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Message from Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
to the
First Asian-Pacific Youth Conference 1986

20 March 1986
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MESSAGE FROM JAMES P. GRANT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
TO THE
FIRST ASIAN-PACIFIC YOUTH CONFERENCE 1986

I extend my sincere congratulations to the youth leaders at the First Asian-Pacific Youth Conference. Through your service to your families and communities, and through your meeting and exchange with youth from other countries in your region, you are contributing to international development and peace.

As this International Year of Peace is also UNICEF's Fortieth Anniversary, we believe that these two occasions are related, because the service to our children, who represent our future, is also a service for peace.

The world's youth has been one of UNICEF's allies in the struggle for child survival and development. In many developing countries, young people have mobilised and have been trained to be community health workers, sanitation volunteers or health educators. It is often the young people who are at the forefront of primary health care, who put into practice the simple preventive health and nutrition methods which can significantly improve the well-being of families and communities.

UNICEF has been particularly promoting four simple preventive health measures -- oral rehydration therapy, breastfeeding, growth monitoring and immunisation -- that can help to halve the number of children who die needlessly every year from the effects of malnutrition and preventable diseases. These techniques can be very much promoted and supported by young people.

UNICEF takes the opportunity of its Fortieth Anniversary to call upon world leaders, governments, and private citizens to commit themselves to the goal of Universal Child Immunisation by 1990. I extend this call to you, the youth of Asia and the Pacific: Volunteer your help in the immunisation programmes of your countries and spread the word about the importance of immunising children to your families and communities.

On behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund, let me thank you for volunteering your energy, talents and enthusiasm to the service to children, the service for development and peace.

My best wishes to you for a fruitful and exciting conference.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JPG", with a horizontal line underneath.

James P. Grant

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