

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1990-0045B

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"Leadership for Children"

New York  
14 December 1990



UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



Rc.F0006UZR

Item # **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/2002-00052**

ExR/Code: **CF/EXD/SP/1990-0045B**

Leadership for Children. Book Forward by Mr. James P. Grant  
Date Label Printed 20-Aug-2002

cover + 1 p + Øb

FOREWORD

The statements contained in this book are personal messages from heads of state or government throughout the world which were circulated on the occasion of the World Summit for Children, held 29 and 30 September 1990 at the United Nations in New York.

The Summit was attended by delegations from 159 countries - 71 of them led by their head of state or government - who met, in the words of their signed Declaration, "to undertake a joint commitment to make an urgent universal appeal - to give every child a better future". The Declaration was accompanied by a detailed Plan of Action which provides clear guidance to national Governments, international organizations, bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations and all other sectors of society in formulating their own programmes of action for implementing the Declaration of the World Summit for Children.

The statements collected here, as personal messages, represent the visions and aspirations of the world's leaders, in the domain of child-related issues, which led to the historic commitments of the World Summit. They pertain to the problems that affect the survival, protection and development of our world's young, to the available solutions to those problems, and to the responsibility of society to enact those solutions, as seen by the world's leaders as we enter the last decade of the 20th century.