

## File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1990-0045c

Message from Mr. James P. Grant Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for Asahi Shimbun

26 December 1990

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Asahi Shimbun. Message from Mr. James P. Grant, Executive Date Label Printed 20-Aug-2002

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United Nations Children's Fund Fonds des Nations Unites pour l'enfance Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

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UNICEF HOUSE Three United Nations Plaza New York, New York 10017 (212) 326-7000 Telex 1/5989TRT

To: Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury Director, Tokyo 26 December 1990

From: Martha Walsh Special Assistant

Re: Request for Executive Director's message for Asahi Shimbun

Please find below the text of the Executive Director's message for Asahi Shimbun.

Quote:

It is greatly encouraging that the children of the world receive, through UNICEF, the valuable support of the Asahi Shimbun and its readers.

1990 may well be looked back upon as the most important year for children in history. Four major landmarks were reached toward building a better world for our children. The first was the entering into force on 2 September of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was earlier adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989. The Convention will be the focal point for efforts to translate the rights of the child into national law and practices. It emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in ensuring these rights.

The second was the World Summit of Children, which was held on 30 September at United Nations headquarters in New York. It was attended by delegations from 159 countries, 71 of them led by Presidents, Prime Ministers and other Heads of State and Government. At the Summit, a "World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children" was adopted, along with a very practical Plan of Action for fulfilling the promises enshrined in the Declaration. The promises include specific goals for reduction of under-five mortality rates by one third, reduction of infant and child malnutrition rates by half, completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school age children, and protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

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