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Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2004-00132**

ExRef: Document Series/Year/Number

Record Item Title

Biographical information on Adelaide Sinclair. PDF Scan

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Container Record (Title) Multiple Info on Adelaide Sinclair for research packet. See PDF Scan of

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MRS. ADELAIDE SINCLAIR -
UNICEF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROGRAMMES

Mrs. Adelaide Sinclair is one of the two top-ranking women at the United Nations, and her work with UNICEF dates back to 1947, when she was appointed Canada's representative to the UNICEF Executive Board. In 1951 and 1952 she served as Chairman of the Board. In 1957 she joined the staff of UNICEF as Deputy Executive Director for Programmes. Prior to joining the staff of UNICEF she was executive assistant to Canada's Deputy Minister of Welfare.

Mrs. Sinclair was born in Toronto, Canada. At the University of Toronto she took first class honors in political science in 1922, received an M.A. in economic history in 1925, and lectured in economics and political science from 1927 to 1930. She also took post-graduate studies at the London School of Economics and at the University of Berlin.

From September 1942 to March 1943, Mrs. Sinclair was an economist with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in Ottawa, Canada. In March 1943 she joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service and later became its Director. She retired from the Service in May 1946 with the rank of Captain. For her services during the war she was awarded the O.B.E. (Officer, Order of the British Empire). She also has received several honorary degrees: Doctor of Laws from the University of Toronto, 1946; Doctor of Social Science from Laval University, 1952; and Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Rochester, 1956.

Biographical Data on Mrs. Sinclair

Mrs. Adelaide Sinclair, as Deputy Executive Director for programs, of the United Nations Children's Fund, is responsible for the development of UNICEF assistance to projects for the benefit of children in 100 countries currently helped by UNICEF. She joined the staff of UNICEF in 1957, but has been associated with the Fund since its beginning in 1946 as representative of her government, Canada, on the UNICEF Executive Board. She has also served as Chairman of the Executive Board and of its Programs Committee. Prior to joining the staff of UNICEF she was executive assistant to Canada's Deputy Minister of Welfare.

She was born in Toronto, Ontario. At the University of Toronto she took first class honors in political science in 1922, received an M.A. in economic history in 1925 and lectured in economics and political science from 1927 to 1930. She also took postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics (1926-27) and at the University of Berlin (summer of 1929).

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Biographical Note on the Author

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January 1961



UNICEF

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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: All UNICEF Staff

DATE: 19 November 1982

FROM: James P. Grant *J.P.G.*
Executive Director

FILE NO.: _____

SUBJECT: The death of Mrs. Adelaide Macdonald Sinclair

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of Mrs. Adelaide Macdonald Sinclair at her home in Ottawa, Canada, Thursday night at the age of 82.

Mrs. Sinclair, who devoted her life to public service, had been associated with UNICEF almost from the inception of our organization. She served as Canada's representative to the UNICEF Executive Board from 1946 to 1956, during which period she became the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Board and also guided the deliberations of the Programme Committee as its chairman. She joined UNICEF's staff as Deputy Executive Director in 1957 when Maurice Pate told her: "Adelaide, you've been sitting on the board for ten years telling us what to do. We suggest you come down and do it."

So deep was her imprint on UNICEF's work that one board member, in paying tribute to her upon her retirement from UNICEF in 1967, said: "One can hardly speak of developments in the field of international child welfare today without describing the work of Mrs. Sinclair."

Reflecting on the uniqueness of UNICEF, Mrs. Sinclair told UNICEF News in an interview shortly before she left the organization that "I think the thing that really matters most is that UNICEF helped bring about world-wide recognition that people and governments must help children -- not simply because it is a nice, kindly thing to do -- but because there is real importance for the world in developing human resources. And the way to do this is to give children the opportunity to be born under reasonably good, healthy conditions and to have a chance in life."

Mrs. Sinclair kept up her close association with UNICEF even after her retirement. She spent many hours talking to Jack Charnow about UNICEF's early years. Her recollections and assessments will form part of the history of UNICEF - a project which we have recently launched.

Adelaide Sinclair had a very distinguished career of public service with the Canadian Government before she joined UNICEF. Among the many posts she held was that of executive assistant to Canada's Deputy Minister of Welfare. She received many honorary degrees and awards including the Medal of Service of the Order of Canada and the Order of the British Empire.