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12-Oct-2004 1:07:06 PM Upasana Youn

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Expanded Number CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2004-00256

External ID

Title

Article 'Women's Help Sought for World Betterment', The Reporter Dispatch, White Plains, NY, Tuesday 3 October 1967 re Charles Egger

Date Created 12-Oct-2004 at 1:06 PM Date Registered 12-Oct-2004 at 1:06 PM

Date Closed

**Primary Contact** 

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Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 CF/RAF/ZW/B0112-

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-000056549 (In Container) Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 since 12-Oc

FI2: Status Certain? No

FI3: Record Copy? No

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Date Published

Fd3: Doc Type - Format

Da1:Date First Published

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Record Type A02 HIST CORR ITEM

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UNICEF

Dataset CFRAMP01

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THE REPORTER DISPATCH, WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1967

## Women's Help Sought For World Betterment

By DAVE SMITH
UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.
(AP) — After 19 years in the
poor, hungry hinterlands of the
globe, Dr. Charles Egger believes he may have at least a
partial solution to the problems
of underdeveloped nations.

It might be expressed: "Women of the world, unite!" Or somthing ilke that.

Egger, the new deputy executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund, doesn't espouse this view in words quite so close to Karl Marx' classic exhortation to the world's workers. And, ever mindful of occasional criticism of UNICEF's work in Communist countries, he stresses that UNICEF is strictly nonpolitical.

On looking back over his career as a UNICEF regional director in the world's blighted areas, Egger is convinced that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Or most of it.

UNICEF's chief goals are providing food, medical care and education for the world's children. The work has been most successful through reaching the woman of the house, Egger believes. It's not always easy.

"The lack of status and education among women in so many underdeveloped countries make it a difficult problem so reach them," he says. "In any country where prices rise, the budget goes up and the economy tightens, social programs get chopped off, and these few prorams are the ones that primarily benefit the women."

Women's importance in UNI-CEF'S work, Egger believes, is because of their unique relationship with both the older generation and the younger.

"What we hope to do more of," he says, "Is train professional women who are capable of maintaining a dialogue with their men, at the same time practice their profession and also influence the young generation."

Training of women to fill such practical roles as nurses, midwives, dieticians, teachers—and at the same time exert the traditional female powerbehind-the-throne over young and old men alike—necessarily has to be of an immediately useful kind, Egger says.

His most recent post was, as regional director for south-central Asia, where for six years he was particularly involved with India's education, health, nutrition and welfare problems.

He found there that the most effective approach was to create centers in Indian villages for medical training, nutritional planning, early schooling, agricultural methods and crop se-lection. These "model villages" were immensely inspiring to people of nearby villages, he says. He also praised the work of the U.S. Peace Corps. He said it provided a great number of volunteers who helped UNICEF workers teach the principles of ongoing efficiency, such as keeping a fleet of trucks in operable condition, or rotating crops, or establishing a longterm program of medical treat-

Feger is 51 and the father of four. He holds a doctorate in law from the Maiversity of Basle in his native Switzerland. One of his chief goals in his new post is to reorient the thinking of many of the people whom UNICEF will send into the field in the future.

"We must devise ways to give women more status in their own environments, and reach more of them to give them better training," he says. "First, I think we should approach some of the successful women's organizations for advice in this

'I definitely think we should give more attention to the wom-