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Remarks from James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
at the
Opening of the Photographic Exhibit
"No War Anymore"

United Nations Library – New York
26 April 1993



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No War Anymore Photographic Exhibit. Remarks by Mr. James
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"No War Anymore"

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I am very pleased to be here for the opening of the "No War Anymore" exhibition, and I am proud of UNICEF's work in putting it together. This selection of stunning photographs, text, and drawings by children calls public attention to a very grim reality. A casualty list of any of the 38 conflicts currently taking place in the world today, will show the same sad statistic: Children make up a sizeable proportion of the victims.

More than a million-and-a-half children have been killed in wars in the last decade. Over 4 million have been physically disabled through bombings, land-mines, firearms, and torture. 5 million children are in refugee camps and another 12 million have lost their homes.

There are also the psychological wounds -- less visible, but no less damaging. Children who have seen the torture or murder of parents and family, or who have been starved, beaten, or kidnapped and forced to fight as soldiers, suffer deep psychological traumas that can last their entire lives.

The challenge to the United Nations is to provide humanitarian assistance even during political violence and civil chaos. The exhibition includes some successful attempts at meeting this challenge. Wars have actually been halted temporarily so that children's needs could be met --- in El Salvador, Lebanon, the Sudan and in former Yugoslavia. UNICEF has promoted the recognition of children as "zones of peace".

Also covered are programmes related to repatriation of refugees and rebuilding of basic infrastructures and resumption of basic services. There is also attention given to education for peace and learning how to settle conflicts peacefully.

"No War Anymore" includes a tribute to Audrey Hepburn our dedicated and sadly missed Goodwill Ambassador, and her tireless efforts to end the hopelessness and suffering of children. It is appropriate that I close these brief remarks with a few of her words: "Let us never forget those children who do not know peace, who do not know joy and do not smile. It is for these children that I speak, children who cannot speak for themselves."

These photographs speak for these children, too.

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