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Deputy Executive Director
of UNICEF, Operations



KARL-ERIC KNUTSSON was appointed Deputy Executive Director, Operations, of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, effective August 1, 1983. Mr. Knutsson, a Swedish national, served previously, from 1980-1983, as Regional Director, UNICEF East and Southern Africa Region. Born in 1932, he received his B.A. in Archaeology, Economic History, Philosophy, Comparative Religion, Anthropology and Theory of Science in 1954. He also received two M.A. degrees, in Nordic Studies and Anthropology and two Ph.D's in Comparative Religion and Anthropology. In addition he received a Fil. Dr. in Anthropology in 1967. From 1959-1962, except for a brief period, Mr. Knutsson was a Lecturer in comparative cultural studies, University of Lund. In 1965 he became a Lecturer and later an Associate Professor in Anthropology at the University of Gothenberg, becoming a Full Professor there in 1969. From 1970-1975 he was Head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Stockholm. Then, in 1975 he became Secretary-General and Director of Research of The Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), a position he retained until 1980. Mr. Knutsson has held numerous other positions over the past twenty years in addition to his full-time positions. Among the most recent are Vice-Chairman, U.N. Research Institute for Social Development (1976-1982), Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Swedish Cabinet (1978-81), Member of the Executive Council of the U.N. University (1980-1984) and others. He has authored or co-authored several books plus numerous other articles and papers in anthropology, nutrition, development and evaluation theory. Mr. Knutsson has carried out extensive field research to support his work and speaks five languages. He has been involved in U.N. activities since 1974 and is also presently a member of the Swedish National UNESCO Committee. He is married. Mr. Knutsson's Office: 754-7852



United Nations Children's Fund
Headquarters

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

CF/EXD-IC 1988-11
17 May 1988

FOR INFORMATION

ENGLISH ONLY

To: All UNICEF Staff

From: James P. Grant
Executive Director

file: Biograph.

Subject: Senior Staff Appointment

I am pleased to announce the appointment of:

Mr. Karl Eric Knutsson as Regional Director for South Central Asia (ROSCA)

Mr. Knutsson was born in Skoevde, Sweden in May 1932 and is a national of that country. Mr. Knutsson is a graduate of Lund University, Sweden where he studied from 1952-1959 obtaining Masters degrees in History and Philosophy and a Doctorate in Comparative Religion. He pursued further studies from 1959-1967 at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, obtaining Doctorate degrees in Anthropology and Philosophy.

Mr. Knutsson served in various academic positions at the Universities of Lund and Gothenburg from 1959 to 1970 as Lecturer and Professor in Comparative Cultural Studies and Anthropology. From 1970-1975 he served as Professor of Anthropology and Head of Department at the University of Stockholm. In July 1975 Mr. Knutsson was appointed Secretary General and Director of Research of the Swedish Agency for Research with Developing Countries (SAREC). In this capacity Mr. Knutsson travelled widely in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to plan and negotiate programmes of research co-operation. As Director of Research of the Swedish Agency, Mr. Knutsson had close association with the United Nations. He was Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Institute of Social Development and Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Swedish Government since 1978. He represented his Government in numerous conferences and meetings as a Member of the Swedish Delegation to the United Nations.

After a distinguished career with the Swedish Government, Mr. Knutsson joined UNICEF in August 1980 as Regional Director for the East Africa Regional Office based in Nairobi, Kenya.

In August 1983, Mr. Knutsson was appointed as UNICEF Deputy Executive Director (Operations) at New York Headquarters, a post in which he served until recently. At his request, Mr. Knutsson has been granted sabbatical leave while serving as Special Adviser to the Executive Director.

Mr. Knutsson will assume his new functions as Regional Director on 1 June 1988.

Bio file

Unicef director seeks task force

DR. Karl Eric Knutsson, a distinguished Swedish development scholar with seven years' field work experience in African rural communities, has joined Unicef in Nairobi as its regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Dr. Knutsson recently visited the famine-stricken Karamoja area of Uganda and confirmed that there had been a serious breakdown of security there.

He called for an emergency international task force to help normalise security in Uganda, particularly in that region.

He suggested the task force should be trained to form a combined combat team to take control of security in Uganda.

Dr. Knutsson said lack of security in Uganda made almost everything impossible.

There were no medical supplies in health centres or hospitals, a tablet of medicine was sold for as much as 50/- and a packet of cigarette could be sold for a sub-machinegun.

Raiding was still going on in Karamoja where thousands of people were roaming about with guns obtained during the overthrow of the Amin regime.

He said the security situation in Uganda would remain severe for the next 10 to 12 months, although at present there was some improvement.

At the moment there were 15,000 tons of relief food supplies in stock or soon coming to Uganda from the World Food Programme. There was need for 30,000 tons per month to feed some 250,000 in the affected area, Dr. Knutsson complained.

By NATION Reporter

The expert, who is on leave from his post as president of the Swedish Agency for Research Co-operation with developing countries, described his decision to join Unicef as motivated by a desire to return to practical field work in the many different areas in which Unicef co-operates with African countries.

These include child welfare, women's participation in development, primary health care, nutrition, provision of clean drinking water, appropriate technology and basic education.

What attracted him to Unicef, he said, was its practical field orientation and its flexibility in tackling the problems of the future generation — today's children, who comprise 40 per cent of the population of developing countries.

He led field research teams in rural sociology and nutrition in Ethiopia from 1960 to 1965 and 1967 to 1969.



DR. Knutsson

PRESS

UNICEF



Pour diffusion immédiate

For immediate release

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NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR
FOR UNICEF IN NAIROBI

Geneva, 21 October 1980 - Dr. Karl Eric Knutsson, a distinguished Swedish development scholar with seven years' field work in African rural communities behind him, has joined the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Nairobi as its Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Dr. Knutsson, who is on leave from his post as President of the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with developing countries (SAREC), describes his decision to join UNICEF as motivated by the desire to return to practical field work in the many different areas in which UNICEF cooperates with African countries. These include child welfare, women's participation in development, primary health care, nutrition, the provision of clean drinking water, appropriate technology, and basic education.

Dr. Knutsson led field research teams in rural sociology and nutrition in Ethiopia from 1960 to 1965 and from 1967 to 1969. He has carried out shorter rural research projects in Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya and Tanzania.

In addition to being President of SAREC, Dr. Knutsson is Professor of Social Science at the University of Stockholm; a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations University, Tokyo; Vice-Chairman of the UN Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva; a scientific advisor to the Prime Minister of Sweden; and a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Literature and History.

Dr. Knutsson succeeds Miss Aida Gindy, who has been transferred to Geneva as Director of the UNICEF Office for Europe.

PALAIS
DES NATIONS
1211 GENÈVE

Tél.
(022) 34 60 11

Télégrammes :
UNICEF-GENÈVE

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