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Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
at the
Planting of the Children's Tree

The Garden of the United Nations – New York
29 September 1990



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Minister Pronk,
Ambassador van Shaik,
colleagues and friends:

Here we have new life. We have gathered to give this new life a place in the garden of the United Nations. To see that it is cared for, and that it adds its grace and beauty to this spot.

Our Dutch friends who have arranged this fitting event say that it is a symbol of our yearnings for a world in harmony...that this tree embodies our dreams and stands in commemoration of all children whose young lives have been cut short. I can think of no more appropriate way to begin this weekend, which is dedicated to improving conditions for the lives of children, so that their lives will no longer be cut short unnecessarily.

As we all know, there is great hope for the children of the future. The means are available to save millions of child lives each year...to improve the health and quality of life of millions more...to ensure that children receive the care and education to which they have a right.

The yearning of people everywhere for a safe and harmonious life for the children of the world is coming together in the events of this weekend. Nations have sent their highest representatives to insist that that which is possible for children, becomes a reality in the years ahead.

For the young of the world, the major problems, the solutions to those problems and the people capable of enacting those solutions have come together. They have come together with our great yearnings that the opportunity be seized.

May this treeing grow to its fullness in a world in which children are nurtured and cared for to add their special gifts and graces to the richness of the world of the future.

I would like to invite three children to plant this tree: Carla Hodge, Jeroen Westerbeek and Julie van Nieuwenhuizen. May they grow into a world that takes for granted the caring and nurturing of all the world's children.

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