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DRAFT Remarks for Ms. Liv Ullmann
for
Nobel Prize Commemoration

10 December 1986



UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



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It is an awesome privilege for me to take a place among this company of Nobel laureates. I am reminded of President Kennedy's comment, at a gathering of a similarly accomplished group - perhaps including some of you - that never before had the White House hosted so distinguished an assembly, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.

And it is in thinking about Jefferson as a solitary individual whose mind and efforts so changed the world of his century and for centuries thereafter, that I am reminded of another solitary individual, who changed our century and centuries hereafter: Mohandas Gandhi.

I am reminded of Gandhi because, in the privilege I have of representing the United Nations Children's Fund as a Nobel Peace laureate, I think of his words which are so fundamental to UNICEF's mission:

"If we are to reach real peace in this world," he said, "we shall have to begin with children. And if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering."

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Isn't that, really, what we must all be about? To begin our world with children? To allow them to grow? Indeed, to allow them to survive? And to protect their natural innocence, by treating them always - and all children - with decency, with dignity, and with determination that they shall not go to bed hungry; that they shall not sleep without shelter; that they should receive adequate medical and health care; that they should have access to education and be encouraged to learn; and that they should not be deprived of the love and companionship of family, of friends, and community?

Shouldn't our most urgent responsibility, always, be to build a world around our children that assures that they will be able to build their world?

I would like to think that it is that purpose that is the sum total and objective of all the work and creativity and energy which each of you has committed and for which you were awarded your Nobel Prizes. I know that it is the purpose of the Organization with which I work, and which was awarded the Peace Prize for its work. And it is the purpose to which UNICEF will recommit itself - by word and deed in nearly every country of the earth - as it celebrates its 40th anniversary tomorrow.

But may I conclude my remarks with one final thought? I am struck that, despite the monumental impact which Gandhi had on our world, he was never awarded a Nobel Prize.

Does this denigrate your accomplishments, or question the value of the Prizes which you have been awarded? No. Does this devalue the Peace Prize which UNICEF was awarded? No. It is only to remind us all that the importance of our contributions to humanity is measured not by recognition, but by the accomplishment itself.

And hopefully, that will, in each case, be the accomplishment of a world that begins with, and for, children.