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Outline for Dinner Speech by Mr. James P. Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

House of Commons – London, United Kingdom  
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UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



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Outline for Dinner Speech at House of Commons. By Mr. James P. Grant  
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Outline for dinner speech at House of Commons Tuesday 26 January follows. We would suggest following sequence:

1. Context for visit to UK - AIDS, leading to UNICEF's concern with the greater threats to children's health and welfare.
2. UNICEF staying true to its goal of reducing unacceptable toll of child deaths and achieving UCI by 1990.
3. Selection of successes and rise in coverage world-wide, culminating with The Lebanon and thanks to the more than 200 MPs who have signed the Early Day Motion on Lebanon as spectacular, but not first, "bridge to peace" initiative. Putting "children first" brings society incalculable additional benefits. Why such parliamentary statements have a special impact for mobilization of wider opinion and support.
4. This brings us to further future task where support from political and social leaders and media will be essential - the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this context it can be seen that death is not UNICEF's only concern. We are equally insistent when it comes to the effects of poverty on the healthy development of children and enabling them to  
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reach their full potential. Hence the importance given to social consequences of adjustment policies and UNICEF's plea for Adjustment with a Human Face.

5. UNICEF appreciative of sympathetic response in the UK to UNICEF's proposals in this area - eg ODA Ministers personal support for AWHF calling it quote a new art form for adjustment unquote and Chancellor Nigel Lawson's statements on debt and debt initiatives. UNICEF's proposal for debt relief for child survival is closely related to this. This might be point also to express gratitude for continuing increases in Government support to UNICEF general resources and the special pounds sterling 5 million contribution made for immunisation programme last year followed by pounds sterling 3 million special contribution to water programmes in India just over a month ago.

6. Challenge for the 1990s will need something new for the least developed countries and Africa. Even with new and positive debt initiatives from the World Bank, the IMF and the latest Secretary General's Advisory Group, the prospects for restoring per capita growth in Africa until 1995 are extremely limited. Thus, special action will be required over the next decade - a special programme of action to restore growth and meet basic human needs. The Bamako initiative is a good starting effort for health.

7. Many areas of advocacy referred to in which we need the support and influence of British media, parliamentarians and that "grand alliance" with other organisations. But we do need additional resources too in order to attain the 1990 goal, with greatest ever advance in child health now within our reach. We need partners to help us promote and mobilize but we do need the financial means to carry them through. Perhaps finally express the hope that UK Government will repeat its 1987 generosity and that British public will also find new ways to contribute each year until these goals are  
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reached.

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