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Message from Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
to the
1992 Regional Meetings of the Global Youth Conference

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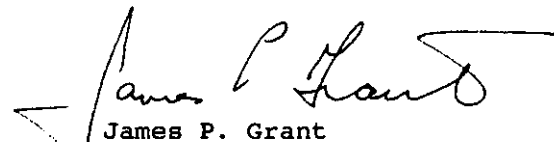
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Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
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Prior commitments make it impossible for me to attend the 1992 Regional Meetings of the Global Youth Conference, but I want to thank you for your kind invitation and wish you every success in your important ongoing work. The first Global Youth Conference, held last year in Kyoto, Japan, set forth an ambitious, well-designed agenda for young people the world over to help keep the promise of the historic September 1990 World Summit for Children. At your Regional Conferences this year, you will be able to decide on ways to translate this agenda into concrete actions at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

Now that the cold war has ended and democracy is on the upsurge in so much of the world, we have an extraordinary opportunity, during the 1990s, to cooperate to make quantum leaps of human progress. With your energy, creativity and idealism, you young people can make a place for yourselves at the forefront of the peaceful, global people's movement that is needed to shape a new and more meaningful world order -- a world order in which 14 million children do not have to die of largely preventable causes each year; over a billion human beings do not have to live the bitter half-life of poverty, and a trillion dollars does not have to be wasted each year worldwide to purchase or produce weapons. You can set an example for your younger brothers and sisters -- and many of your elders, too -- by working in diverse ways to help your countries and communities reach the year 2000 goals for the survival, protection and development of children. In so doing, you will also be contributing to economic development, the preservation of the environment and slowing population growth.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, that historic "Bill of Rights" for the young which entered into force as international law in 1990, says that children and young people have the right to participate, to voice their opinions and hold their own beliefs. Exercise those rights! Become activists for a better world! You are off to a good start and we at UNICEF wish you the best wishes for the success of your regional deliberations.


James P. Grant
Executive Director

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