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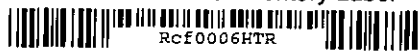
Message by Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
and
Mr. Jan Martenson
United Nations Under-Secretary General for Human Rights

for
Child Rights Stamp Booklet

14 June 1991



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MESSAGE FOR CHILD RIGHTS STAMP BOOKLET BY JAN MARTENSON, UNITED NATIONS
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JAMES P. GRANT, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

The launch of this series of stamps commemorating the rights of the child coincides with the celebration of the Day of the African Child. We are happy to underline this connection.

With unprecedented speed, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is being accepted by the nations of the world as their legal framework for the treatment of children. Less than two years after the Convention was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, a majority of national governments have either made the provisions of the Convention binding law or are in the process of doing so. The Heads of State and Government attending the World Summit for Children, held at United Nations headquarters on 30 September 1990, called on all Governments to ratify, disseminate, implement and monitor the application of the Convention.

Countries on the African continent have made major strides in the 1980s in the area of child survival, protection and development -- in spite of prolonged economic crisis, devastating natural disasters and armed conflicts.

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African Governments have been particularly responsive to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, embracing it individually and collectively as a key tool for the protection and well-being of their children. An African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child was drafted and adopted in 1990 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which also designated the 1990s as the African Decade for Child Survival, Protection and Development and every June 16 as the Day of the African Child.

Ugandan President and OAU Chairman Yoweri K. Museveni reflected Africa's commitment to improving the lives of its young when he stated: "The child must be the cornerstone of development. The child is the natural link in the chain of human survival."

We can only applaud and second this statement and hope that the launch of the Child Rights stamps will serve as a reminder to the international community of the urgent need to take all measures to ensure the survival, protection and development of children in Africa -- and in all parts of the world.

Jan Martenson
Under-Secretary-General
for Human Rights

James P. Grant
Executive Director
UNICEF