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Abstract of Statement by Mr. James Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
to the XVIII International Congress of Pediatrics

"To Reach the Unreached:  
A World Commitment to Child Health and Well-being"

Honolulu, Hawaii  
8 July 1986



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Abstract of To Reach the Unreached: A World Commitment to  
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**Abstract of**

**Address by Mr. James P. Grant**

**Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
to the XVIII International Congress of Pediatrics  
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**"To Reach the Unreached:**

**A World Commitment to Child Health and Well-being"**

Great strides have been made in saving the lives and improving the health of the world's poorest children during the three years since the International Pediatrics Association, in Manila, became the first great organization to commit itself to partnership, along with UNICEF and the World Health Organization, in the Child Survival and Development Revolution (CSDR). The tasks ahead present a formidable challenge, yet they are achievable.

Last year the lives of significantly more than a million young children were saved as a direct result of CSDR measures. If fully applied on a worldwide scale, they have the potential to cut in half the toll of 40,000 young lives lost each day to the most mundane and preventable of causes and it could likewise halve the even larger number of youths who grow into adulthood bearing the crippling disabilities of childhood diseases.

The coupling of newly developed or rediscovered low-cost/high-impact primary health care technologies with our vastly improved ability to communicate with the world's poor has made this "revolution" in Child Survival possible. Still, these historically unique possibilities will become realities only if motivated by popular and political will at all strata of societies. It is this will that generates the social mobilization efforts capable of bridging the vital gap between modern knowledge and that otherwise unreached populace in whose hands it can make a life-and-death difference.

These efforts can only be successful if advanced by the forerunning advocacy and example of pediatricians. The great majority of the world's children will never see a physician. That does not mean that they cannot benefit from them. Thus, in the very active and leadership role pediatricians can play in this effort, they can extend the health benefits of their knowledge and skills far beyond the confines of offices and hospitals to reach those masses of children who will never see a physician.

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