



UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND · FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

9 February 1983

Dear Danny,

The hectic pace which we share in common has not permitted us to talk directly as often as I would like. I am constantly informed by my colleagues, however, of the many fine things you keep doing for UNICEF and children and the plans for the months ahead.

As a follow-up to my earlier letter to you on the State of the World's Children Report 1982-83 it is now apparent that its emphasis on the potential for children in many countries has generated more significant press coverage and comments from internationally recognized leaders than any UNICEF initiative in memory.

Last week Halfdan Mahler and I met in Geneva with the Joint Committee on Health Policy composed of governing bodies of WHO and the United Nations to discuss this potential. Not surprisingly they urged renewed efforts for accelerating primary health care implementation and noted that there are elements particularly ripe for an extra push at this time and endorsed as a high priority the actions for mothers and children proposed in the State of the World's Children Report. The support already engendered, however will need to be many times multiplied if the awareness of this potential is to sink in and to become unconscionable for political leaders not to seize this potential for dramatically improving the health of hundreds of millions of small children. I am hopeful that over the next several years it will become increasingly good politics for leaders to press forward with these initiatives and bad politics not to act. I am also hopeful that this "New Hope in Dark Times" will encourage more private citizens to contribute to the support of efforts to help children including, of course, those of UNICEF.

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The favorable attitude of the public for UNICEF towards which you have contributed so much was extremely important in influencing the U.S. Congress to increase the U.S. contribution to UNICEF from the \$41.5 million in 1982 to \$42.5 million for the current year in the face of Administration requests for only \$26 million. I regret to say that despite the active supportive efforts of Ambassador Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Administration's request which has just been announced for 1984 is again at \$26 million.

To assist you in your advocacy efforts we have put together the statements of support and a sample of the press coverage most immediately available. I call your attention particularly to the statements on page 2 by the United Nations Secretary General and by Hollai (East), Gandhi (South), Thatcher and Mauroy (West and North) of the press coverage. I call your attention in particular to the lead editorial in Lancet (page 8) which is considered by many to be the world's preeminent medical journal. The Christmas Day lead editorial in the New York Times (page 15) and the New Year's Eve Op-Ed column from the Washington Post (page 24) which is possibly the most comprehensive of the commentaries. You will also be interested in the January interchange in the Washington Post touched off by columnist William Raspberry's questioning of whether these millions of lives are worth saving "UNICEF wants to enable their populations to double every eight or 10 years. Thanks a lot." There is an excellent rebuttal by Gwatkin.

Thanks for your invaluable and continuing help. I would value your own judgment and analysis of public reaction as you propound this theme.

With best belated wishes for 1983.

Sincerely yours,

James P. Grant
Executive Director

P.S. I've just seen Herb who tells me you are under the weather at the moment - get well quick so that we can get you to the field for on-site views of the new potential for a health revolution for children