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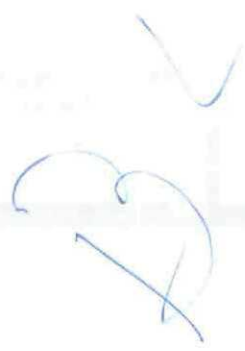
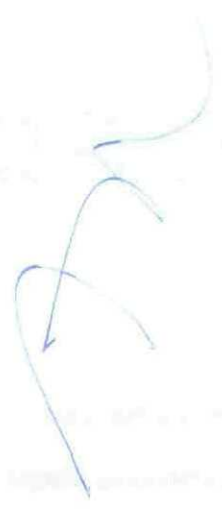
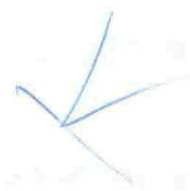
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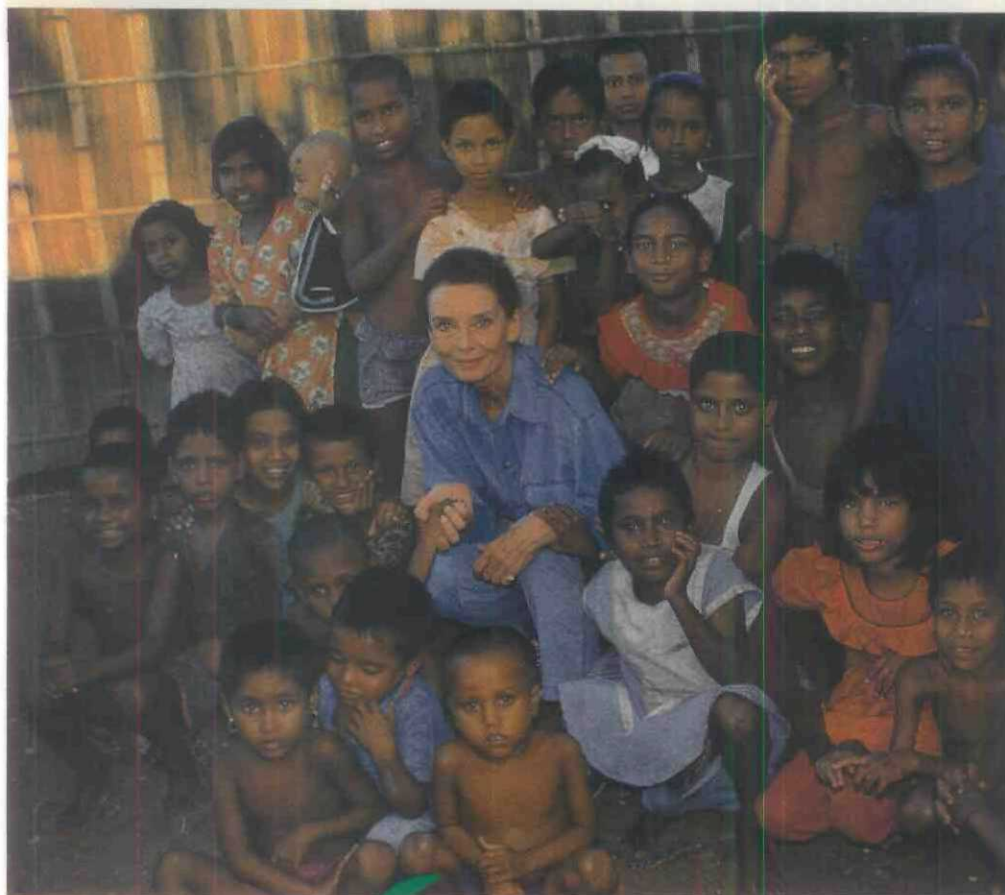
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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

from Audrey Hepburn



"A Wonderful Long Arm"

However, I had to make a choice at one point in my life, of missing films or missing my children. It was a very easy decision to make. When my older son started school and I could not take him with me on my film assignments, it was tough. So I retired from full-time film acting to devote myself to my family and my home, and I have never regretted it for a minute.

In 1985 I was asked by UNICEF, the United Nation's Children's Fund, to work for them as a volunteer. The timing was right, my sons Sean and Luca were now grown-up men with lives of their own. My home and garden in Switzerland were doing quite well without my constant care, and I accepted their offer to become a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, and to serve with people I admire so much: Peter Ustinov, Liv Ullmann, Harry Belafonte and Sir Richard Attenborough.

UNICEF put me to work immediately with a trip to the war-devastated African nation of Ethiopia. Since then I have seen UNICEF-assisted programs in Turkey, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, the Sudan, Thailand, Bangladesh and Viet Nam.

UNICEF has a wonderful long arm, trying to reach the most wounded, and working in a marvelous way that helps people retain their dignity. In Ethiopia, the Sudan, and other countries, the people I met didn't know Audrey Hepburn, but they recognized the name UNICEF. When they see UNICEF, their faces light up because they know that something is happening. In the



Audrey Hepburn, who has served as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 1989, surrounded by boys and girls who are being assisted by UNICEF programs in Bangladesh.

When I think of Christmas I think of warmth, generosity and families together. This time of year I am also reminded of how lucky I am. I had a wonderful career in films, and I enjoyed that part of my life very much. What young actress wouldn't be thrilled to act in her first movie with Gregory Peck, and then later with Cary Grant, Gary Cooper, Humphrey Bogart, Fred Astaire, Henry Fonda, Rex Harrison. I was a lucky girl indeed!

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Sudan, for example, they call the water pump "UNICEF".

In my travels during these three years I have met thousands of children, many of whom do not know joy, and do not smile. It is for these children I speak—children who cannot speak for themselves. I am not interested in promoting Audrey Hepburn these days, but if my name will make people listen to what I have to say about how to help these children, then that is wonderful.

Children are suffering worldwide from many things, but I think the problems facing children are most severe wherever there is war. Children in war are always the first ones to suffer—physically and psychologically. It can be permanently traumatic for a child to live with the apprehension and constant fear that something bad is going to happen.

I can testify to what UNICEF means to children because I was among those who received food and medical relief right after World War II. I grew up in a war zone in the town of Arnhem in the Netherlands and had to learn that there was no food to eat and that there were many things I could not do. When the war finally ended we were fortunate that help came to us quickly. I have a long-lasting gratitude and trust for what UNICEF does.

Last year's World Summit for Children was a major turning point for all children. Seventy-one heads of state gathered at the United Nations to set a clear path for improvement through a series of ambitious, but do-able goals. In addition, over 90 nations have now ratified the Conventions on the Rights of the Child. Another major success is that Universal Child Immunization has been achieved by culminating the largest global peacetime collaboration in history. Country after country is guided by the principle of a "first call for children"—a principle that the essential needs of children should be given high priority in the allocation of resources, in bad times as well as in good times, at national and international as well as at the family levels.

During this Christmas season, as a tribute to the child whose birth the season commemorates, please re-

*I can testify
to what
UNICEF means
to children
because I was among
those who received
food and medical relief
right after World
War II.*

member the children of the world who still desperately need our help.

You can make a difference. Lend your support to UNICEF and UNICEF-assisted programs which give aid to children in need in countries around the world. Send your contribution to the attention of:

U.S. Committee for UNICEF
P.O. Box 1027-C
333 East 38th Street
New York, NY 10016

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PACKAGED GOODIES

No matter how you spice it, the gift most treasured is one from the hearth.



The Queen Tree

Although decorating homes with greenery dates to the Romans, it wasn't until Queen Victoria brought home her Christmas tree that the idea sprouted worldwide. The royal ornaments? Sweets and fruit.

When it comes to giving, it doesn't get better than this: Fresh-baked cakes, cookies and flaky delights jeweled with frostings and fruited finery, ready-to-go in wraptures of clever design. Half the fun is in the decorating, so unmask your creative side. Don't forget the finishing touches that last beyond the season: A pretty plate, a companion jar of preserves, a copy of your recipe.



Coffee with friends? Sweeten the pot—bring along a basketful of plump Honey-Pecan Crescents topped with a tracery of vanilla icing. For freshness' sake, be sure baked goods are completely cooled before arranging in containers.



Recipes from the book THE CHRISTMAS KITCHEN. Copyright © 1989 by Lorraine Bodger. All rights reserved. Published by arrangement with Doubleday.