

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1989-0039

Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
upon receipt by UNICEF of the
1989 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

New Delhi, India
21 November 1989



UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



Rcf0006HRX

Item # **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1998-02165**

ExR/Code: **CF/EXD/SP/1989-0039**

1989 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament & Development
Date Label Printed **18-Jan-2002**

cover + 1 p + 0 b



United Nations Children's Fund Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia
Детский Фонд Организации Объединенных Наций 联合国儿童基金会 منظمة الأمم المتحدة للطفولة

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1989-0039

Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

upon receipt by UNICEF of the

1989 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

New Delhi - 21 November 1989

On behalf not only of the United Nations Children's Fund, but also on behalf of children in India and throughout the world, I will be most honoured to accept the 1989 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development from the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

The late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's abiding interest in child health and development was exemplified in her leadership toward immunizing the children of India against diseases. One of the earliest tasks of the Trust, months after its establishment in late 1984, was to commit, in collaboration with the government, to the goal of Universal Child Immunization by 1990 in India as a "living memorial" to her. The effort has been instrumental in dramatic increases in protection of Indian children against the main child-killing diseases. Universal immunization programmes are now conducted in every district of the sub-continent, and the lives of nearly half a million Indian children are currently being saved annually as a result of this rapidly accelerating action.

This award, coming as it does two days after her birth anniversary and during the birth centenary year of her illustrious father, Pandit Jawaharjal Nehru, symbolizes highly developed awareness in India that issues related to children are central to shaping a new world of peace and harmony.

That the announcement of this award should be made concurrent with the adoption by the United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a most fitting recognition of the increasing priority of child rights in India. The Convention marks an historic turning point in the way societies perceive their responsibilities with regard to children, and India demonstrates that it is ready for the new vision. As codified in the new charter, children have a right to the highest level of health possible, including immunization and access to health education; they have a right to education; to survival, protection, and development.

It is appropriate that this high honour in the domains of peace, disarmament and development should be awarded for efforts on behalf of children. We have seen throughout the world that meeting the needs and fulfilling the rights of children can be a most effective entry point to broader development action. As a civilization we are increasingly willing to be actively peaceful - from even the laying down of arms to the altering of international economic policies - when the lives and well-being of our children are at stake, and that is a measure of great advance.

cover + 1p + 0b