.)

PHS: So, you have been with UNICEF here since mid-1987?

CB: Yes. For a while I had a "status mixed". I was at Paris, but made many trips into the field, in preparation for work here. Especially in Africa, often in Ethiopia.

PHS: When did you first hear about the Convention.

CB: I was here in 1979 for IYC. At that time I was made aware of rights of the child in general, not specially the text of the Convention, but in general. Later, I was in such close relation with UNICEF while I was still a journalist, that I can't really recall at what moment one started talking of the Convention per se. I made many missions into the field for UNICEF, went often to New York for ExBd. I had many very close friends who were then functionaires of UNICEF. Therefore, can't really remember when I first heard about it, since it was among the activities we heard about for such a long time.

I was so familiar with it for so long. My first report for UNICEF was in 1975. At that time I was still with Figaro.

PHS: And when you arrived here...

CB: Oh, when I arrived here, it was "dejá dans le paysage". Sept. 1987. From that time on UNICEF was beginning to talk about it quite a bit. ("pas mal").

I prepared a large dossier for <u>Le Monde Diplomatique</u> on the rights of the child. We can give you that. (1988?) On child labour, children in war. CB thinks this was in 1987. Could ask for this from <u>Monde Diplomatique</u>. (Annick will ask for this)

Cultural differences in attitude toward Convention

PHS: This is interesting, because I think there was more attention given to the Convention in Europe than...

CB: A thousand times more!

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