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Message from Mr. James P. Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
regarding the exhibition of photographs of children by

Mr. Takeyoshi Tanuma

sponsored by  
Tohan (Tokyo Publications Distribution Co.)

May 1991

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All of us in UNICEF are delighted that a major exhibit of photographs of children taken by UNICEF's friend, Mr. Takeyoshi Tanuma, entitled "Children of the World, Now" is being held at the sites of the 1991 Children's Book Fair in Kita Kyushu, Kyoto, Knanazawa, Urawa and Sendai.

This exhibit of Mr. Tanuma's photographs eloquently portray the situation of children in many parts of the world. They also depict the world as it is seen by children. Mr. Tanuma has been a long-standing supporter of UNICEF and a strong advocate of child-related causes. His photographs remind me of the ancient Japanese poem, Yamanoueno Okura, which I learned many years ago:

"Silver and gold and jewels, too -  
They are to me but trash up-piled;  
No treasures are of any worth  
Beside the treasure of a child."

Children are truly a treasure - fountains of joy - wherever they are - in developing countries or in developed countries, in countries at war or those at peace. However, 87 per cent of all the children who die before the age of five are the children of developing countries. Mothers and children make up 75 per cent of victims of armed conflicts now taking place in many parts of the world.

Despite the daunting reality indicated by these two grim illustrations, there is new hope for a better world for children as a result of a growing "Grand Alliance" of governments, non-governmental organizations, spiritual leaders and artists in support of the world's underprivileged children.

I sincerely hope that those who visit the exhibit will feel that "every child is my child"; that they will become part of the "Grand Alliance for Children" and join hands with UNICEF in meeting the needs of all the world's children.