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**Statement by Maurice Pate on the Contribution of the Children's Bureau to the International Work for Children on the Occasion of**

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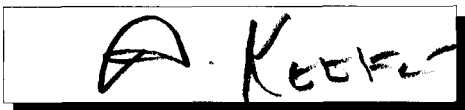
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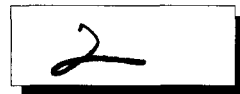
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Statement by Maurice Pate, Executive Director of the  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the  
Contribution of the Children's Bureau to  
International Work for Children

on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the  
United States Children's Bureau - 9 April 1962

The concept that children's needs have no national boundaries has been a vital part of the outlook of the Children's Bureau from its very inception.

Miss Lathrop's interest in the first Pan-American Child Congress in 1916 marked the beginning of an active role by the Bureau in Inter-American Affairs relating to children. The Bureau's concern with the effects of World War I on children led to the 1919 White House Conference on Standards of Child Welfare and to a series of regional conferences. Representatives of the major allied countries participated in these conferences and shared experience on the best ways to protect children during such catastrophes as war and its aftermath.

In the years immediately following the war Miss Lathrop, Miss Abbott, Miss Lenroot and other Bureau staff participated in the child welfare work of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation. During World War II the Bureau became one of the prime movers of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, which coordinated all the resources available in the United States for the care of child victims of war.

Thus, when in 1946 the idea was advanced of having an international organization within the United Nations concerned with children, the Children's Bureau had already had considerable experience to draw upon. Its Chief, Miss Lenroot, played a leading role on behalf of the United States Government in the establishment of UNICEF and in securing financial support from the United States Government. Without this support UNICEF would not have been able to start its work.

As the United States representative on its 26-nation governing body (later increased to 30 nations) Miss Lenroot played a leading role in the early years of UNICEF in hammering out the principles which have since guided the work of the organization. She was likewise the founder of the United States Committee for UNICEF, which has since grown to include in its educational projects several million children and adults in over 12,000 communities in all 50 states. The best known of these projects is the Hallowe'en "Trick or Treat" Programme.

Miss Lenroot and members of her staff were exceedingly generous with their time and energy in counselling and advising the members of the UNICEF Secretariat. In 1947 the Bureau lent Dr. Martha Eliot to UNICEF for a period of time during which she visited all the war-ravaged countries of Europe to lay the foundations for the large-scale emergency child feeding and health work of UNICEF in that area.

The Chiefs who followed Miss Lenroot as United States representatives on the UNICEF Executive Board - Dr. Eliot from 1952 to 1956 and Mrs. Oettinger from 1957 to mid-1961 - have made important contributions, not only to the general policies of UNICEF, but also to the development of criteria for aid to various types of programmes.

*Children's Protective Agency*

P. I. RESEARCH

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Dr. Eliot had been chairman in 1949 of a World Health Organization Expert Committee on Maternal and Child Health, which in effect laid the basic foundation for UNICEF's work in this field. I well remember that many who first read the recommendations of the Expert Committee felt that they were too visionary for UNICEF. A few years later Dr. Eliot sat on the UNICEF Board as the United States representative, with the additional experience, in the meantime, of having been assistant director-general of the World Health Organization. She then proved to be a powerful force in convincing sceptics that what might seem visionary could be eminently practical if tackled in the right way and with the kind of energy and forthrightness which is so characteristic of her.

Mrs. Oettinger as United States representative on the UNICEF Board was the initiator of proposals which opened a new field of aid for UNICEF - social services, for children. This has resulted in a number of projects, now just getting under way, which have already suggested far-reaching possibilities for the future. In addition, these proposals have constituted a practical means for introducing into UNICEF what has long been axiomatic for the Children's Bureau, namely, a concern not merely with the physical development of the child but with the "whole" child, including his mental and emotional growth and his preparation for a productive and worthwhile adult life.

Because of the intimate knowledge which the Chiefs of the Children's Bureau have had of work of UNICEF, and which has been shared by some of the members of their staff, the Children's Bureau has been the key agency in Washington for information about the work of UNICEF. This has been a most important factor in the continued generous support by the United States Congress for UNICEF.

Of the Bureau staff members whose knowledge and support have been invaluable I must make special mention of Dr. Katherine Bain, the deputy chief, who has been a special adviser to the United States Delegation to UNICEF since 1957.

Thus in the past fifteen years the bonds between UNICEF and the Children's Bureau have been growing stronger and more intimate. The Bureau has been part parent, part midwife, part older sister, and always a staunch counsellor and warm and sympathetic friend.

In reading the current anniversary issue of Children, I was struck by a phrase of Grace Abbott's in describing the spirit of Julia Lathrop. She said of Miss Lathrop that "she was prepared to go wherever the interests of the child might lead her." This spirit has animated the Children's Bureau in the past half century, is directly responsible for the Bureau's interest in and contribution toward meeting the needs of all the world's children. The American people can well take special pride in this record.

If I may, for the moment, act as spokesman for the many millions of children in the more than 100 countries now receiving UNICEF aid, I should like to express a warm and deep gratitude to the United States Children's Bureau for its international work and for the many more services to the world's children which I know the Bureau will provide in the future.

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