

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1993-0015

Remarks by James P. Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
upon receiving an

Honorary Fellowship  
from the  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

London, England  
31 March 1993



UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



**Item # CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/2002-01259**

**ExR/Code: CF/EXD/SP/1993-0015**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Remarks by  
*Date Label Printed* 21-Aug-2002

cover + 2pp + ob



United Nations Children's Fund Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia  
Детский Фонд Организации Объединенных Наций 联合国儿童基金会 منظمة الأمم المتحدة للطفولة

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1993-0015

Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
upon receiving an

Honorary Fellowship  
from the

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

London - 31 March 1993

It is with great pleasure that I accept -- on behalf of my distinguished colleagues being honoured here today, as well as on behalf of UNICEF -- the Honorary Fellowship of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. To be recognized by this extraordinary institution that pioneered public health and prevention -- and that continues pioneering for the world today -- is a very special honour, indeed. I know I can speak for all four of us in saying that this honour will serve as an incentive to work harder still, with greater imagination and dedication, toward the goal of health for all... which is the very least the 21st century demands of us... we, the last citizens of the 20th.

The great British historian Arnold Toynbee once remarked that civilization "is a movement, not a condition, a voyage and not a harbour". He believed the voyage had brought the 20th century to the point of being the first age in which it is possible to dare dream of extending the benefits of progress to all. If this was true half a century ago when Toynbee dreamed that dream, it has become even truer today, when modern science and technology, modern medicine and communications, modern transportation and information have shrunk our planet and made it a global village, all of us interconnected and each of us inescapably affected by what happens to our neighbours. We may be seeing some of our neighbours at each others' throats, and we may ourselves be treating our neighbours and the village itself in less than neighbourly fashion, but -- make no mistake about it -- our new global reach and capacity to do good for all has become the defining feature of our age. And with this new capacity, a new global ethos is struggling to keep step. Morality does march with changing capacity. As Primo Levi said: "If we can relieve torment and do not, we become tormentors ourselves".

FINAL

cover + 2pp + 8b

We who are about the business of shortening the lag between the discoveries of modern science and medicine and their widespread application are privileged. And also bear a great responsibility. It is in our field that we can most clearly see the truth of Toynbee's assertion. It took 150 years and a D.A. Henderson for Jenner's vaccine to result in smallpox eradication; now, with polio and measles eradication appearing on our horizon, the lag between development of life-saving technology and its universal application is becoming shorter and shorter: 50 years for polio, 40 years for measles eradication now appear possible. The achievement, in 1990, of the UCI goal of reaching 80 per cent of the world's children with vaccines -- the greatest global peacetime collaboration in history -- foreshadows the broader realization of the health for all dream, and symbolizes the moral imperative we have for living up to the new capacities of our age. Dr. Demissie Habte is living up to the new capacity given us by oral rehydration therapy in the battle against what is historically the greatest killer of young children -- dehydration from diarrhoea. Professor John Waterlow is leading the way with new tools of understanding against malnutrition, that terrible team-mate of disease in a world that has enough food for all.

We at UNICEF believe that, starting with the children, the 1990s have opened a rare "window of opportunity" for making quantum leaps of human progress in a series of fields, from economic development to the environment, from democracy to children's and women's rights. The race toward health for all by the year 2000 -- the race toward reaching the year 2000 goals set at the historic World Summit for Children -- is nothing less than the race to demonstrate first in the field of health that ours is the first generation in human history where all can and do have the benefits of progress. In the spirit of these Honorary Fellowships and the remarkable institution that bestows them, let us rededicate ourselves to the race, to civilization's voyage, to the people's movement.