

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1993-0069

Useful Quotations
From Authors, Leaders and Personalities
On Subjects of interest to UNICEF

Compiled by Mr. Robert Cohen, Speech Writer
for
Mr. James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF

New York
22 December 1993



UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



Item # **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/2002-01122**

ExR/Code: **CF/EXD/SP/1993-0069**

Useful Quotes CF/IC/1993-059, General Distribution. Quota:
Date Label Printed 21-Aug-2002

cover + 15 pp + 0/b



United Nations Children's Fund

Headquarters

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

File Sub: CF/EXD/SP/1993-0069

See also: CF/IC/1993-059
22 December 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Directors
Representatives and Assistant Representatives
Information Officers
Directors -- Copenhagen, Florence, Geneva & Tokyo/Sydney
Executive Staff

FROM: Robert Cohen/Speech Writer *RC*

DATE: December 22, 1993

RE: **USEFUL QUOTATIONS**

Following are quotations from a variety of authors, leaders and personalities that touch on subjects of interest to UNICEF and, therefore, may be of use to you for speeches and articles. This first compendium -- which does not pretend to be comprehensive -- will eventually be expanded and organized in data base form and also be made available on Childnet so that quotations can be accessed by author and subject, and updated regularly.

I know that all of you have your own favorite quotations that you use in public speaking and documents. I invite you to send me the ones you have found to be most effective so that they can be added to the data base.

I am also thinking of compiling a data base of short **anecdotes** relating to UNICEF, the development process, and life in general that can be used to great effect in speeches and articles. Whether humorous or serious, they can dramatically illustrate a point, bring home a lesson or make people re-think something ordinarily taken for granted. Your contributions to the anecdote file will be most welcome.

Thanks for your cooperation and please let me know if you find this at all useful. Let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy new year!

Cover + 15 pp + Øb

USEFUL QUOTATIONS FOR UNICEF SPEAKERS

1. "Visionaries are possessed creatures, men and women in the thrall of belief so powerful that they ignore all else--even reason--to ensure that reality catches up with their dreams...for always behind the action is an idea; a passionate sense of what is eternal in human nature and also of what is coming, but as yet unseen, just over the horizon." -- *Time* magazine 1992

2. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

3. "We stand by as children starve by the millions because we lack the will to eliminate hunger. Yet we have found the will to develop missiles capable of flying over the polar cap and landing within a few hundred feet of their target. This is not innovation. It is a profound distortion of humanity's purpose on earth." -- Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR)

4. "Amidst the glut of insignificance that engulfs us all, the temptation is understandable to stop thinking. The trouble is that unthinking persons cannot choose but must let others choose for them. But to fail to make one's own choices is to betray the freedom which is our society's greatest gift to us all." -- Steven Muller, President John Hopkins University, 1972-90, Vice-Chair, Presidential Commission on Hunger

5. "A vision without a task is but a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery. A vision with a task is the hope of the world." -- From a church in Sussex, England

6. "Yes, yes, and yes again yes." -- James Joyce

7. "I can no longer protect myself from the reality of starvation by pretending that people who starve are nameless, faceless, strangers. I know now who they are. They are just like me, only they are starving. I can no longer pretend that the collection of political agreements we call 'countries' separates me from the child who cries out in hunger halfway around the world. We are one and one of us is hungry." -- Marilyn Ferguson, author

8. "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." -- Albert Schweitzer

9. "Power, properly understood, is the ability to achieve purpose. It is the strength required to bring about social, political or economic changes. In this sense power is not only desirable but necessary in order to implement the demands of love and justice. One of the greatest problems of history is that the concepts of love and power are usually contrasted as polar opposites. Love is identified as a resignation of power and power with a denial of love... What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive and that love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love." -- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

10. "In our time, what is at issue is the very nature of humankind, the image we have of our limits and possibilities. History is not yet done with its exploration...of what it means to be human." -- C. Wright Mills

11. "This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." -- George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*

12. "I see that the efforts of people as citizens are more effective than their efforts as individuals. This is an idea that we in the twentieth century have not yet come to terms with: What any of us can do, good or bad, as individuals, is dramatically enhanced when we are acting collectively as citizens. Obviously we can do things as individuals--if you see somebody hungry, you can feed him--but the problem would not have happened in the first place if we had done our jobs as citizens." -- Dr. Jean Mayer, Former President, Tufts University

13. "Many young democracies contend with the vast problems of grinding poverty, illiteracy, rapid population growth, and malnutrition. The survival of these democracies may ultimately depend on their ability to show their citizens that democracy can deliver -- that the difficult political and economic choices will pay off soon and not just in some radiant future." --Warren Christopher, US Secty of State, Opening Session, World Conf on Human Rights, Vienna, June 14, 1993

14. "...ultimately, I will judge my work at the United Nations largely on the basis of my success in promoting a new development policy here. ... [WE MUST] move well beyond the current thinking on economic and social development. ... There is a notion of solidarity that is conceivable only on an international scale. It is here that the international community awaits our response, and it is here that our efforts must be focused... The tasks before us are daunting, our goals ambitious. We have to re-think what we mean by social development and economic progress. And we have to re-cast our institutions in the light of our new thinking. We have to strike a new balance between the pursuit of perceived national economic interests, and the global interest. [We need]... a new sense of community, both nationally, within States, and internationally.. within the community of Nations... a people centered view of development in which societies foster a new sense of inclusiveness and belonging for all, in which equality of opportunity becomes a reality, and from which exclusion, marginalization and alienation are banished... a world in which the energies of human beings are not monopolized by the need for survival or distorted into hatred, aggression and war, but channelled productively in acts of friendly cooperation. So I make this appeal to member States: this is a window of opportunity for the world community, a chance that may not recur." Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at ECOSOC/Geneva/July 1993

15. "We're not where we want to be," Martin Luther King Jr. used to tell his civil rights audiences in the 1960s, "And we're not where we're going to be. But we sure are a long way from where we were"! -- cited by Kirkpatrick Sale in The Nation, 19 July 1993

16. "...a government of the people, by the people and for the people should do only what the people cannot do for themselves or what government can do for them more efficiently.

...when humanitarianism and sovereignty clash, a new understanding of sovereign rights must be developed that defers to urgent humanitarian needs. Stated simply; no nation has the right to starve its own or other people. -- Robert W. Kates, PhD, Professor & Director-Emeritus of the Alan Shawn Feinstein World Hunger Program, Brown University, New England Journal of Medicine, 8 April 1993

17. "In its nearly 50 years of constant striving to improve the condition of children around the world, UNICEF has consistently sent a message to the world: by making life better for children, by ensuring that they grow up healthy and receive the necessary education and encouragement to become productive members of society, we make the world as a whole a more just and prosperous place for everyone, large and small. -- SG Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 1994 German government calendar message

18. "When it comes to health, we are all students and teachers at the same time..." Unknown

19. "It takes a whole village to raise a child."
Jewish Folk saying

20. "It's hard to believe that there was once a time, in this century, when... fear gripped old age, when retirement was nearly synonymous with poverty, and older American died in the street.

That's unthinkable today, because over a half a century ago Americans had the courage to change, to create a social security system that insures that no Americans will be forgotten in their later years.

Forty years from now, our grandchildren will also find it unthinkable that there was a time in this country when hard-working families lost their homes, their savings, their businesses - lost everything simply because their children got sick or because they had to change jobs.

Our grandchildren will find such things unthinkable tomorrow if we have the courage to change today.

This is our chance. This is our journey. And when our work is done, we will know that we have answered the call of history and met the challenge of our time."

-- President Clinton on health care reform, Joint Session of Congress, 22 Sept. 93

20. "Development is now understood to involve many dimensions; it is no longer merely a matter of economic policy and resources. Political, social, educational and environmental factors must be part of an integrated approach to development. Without development on the widest scale, the young will be restless, resentful and unproductive. People will fight for resources, and creativity will be misdirected.

A new, workable and widely agreed concept of development still eludes us. Until it is achieved, the United Nations will continue to face a sequence of conflicts.

...Without peace, there can be no development and there can be no democracy. Without development, the basis for democracy, no sustainable development can occur; without such development, peace cannot long be maintained.

.....And the United Nations is struggling to keep a focus on development when the poorest countries no longer hold the same interest for the rich as they did in the previous decades of ideological competition.

...The gap between the world's richest and poorest countries is widening, yet that shocking fact is more often than not greeted by indifference. The United Nations is the special voice of the worlds poorest nations. No task is greater or more urgent than to impress upon the economically leading nations that the world cannot ultimately prosper if the poorest continue to suffer and decline.

The ideological contest of the cold war stimulated great super-Power interest in developing countries. The reasons were not always admirable, but poor countries could benefit from that interest. Today, we see that the world, in the wake of the cold war, recognizes the importance of competition; but the end of the cold war has ended the competition to bring development to the world.

The message from the United Nations has been clear: macroeconomic growth should not be pursued without due consideration for such aspects of human well-being as health, education, poverty levels, income levels and income distribution, and participation in the political process and in the market place. In short, human development, in its social and economic dimension, must be at the centre of all development efforts.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continues to promote the concept of family planning as a basic human right, based on the principle of informed and voluntary choice. According to the World Health Organization, some 910,000 conceptions occur every day. Half are unplanned. A quarter are unwanted. Some 1,370 women die every day from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth, most of them in developing countries. Thousands more nearly die. Many themselves are children. Many such tragic situations could be avoided if family planning and maternal health programmes were available.

-- Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, Sept. 1993

22. "And let us make a new commitment to the world's children. It is tragic enough that over one million children died as a result of wars over the past decade. But it is unforgivable that during that period 40 million died from diseases wholly preventable with simple vaccinations or medicines. Every day -- this day -- over 30,000 of the world's children will die of malnutrition and disease. As UNICEF Director, Jim Grant, has reminded me, 'each of (those children) has a name and a nationality, a family and a future, a personality and a potential.'

As we dream new dreams in this age when miracles now seem possible, let us focus on the lives of those people, and especially on the children who will inherit this world. Let us work with a new urgency and imagine what kind of world we could create for them over the coming generation...

We are compelled to do better by the world's children. Just as our own nation has launched new reforms to ensure that every child in America has adequate health care, we must do more to get basic vaccines and other treatments for curable diseases to children around the world. It's the best investment we'll ever make. We can find new ways to ensure that every child grows up

with clean drinkable water --- that most precious commodity of life itself. And the UN can work even harder to ensure that each child has at least a full primary education -- and I mean girls as well as boys.

And to ensure a healthier and more abundant world for them, we must slow the world's explosive growth in population. We cannot afford to see the human race double by the middle of the next century. Our nation has renewed its commitment to work with United Nations to expand the availability of the world's family planning education and services. We must ensure that there is a place at the table for every one of the world's children.

-- President Clinton, General Assembly, 27 Sept. 1993

23. "The unprecedented number of low-income countries undertaking adjustment and reforming their economies, as well as expanding environmental and poverty eradication programmes, make necessary a much increased flow of official development assistance. Indeed, such an increase is today one of the most critical issues on the multilateral agenda." -- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, *The World Economy in 1993: An Update* (8 October 1993)

24. "The United Nations regards international action against poverty as one of its noblest aims. Through the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund, the UNDP, and UNHCR in particular, but also of the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations is making constant efforts to put an end to extreme poverty.

Extreme poverty and social exclusion are intolerable affronts to human dignity. The violence which they carry with them is devastating. Extreme poverty is far from inevitable; it is an unacceptable scourge.

It is by offering everyone better access to education, health, food and decent housing that we will genuinely be able to secure the rights of the excluded and integrate them into the life of the community.

Only through a lasting solidarity movement can these goals be attained. To do this, we must appeal to States, international bodies and non-governmental organizations and to each and every one of you." -- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 18 October 93 message on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

25. Mahatma Gandhi once said "... Whenever you are in doubt ... try the following expedient: Recall the face of the poorest and most helpless man you have ever seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he be able to gain anything by it? Will it restore to him control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to ... self-rule for the hungry and spiritually starved millions of our countrymen?" I am certain that today Gandhi could have been

referring to the face of a young, single mother escaping with her child from hunger and deprivation somewhere in Africa."

-- cited by Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Tokyo, Japan, October 5, 1993.

26. "We in the industrialized world do not have to choose between feeding the hungry at home and abroad, between immunizing our children and children abroad. Our world has the resources and the knowledge and responsibility to do both." -- Marian Wright Edelman, speaking as head of the US delegation to the UNICEF Executive Board, April 1993.

27. "Of all the subjects of development, none has the acceptance, or the power to mobilize, as does the cause of children. Our children are our future." Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 30 Sept 93, Round Table on 3rd anniversary of the World Summit for Children

28. "Let us recognize that it is criminal when many leaders of the Third World are out shopping for tanks as their children cry for milk in the middle of the night. Let us recognize that it is hypocritical when the rich nations lament the build up of arms in the poor nations and yet continue to increase subsidies to their arms exporters..."

"Human security, in the last analysis, is a child that did not die, a disease that did not spread, an ethnic violence that did not explode, a woman who was not raped, a poor person who did not starve, a dissident who was not silenced, a human spirit that was not crushed. Human security is not a concern with weapons. It is a concern with human dignity..."

"The link between reduced military spending and enhanced social spending is still not there. The peace dividend is disappearing as fast as it is emerging. This is the moment for one final push, to ensure that arms security is replaced by human security..."

"Let us get away from a framework of aid where priorities are so distorted that today: twice as much aid per capita is given to high military spenders among the developing world as to more moderate military spenders; only one-quarter of the world's aid goes to three-quarters of the world's poor; less than 7 percent of bilateral aid is earmarked for human priority concerns of basic education, primary health care, rural water supply, nutrition programmes and family planning services; some 95 percent of technical assistance funds are spent on foreign experts in the name of national capacity building in the Third World..."

"It is imperative to use existing aid funds much more efficiently if we are ever to build a case for more aid in the reluctant legislatures of the rich nations. It is time that aid is earmarked not for strategic allies but for enhancing global human security."

-- Mahbub ul Haq of Pakistan, Special Advisor to the Administrator of UNDP, The Earth Times, 24 Oct 93

29. "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." -- Winston Churchill

30. "The costs of investing in development today will be a lot less than the bill for crisis resolution later -- no matter which internal rate of return we apply... I certainly do not advocate that the international community should close its eyes to today's conflicts and disasters -- just the opposite. But I do want to make an appeal: neither financing of crisis management and humanitarian assistance nor any of the other pressures should lead to a decline in the resources available for long-term development through the UN system... [any cuts in development aid] would prove to be a tragically short-sighted and expensive mistake." -- Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator, UN Pledging Conference 3 November 1993

31. "The child is that delicate center around which the moral ethos of families, and therefore of whole nations, is either built up or shattered. In Rome and on my visits to the church in the different countries I see so many children. On their smiling faces I read the possibility for every society and every generation to say to them: You are our love, you are our joy, you are our greatest concern! For your sake we will work honestly and hard to build a better world, a true civilization of love!

At the same time I have seen other children's faces: in hospitals, in centers for children with AIDS or other tragic diseases, in refugee camps. And I am moved to appeal once more on their behalf to people of good will, to the leaders of the nations, to governments and international agencies, to all who will hear. There exists the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted at the United Nations in 1989 and already signed by many states, including the Holy See. I hope that more and more states will ensure the juridical force and practical application of the Convention, so that no child on earth will be left without the legal guarantee of his or her fundamental rights.

May God give us hearts large enough to embrace all children everywhere, and arms strong enough to protect and support them!"

-- John Paul II/World Youth Day - Denver, 15 August 1993

32. "But there are many human needs which find no place on the market. It is a strict duty of justice and truth not to allow fundamental human needs to remain unsatisfied, and not allow those burdened by such needs to perish.

"The principle that debts must be paid is certainly just. However, it is not right to demand or expect payment when the effect would be the imposition of political choices leading to hunger and despair for entire peoples. It cannot be expected that the debts which have been contracted should be paid at the price of unbearable sacrifices. In such cases it is necessary to find -- as

in fact is partly happening -- ways to lighten, defer or even cancel the debt, compatible with the fundamental right of peoples to subsistence and progress."

"The Marxist solution has failed, but the realities of marginalization and exploitation remain in the world, especially the Third World, as does the reality of human alienation, especially in the more advanced countries. Against these phenomena the Church strongly raises her voice. Vast multitudes are still living in conditions of great material and moral poverty. The collapse of the communist system in so many countries certainly removes an obstacle to facing these problems in an appropriate and realistic way, but it is not enough to bring about their solution. Indeed, there is a risk that a radical capitalistic ideology could spread which refuses even to consider these problems, in the a priori belief that any attempt to solve them is doomed to failure, and which blindly entrusts their solution to the free development of market forces."

"...another name for peace is development. Just as there is a collective responsibility for avoiding war, so too there is a collective responsibility for promoting development. Just as within individual societies it is possible and right to organize a solid economy which will direct the functioning of the market to the common good, so too there is a similar need for adequate interventions on the international level."

-- Pope John Paul II, 1991 Encyclical "Centesimus Annus"

33. "There is a growing consciousness that peace is indivisible and that true development is either shared by all or it is not true development." - Pope John Paul II

34. "It is up to you to reaffirm in a new way each individual's fundamental inalienable right to nutrition. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights had already asserted the right to sufficient food. What we must now do is ensure that this right is applied and that everyone has access to food, food security, a healthy diet and nutrition education." -- Pope John Paul II, address before the International Conference on Nutrition --12/1992

35. "Dedicated to the integrity and development of each individual, drawing legitimacy from all peoples, expressing the consensus of States, the United Nations organization calls forth, through its universality and dedication to life's basic tasks, a greater potential than humanity has ever before conceived possible. -- Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, Sept. 1993

36. "... to ensure a healthier and more abundant world for [our children], we must slow the world's explosive growth in population. We cannot afford to see the human race double by the middle of the next century. Our nation has renewed its commitment to work with United Nations to expand the availability of the world's family planning education and services. We must ensure that there is a place at the table for every one of the world's children..." President Clinton, Opening of the General Assembly, 27.09.93

37. "...the private sector cannot do it alone. An efficient public sector is an essential partner: to invest in people; to provide safety nets for those in need; to support basic infrastructure and regulatory frameworks; and to enforce environmental protection. Without these, there can be no sustainable development.

My fourth point is people. The capacity for change depends, fundamentally, on human resources. Investment in people not only spurs growth, but also reduces poverty. In East Asia, consistent investment in education and health -- combined with growth -- has contributed to a reduction in poverty from 30 per cent of the population in 1970 to just 10 per cent today. If other regions could achieve a similar rate of progress, global poverty could be reduced by two-thirds within a generation.

But as well as investment in people, there must be participation by people -- and that's my fifth point. Change has brought more information and openness to the world. It has also brought more participation to development -- from NGOs, and even more importantly, from the people affected directly by development.

The challenges remain formidable. Over a billion people live in absolute poverty and this provides the fundamental perspective for our efforts.

At the same time, we should not lose sight of what has worked and what development has achieved. The past five decades have seen more progress in improving the human condition than any comparable period in history. Life expectancy has increased by 50 per cent. Infant mortality has been halved. Per capita incomes have doubled." -- Lewis T. Preston to the Board of Governors, IMF, 28 Sept. 1993, Wash. DC

38. The Chinese world for "crisis" is composed of two picture-characters...the one meaning "danger" and the other meaning "opportunity"..Executive Speechwriter Newsletter

39. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams..." Eleanor Roosevelt, American stateswoman

40. "Diamonds are nothing more than chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs...." -- Malcolm Forbes, publisher Forbes magazine

41. "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life - the children; those who are in the twilight of life - the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life - the sick, the needy and the handicapped..." Hubert Humphrey

42. "The trouble with the future is that it keeps getting closer and closer." -- Executive Speechwriter Newsletter

43. "There is an ancient superstition of the sea that, inevitably, one wave comes along that is greater than any that has preceded it. It is called the Ninth Wave. It is the powerful culmination of sea and wind. There is no greater force. To catch the Ninth Wave at the critical moment requires a special skill, timing your movements to mount it at its peak.

Today we see such a powerful wave in our future. Our own Ninth Wave, bringing with it significant change. To catch this Wave, we must prepare now. So that when it is our turn to respond, we can catch the mighty Ninth with the best that is in us and ride it all the way to the shore..." -- Executive Speechwriter Newsletter

44. "You cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future...." -- Franklin D. Roosevelt

45. "When Thucydides was asked when justice would come to Athens, the historian replied, 'Justice will not come to Athens until those who are not injured are as indignant as those who are injured....'" -- Executive Speechwriter Newsletter

46. "I have often been pointed out that we live in an age of warfare. There have been more wars in this century than in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries combined.

In the 40 years before the Second World War, 88 wars were recorded. Since the end of that world conflict, 127 wars have taken place.

.....In 1987 the United Nations had 159 Member States. Today there are 184.

And the United Nations supports non-governmental organizations...around the world. There were 200 non-governmental organizations at the start of this century. There are over 18,000 today. They [are] a powerful new force for education, cooperation and conflict prevention.

.....The United Nations must be on the side of the underdog.

.....If failed States are not the concern of those who would be leaders in world affairs, then over time the entire fabric of international society could weaken. No one act will be enough to tear it apart. But over time the foundation of the only global structure we have could be damaged beyond repair" -- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 08.11.93

47. "Development is now understood to involve many dimensions; it is no longer merely a matter of economic policy and resources. Political, social, educational and environmental factors must be part of an integrated approach to development. Without development on the widest scale, the young will be restless, resentful and unproductive. People will fight for resources, and creativity will be misdirected.

A new, workable and widely agreed concept of development still eludes us. Until it is achieved, the United Nations will continue to face a sequence of conflicts.

The real development of a State must be based on the participation of its population; that requires human rights and democracy. To ensure such an achievement, democratization must not only take hold inside a State, but among States in the international community. And democracy within States can be fully sustained over time only if it is linked to expanding democratization among States and at all levels of the international system.

Without peace, there can be no development and there can be no democracy. Without development, the basis for democracy, not sustainable development can occur; without such development, peace cannot long be maintained.

.....And the United Nations is struggling to keep a focus on development when the poorest countries no longer hold the same interest for the rich as they did in the previous decades of ideological competition.

In the aftermath of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, it has become clear that Agenda 21 is the first international agreement expressing a global consensus and a political commitment at the highlights levels to action on population, environment and economic advance, encompassed in a program of sustainable development. The Conference challenged Governments to adopt long-term policies on matters of the environment and sustainable development that affect human well-being and survival. It further tested the willingness of nations to cooperate in developing global strategies for the sustainable use resources.

The gap between the world's richest and poorest countries is widening, yet that shocking fact is more often than not greeted by indifference. The United Nations is the special voice of the world's poorest nations. No task is greater or more urgent than to impress upon the economically leading nations that the world cannot ultimately prosper if the poorest continue to suffer and decline.

The ideological contest of the cold war stimulated great super-Power interest in developing countries. The reasons were not always admirable, but poor countries could benefit from that interest. Today, we see that the world, in the wake of the cold war, recognizes the importance of competition; but the end of the cold war has ended the competition to bring development to the world.

The message from the United Nations has been clear: macroeconomic growth should not be pursued without due consideration for such aspects of human well-being as health, education, poverty levels, income levels and income distribution, and participation in the political process and in the market place. In short, human development, in its social and economic dimension, must be at the centre of all development efforts.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continues to promote the concept of family planning as a basic human right, based on the principle of informed and voluntary choice. According to the World Health Organization, some 910,000 conceptions occur every day. Half are unplanned. A quarter are unwanted. Some 1,370 women die every day from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth, most of them in developing countries. Thousands more nearly die. Many themselves are children. Many such tragic situations could be avoided if family planning and maternal health programmes were available.

Dedicated to the integrity and development of each individual, drawing legitimacy from all peoples, expressing the consensus of States, the United Nations organization calls forth, through its universality and dedication to life's basic tasks, a greater potential than humanity has ever before conceived possible." Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, Sept. 1993

48. "Imagine an intruder entering your home, seizing your children and forcing them to watch 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence. A monstrous crime? Yes. A crime that would do untold psychological harm to your children? No question about it. Wake up, parents. Chances are that your child is the victim I just described. The statistics come from the American Psychological Association, which reported in 1992 that by the end of elementary school, the average American child has watched that many acts of violence on television. Saturday morning children's programming leads the way in mayhem and gore, showing an average of 32 violent acts per hour. Enough! It is time for decent Americans to rescue our children from this threat." -- Senator Ernest F. Hollings, OP-ED piece in NY Times 23 Nov 1993

49. "In every child who is born under no matter what circumstances, the potentiality of the human race is born again, and in him, too, our terrific responsibility toward human life; toward the utmost idea of goodness, the horror of error and of God." -- US author James Agee

50. "We're... committed also to improving the lives of children in other lands, not out of simple charity, but also out of prudence. Because investing in the children of the world can be the most cost-effective way not only to relieve suffering, but to advance economies, to promote self-sufficiency, to promote democracy and to avert future conflicts..."

Working with UNICEF and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations, we want to make the Children's Summit goals come true. That's the best Christmas present we could give to the world. So today I call on Americans in private and public life to join with leaders in developing nations to help ensure that we do make tangible progress...

If we let the world's children suffer, we know that in time we'll reap a bitter harvest of despair and desperation and violence. We know that when children grow up healthy and nurtured, they're more likely to do better by their own children; they're more likely to become citizens and contributors; more likely to add to the global marketplace. This is how free societies and open markets evolve, how global progress happens...

We have to chart a new path, channeling the remarkable forces at work in this era with a bold vision of what might be. Let us today commit that our children and the world's children will figure large in that vision; that the post-Cold War era will instead be the world's era of peace and prosperity and humanity, in which our minds and our hearts work together to give all children a better life." -- President Bill Clinton, White House launch of 1994 State of the World's Children report, 21 December 1993.