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Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
at the
Opening of the Exhibition on the Achievement of UCI 1990

United Nations
8 October 1991



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Opening UCI Photo Exhibit. Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant 1
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Детский Фонд Организации Объединенных Наций 联合国儿童基金会 منظمة الأمم المتحدة للطفولة

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Today is a great day for the children of the world — a great day for us all. Later this afternoon, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, and I, as Executive Director of UNICEF, will certify to Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar fulfillment of an extraordinary promise to the world's children.

On October 25, 1985, the international community decided to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the UN by pledging to raise immunization coverage from 20 per cent of the developing world's under-one-year-olds, to 80 per cent by 1990, the 45th anniversary of our organization. As this exhibition reflects, this goal was reached through the largest global collaboration ever mounted in times of peace, involving governments, international agencies, NGOs, and the mobilization of communities and families on an unprecedented scale.

We have attempted to capture, in this exhibit, some of the flavour, excitement and significance of the immunization effort which has saved 12 million young lives since it began and three million last year alone. We've even recreated a typical Third World immunization site, although it will be young New Yorkers who will be vaccinated here today (reminding us, incidentally, that much of the developing world has surpassed the United States and other industrial countries in immunization levels and that the need for immunization remains universal).

Welcome to this exhibition. Celebrate with us and the world's children this most happy day. But we hope you will all come away with strengthened resolve to increase immunization coverage to 90 per cent by the year 2000 — as promised by the World Summit for Children held in this building a year ago — and to do everything else in your power to put an end to the shameful massive death of children from preventable disease and malnutrition. In the new global political climate of nuclear cutbacks and increased co-operation, a major shift toward meeting human — and especially, children's — needs is not only possible, but imperative.