

United States Committee for

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund



A future for every child.

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Dear Friends,

The board and staff of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF share the disappointment and outrage of many Americans at the recent UN General Assembly action of a majority of member countries in adopting a resolution which equates Zionism with racism. While we are obviously concerned with the divisive nature of the resolution, we wish to reassure our friends that, in the words of Henry Labouisse, the American Executive Director of the Children's Fund, "The resolution has no bearing on UNICEF operations."

UNICEF is totally non-political--and will remain so. With its own budget, governing board and Executive Director, UNICEF is immune to the passions and machinations of the General Assembly. The fact that it is supported entirely by contributions from 120 governments and from the worldwide public is a guarantee of UNICEF's rigid impartiality.

Beyond this guarantee is UNICEF's total commitment to children--to children living in a state of poverty unimagined by most of us in this country. And it is exactly these unfortunate little ones who will suffer if we choose to withdraw our support from UNICEF. Governmental leaders will not suffer. United Nations delegates and officials will eat no less. Only small children will be deprived of a chance to escape from constant hunger and illness and from a life of hopelessness.

The government of Israel recognizes this fact--as does her people. On November 6, that nation once again pledged its support through its delegate to the United Nations with these words, "My government supports the very positive and fruitful activities of UNICEF and participates actively in this noble venture. As in previous years, Israel pledges the amount of \$45,000 for the coming budget year." And in an October letter, Zena Harman and Leah Landau of the Israel National Committee for UNICEF wrote, "We continue to be deeply impressed by the scope of UNICEF's work as it seeks new ways of meeting the most urgent needs of children living in such excruciating misery."

The Mesdames Harman and Landau went on to express gratitude for the assistance currently being received from UNICEF for an experimental project in pre-school education and concluded with these words, "Our association with UNICEF has always emphasized for us the universality of human needs, which knows no frontiers, equally harsh in its sorrows and suffering and equally elevating in its joys and satisfactions."

It is heartening to know that Israel and Israelis continue to stand by their humanitarian concerns: equally heartening is the response of much of the Southern California Jewish community. I want to express my appreciation to the large numbers of my fellow Jews who have chosen not to compound the present tragic situation by turning their backs on the world's most unfortunate little ones.

Shalom!

Betty Sandford

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