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**Background Paper on The Summit: Special Concerns, Needs, Ancilliary Events.
(World Summit for Children)**

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JOHN MANFREDI

John Manfredi

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26 April 1990

Background PaperTHE SUMMIT: Special Concerns, Needs, Ancilliary Events

To: Michael Shower and Members of Summit Management Committee

From: Bob Brennan, with input from Kimberly Gamble

A. Constituencies to be reached through Public Mobilization activities:

- 1) Children
- 2) Youth
- 3) Religious Leaders
- 4) NGOs
- 5) Artists and Intellectuals (to a somewhat lesser degree)

B. There is a need to provide a forum for these constituencies to voice their concerns, dedicated interest, and participation (in some form) in the World Summit for Children. How can this be achieved?

- 1) A Children's Forum (on the World Summit for Children)
- 2) A youth Forum (on the World Summit for Children)
- 3) A Religious Leaders Congress (on the World Summit for Children)
- 4) An NGO Forum on the Summit, convened by DPI
- 5) A voice in World Summit Planning Committee meetings
- 6) Individual nation and international mobilizations of Artists and Intellectuals

C. Children's participation and contribution to World Summit can be achieved in a number of ways. Some of these suggestions are already taking shape in one form or another.

- 1) General education and informing of children about the World Summit.
 - a) speeches to children's groups and schools.
 - b) convening of special groups of children (Kids Meeting Kids) to discuss the Summit and Children's Rights.
 - c) preparation of print materials that can be used in schools to alert children to the importance of the Summit to them.
 - d) distribution of such materials through UNICEF National Committees, Field Offices, and NGOs.
 - e) arranging Summit staff participation in international group meetings of large child/youth organizations (scouts, 4-H clubs, special olympics, etc.).
 - f) articles and editorials about the Summit in magazines and newspapers popular with children and youth, by-lined by personalities important to them.
 - g) interview appearances mentioning the Summit on MTV, radio programmes and television by personalities important to children/youth.

D. Children's Forum on the World Summit for Children

- 1) convened by organizations such as Kids Meeting Kids.
- 2) could take place early in the week of the Summit.
- 3) must include solid representation of children from as many countries of the world as possible.
- 4) a solid declaration, or appeal, will result from children on what they hope the World Summit should achieve.

Page 2**E. Youth Forum on the World Summit for Children**

- 1) convened by Youth NGOs and coordinated by UNICEF Geneva
- 2) to be held in Geneva on 15-18 September 1990.
- 3) the objective is to mobilize practical action world-wide by young people for the benefit of children.
- 4) a solid declaration, or appeal, will result from youth on what they hope the World Summit should achieve.

E. Activities are also being discussed for mobilizing children (and youth) on the days before the Summit begins and during the meetings. These include:

- 1) through UNICEF Field Offices and National Committees, arrange that groups of children bid farewell to their Head of State on departure from the airport, clearly indicating with signs, placards and statements their hopes for the Summit.
- 2) On arrival in New York, children would join with the Mission in greeting the Head of State, presenting him/her with a symbolic item related to the Summit and their hopes for it.
- 3) On Friday 28 September, perhaps between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. groups of children representing a very wide variety of schools, children's organizations, etc. would parade in front of the U.N. in a peaceful demonstration of their hopes for the Summit. Each of these groups would carry a large sign or placard stating these hopes. These would all be gathered on Saturday afternoon to greet the Heads of State arranged in Ralph Bunche park or other appropriate spot.
- 4) During this same 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. period a peaceful demonstration of youth would be taking place in Dag Hammarskjold park on 47th Street, featuring speakers and hopefully an entertainer or two.
- 5) Inviting children to participate in official City of New York reception at Gracie Mansion — probably a choir.
- 6) Now that there is a "window" to include children in the Summit meetings there are several additional possibilities:
 - a) specially selected children to read letters about their own Summit feelings — perhaps as part of the audio-visual presentation being prepared by Bill Hetzer.
 - b) short and appropriate performances by groups of carefully selected and representative child street performers.
 - c) voices of children stating their thoughts to be broadcast through the meeting rooms while Heads of State (and spouses) are gathering, and during breaks, and at the closing.
- 7) A joint declaration or appeal agreed upon by children's groups all over the world could serve for presentation to arriving Heads of State, or used on dinner menu at the official dinner, or even be used as dinner centerpiece. A first draft of this declaration/appeal drafted by Kids Meeting Kids is attached.