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Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
at the UNICEF Executive Board's memorial tribute to

Mr. HENRY RICHARDSON LABOUISSSE
Mr. DANNY KAYE and Mrs. HELENKA ADAMOWSKI PANTALEONI

New York
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Memorial Tribute to Henry Labouisse, Danny Kaye and Helen
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The delegates who have just spoken have - as best as we can with mere words - captured the magnitude of the contributions made by the "three greats" we have lost this year: Henry Labouisse, our second Executive Director, and two incredible volunteers, Danny Kaye and Helenka Pantaleoni.

It was under Harry Labouisse's stewardship that UNICEF broadened its scope considerably from its focus on emergency relief and project support to become a major participant in the development aspects of international assistance, and we certainly owe much of the very character of this organization and its mode of operations to his foresight and direction. As our previous speakers have just recounted, his influence in the international development community extended over a lifetime of dedicated leadership. It was first my privilege to know him and to rely on his guidance when I served as one of his Deputies in 1961 at the time of the creation of USAID, and I have repeatedly looked to him for guidance in the years since. I shall miss his counsel in the work ahead. While we all grieve the loss of his friendship and vision, and our hearts reach out to his able partner, Eve Labouisse, his formidable legacy inspires us to continue pursuing with redoubled commitment the ideals to which he dedicated his life.

When we heard the sad news that Danny Kaye had passed away last month, I said that "All over the world, smiles are a little less bright, a little less wide, saddened by the loss of a man who made the whole world smile". As our first and longest-serving Goodwill Ambassador, Danny Kaye was able to familiarize the people of the world with the heart and substance of the work for children being done by this not-wholly unbureaucratic institution called UNICEF. He came to symbolize the millions of volunteers who worked for

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UNICEF, and he pioneered the role of celebrities helping to inform and mobilize the public in every country of the world. Smiles do live on although Danny Kaye has passed. He has left a better world because he was who he was, and we all - at UNICEF and the United Nations - owe him our gratitude.

As evidenced in the comments you have just made, the memory and legacy of Helenka Pantaleoni will live on far beyond the borders of her homeland, the United States, where she helped found the first National Committee for UNICEF (of which, as you know, there are now 33), and subsequently served as its president for 26 years. This gracious woman can be credited with bringing life into the founding premise of the United Nations - "we the peoples" - bringing private citizens into a role of partnership with governments in this work for the children and the future of the world. For almost four decades she worked unstintingly for the cause of children and she, perhaps more than any other individual, made UNICEF the "people-to-people" arm of the U.N.

Just as all the work that they have done in the past four decades is the foundation upon which we build for the years ahead, it has been appropriate for us to begin this year's session of the Executive Board by pausing in tribute to Harry, to Danny, and to Helenka. We all feel intermixed sentiments of grief and profound gratitude for the contributions made by them, and for the privilege of knowing and learning from these three unique individuals.