

Box 506,
Southern Pines, N. C.

February 13, 1964.

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Dear Maurice:

We hope Martha and you are now back, safe and well, from Asia, and that the Board meeting there was a fruitful one.

I hope you will not mind my bothering you again with a few thoughts on the history; ~~but~~ before an actual beginning is made on writing it all those closely connected with the birth, development, operations, and so forth, of the organization, had an opportunity to express themselves.

I liked the mention in the letter you wrote me some two months ago of "a broader approach." I would now like to go even further in suggesting that we might have a potential international "best-seller" in a well-thought-out, expertly assembled and written history of what time may show to have been an outstanding accomplishment of the United Nations in action.

I do not think the time factor is important so long as the job is started while those ^{as have} much to do with the birth and policies of UNICEF still have their memories in good order and the necessary spare time to assist the expert professional who would need to be hired on a full-time basis to produce a work worthy of UNICEF's own accomplishments. A target date for the finished job, if one is really needed, might well be the Fund's 20th or 21st anniversary. A "history" written in the middle of a reign, or life, or movement, would necessarily have to end on a note of uncertainty as to the future; but in three or four years from now UNICEF's place in United Nations history will have been more clearly established.

As of now, I still find the utmost confusion in the thinking of intelligent, internationally-minded people (outside the confines of the U.N., of course) about the relationships of the organization with the Specialized Agencies and subordinate bodies, and to judge the organization only in the light of the cold war. I also find an increasing tendency in these parts to associate the work of UNICEF with the world-wide "Population explosion." All these things would need to be brought out in an authentic history of UNICEF, but it would take a highly skilled writer to put all the pieces together and make sense out of them. I wish I had the talent, and the energy, even to make a start on the job, but I very definitely haven't. I would, however, be glad to help in any way within my limited capabilities.

Don't bother to acknowledge this. I know you have much more important matters to work on at this time.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely,

Gilbert Redfern

(4 p)

[GILBERT REDFERN]

21 November 1963

Dear Gil,

I meant to write to you sooner but I have been rather bogged down in various chores. From your letter of November 12, I see that you have given my proposal very careful thought.

You may be right that we should make a broader approach to this history. At the same time I think when we reach the point of making the kind of approach you suggest that you could make a very valuable contribution to the earlier chapters.

Joe Wechsberg is an excellent writer, in his living arrangements he is more inclined to base himself in Europe. Since I am getting away on my trip now in a few weeks it would now be my intention to tackle the whole matter of the history after my return here toward the end of February. When we do find the right way of working this out I would like to have the benefit of all your ideas.

With affectionate best wishes to you and Blanca,

Yours,

[Maurice Pate]

Mr. Gilbert Redfern
Box 506
Southern Pines, N.C.

Box 506, Southern Pines, N. C. November 12, 1963.

Dear Maurice:

It was most kind of Martha and you to offer us the use of your apartment for two months or so. Almost at the same moment the Sandbergs enquired if we would be interested in re-occupying our own apartment for a few weeks after the turn of the year. Frankly, I do not think it would be wise for us to be in New York for the heart of the winter, though we will consider spending the month of January there. I have already telephoned Martin about this. Perhaps I should add that a primary reason for our moving to Southern Pines was to escape the rigors of New York's winters - a move which, I believe, has paid off well.

All this, however, is of very minor importance compared with the UNICEF history, and the availability for a few months of secretarial help at headquarters while much of the senior staff is in Asia.

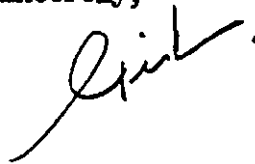
I entirely agree with you that work on the history ought to be started while many of the "old hands" are still around and able to make effective, and necessary, contributions. I would even venture the suggestion that the time is nearing when you ought to become a sort of Chairman of the Board to devote yourself entirely to fund-raising and supervizing work on the history.

I see the importance of the history, as I am sure you do, much the same as we saw the value of the greeting card some 15 years ago, and for that purpose you need - from the outset - the best talent available, plus an operating fund of considerable size. Properly approached, I believe one of the great Foundations like Ford would ^{provide} a fund, perhaps as an advance against future world-wide sales, necessary to do a big job. Having no editorial ^{staff} like TIME or THE NEW YORKER behind you, you would need to start from the ground up by hiring as author or writer a top-flight, international-minded, professional such as Joe Wechsburg. I suppose THE NEW YORKER might be willing to release him for a year for such an assignment. If not, Henry Sell could doubtless provide other "big names." The writer would then build up his own staff of researchers, checkers, typists, etc. This is obviously no job for an old man like me, lacking not only literary skill but the authority to direct specialists in their various fields - here and abroad. Rather it is a job for a technician of vision and talent who knows all about book-writing and publishing. I see great possibilities, with full U. N. backing, for global sales; in various languages, of course. Library sales alone could be considerable.

I will let it go at this for the present, but I do not need to tell you, dear friend, that I am always available for advice and suggestions.

With all good wishes and cordial greetings from us both to you and yours.

Very sincerely,



Mr. Maurice Pate,
Executive Director,
UNICEF, N. Y.

[Gilbert Redfern]

506, Southern Pines, N. C.

March 18, 1961.

Dear Maurice:

I hope you enjoyed the vacation, and that all's going well. Nothing new here. We are enjoying a very pleasant Spring, and still playing golf regularly, tho' not strenuously. As you no doubt know, George and Jane Goodfellow dropped in recently for a drink on their way to and from Florida. We enjoyed seeing them.

In a Christmas note to Marion Fitch, now with the Allen Dulles outfit in Athens, I mentioned that Jadzia had passed on. In a letter received this morning, Miss Fitch wrote: "Your news of Jadzia Pate's death was really a shock. I don't know why I should have felt it so personally, but you know she really was of the stuff of legends, and so seemed to be indestructible. I never met a Pole, in all these years, who hadn't heard of Mrs. Pate." And, I might add, by the nature of her work Marion knew many Poles.

Wall Street seems to be in a bit of a panic converting dollars into common stocks these days. Dollar attrition is clearly a fact, and not simply a theory for future consideration, but I wonder why so many people now think that common stocks, or even gold, is an "out." If something should happen to the dollar, could anybody for one moment suppose that the Government would permit only dollar-holders (bonds, savings, insurance, pensioners, etc.) to "take the rap?" The power to tax always rests with the Government.

Apart from fiscal matters, the new Administration seems to have quite a problem on its hands, both at home and abroad, with the Foreign Aid program. One suggestion I saw the other day was that all countries (meaning presumably U.N. members) should contribute one percent. of their gross national product, with the U.N. handling the collecting and relieving. If something of the sort is being seriously considered, it would seem to me that the UNICEF operation ought to be studied at the outset. What has developed out of your headaches and sleepless nights of a dozen years ago is something that at least merits careful consideration before we barge ahead on a multi-billion-dollar global scheme. And any such scheme would have to be headed by a superman with the broadest possible range - a Herbert Hoover, indeed, if there happens to be another one still undiscovered in the world, who could command the loyalty, devotion and brains of an international staff. Russia would have to be in, of course, and perhaps even Communist China, otherwise it would simply develop into another East-West conflict. A careful reading of the newspapers these days suggests that a thaw may be developing in East-West relations; and your own efforts in Moscow in connection with UNICEF have not been entirely fruitless. All this, no doubt, has already occurred to you, and you may even have done some work on it, but these are just a few thoughts I am putting on paper while listening to a Saturday-afternoon broadcast of TRISTAN from the Metropolitan.

You may already have learned from the Goodfellows that we will be sailing to England on June 30th. I'll visit with the remainder of the family there for about six weeks while Blanca flies to Czecho to see the folks. We'll then sail back from Liverpool in the latter part of August. We figure to spend June and September in New York, and we are hoping that Ed. and Lora Buehler will take over our apartment for six or eight months beginning with October. We feel a bit guilty allowing the place to stay unused since last January, especially as the Winter in New York was unusually severe.

With all good wishes from us both,

Sincerely,



[Gilbert Redfern]