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# NEWSLETTER

## UNICEF'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, forty years ago this year. Its first mission was to help the children of war-devastated Europe and Asia. In 3 years it clothed, fed and immunized tens of millions of children.

Beginning in 1950, it began to focus primarily on the children trapped in the silent emergency in the developing countries caused by the conjunction of gross poverty and gross underdevelopment.

Today, we do have the means to break this cycle of disease and poverty.

We have low-cost technologies such as immunization vaccines, oral rehydration therapy against the biggest killer of children - dehydration from diarrhoea.

Even more important we have found that there is a whole new capacity to communicate this knowledge. There is a school in every village, radio is everywhere, a surprising number of homes today have television.

Over the past 40 years, we have demonstrated that the world will respond to the loud emergencies.

The challenge now is will we respond to new opportunities to overcome the principal causes of the silent emergency? We are confident that we will.

# UNICEF'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## THE STATE OF THE WORLD CHILDREN 1987

In the past twelve months the lives of 1.5 million children have been saved by two of the simplest and cheapest health technologies ever devised. Immunization is now saving the lives of approximately 1 million children a year in the developing world. And oral rehydration therapy (ORT) - a solution to replace the fluids and salts lost from the body during diarrhoea - is now saving the lives of an estimated 500,000 children every twelve months.

"Within the next decade," predicts UNICEF's Executive Director James Grant in this year's State of the World's Children report, "immunization and ORT could be saving the lives of 7 million children a year."

During the past two years a total of 77 countries - with over 90% of the developing world's children - have committed themselves to the UN target of immunizing at least 80% of their children by the year 1990. "If the 1990 target is met", says the UNICEF report, "then the lives of over 3 million children will be saved each year."

Global production of oral rehydration salts has risen rapidly from 35 million liters in 1981 to around 300 million liters in 1986 - with half of the total being produced by developing countries themselves.

Today, knowledge of ORT among mothers of young children is almost universal, largely because of a promotional campaign through the mass media, especially television and radio. In a growing number of countries, the same strategy of mass-media promotion combined with retraining of health workers is bringing the ORT message to a majority of parents.

"Within a decade", says James Grant, "virtually all parents could be empowered with the knowledge to use ORT and the annual toll of child deaths from dia-

rhoeal dehydration should then be reduced by more than 3 million."

"The real challenge", adds Grant, "is no longer scientific or technical. It is the challenge of generating the political and the social organization to put today's knowledge to use on the necessary scale and at an affordable cost."



**EVALUATION STUDY CONFIRMS ACHIEVEMENT  
UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION IN KABUL**

A survey team that conducted an evaluation study of the immunization campaign in Kabul confirmed last July the achievement of universal immunization in Kabul as earlier reported by the office.

The survey findings revealed that 86.3% of children, 0-1 year olds, received three doses each against DPT and Poliomyelitis, 87.7% against measles and 91.9% against tuberculosis. The report concluded that 85.3% of the 0-1 children were fully immunized.

The evaluation also revealed that 54% of the women of child bearing age received two doses of tetanus toxoid.

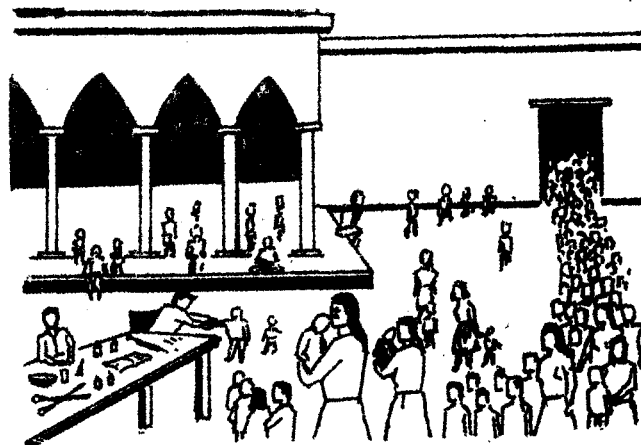
In addition, the immunization campaign in Kabul fully immunized some 63,000 children, between the age of 1-4 years against DPT, Polio (three doses each), BCG and measles.

At the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) and UNICEF Office in Kabul, the evaluation study was conducted from 26 June till 2 July 1986. The survey team, composed of 30 evaluators and 10 supervisors was headed by Dr.V.P. Kimati, Programme Officer for Health in the UNICEF Regional Office in Delhi and Dr. R. N. Basu, an internationally recognized EPI expert from India.

The survey, using the 30 cluster sampling technique of WHO, covered in an area with a population of 200,000, involving more than 1,013 families grouped in an average of 34 per cluster.

The campaign, according to the evaluation study, had a dropout rate of 6.5% for the DPT/Polio and 4.2% for tetanus toxoid. It was observed that 60% of the 0-1 children had their immunization at the fixed health centers such as the mother and child health clinics, 33% of them were immunized by the mobile teams and 6.6% in the hospitals.

The report cited the accelerated strategy, the use of religious community and community resources, and the extensive use of the mass media, like the billboards, and mobile publicity teams as having influenced the immunization coverage.



\*In practice, no country, even in the industrialized world, has ever achieved 100% immunization of its children. "Universal" immunization is therefore best interpreted as implying the ideal that no child should be denied immunization against tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis(whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles. It is however, generally agreed that when immunization coverage reaches a figure of 80% or more

so severely disrupted as to provide a degree of protection even for the remaining children who have not been immunized (provided that the majority of the unimmunized population are not concentrated into areas where overall coverage consequently remains low). It is also important that children are immunized during the first year of life and that levels of immunization are sustained so that each new generation is protected

The advocacy and communication activities during the campaign included the following: (1) TV and Radio broadcast on immunization (120 spots for TV, 800 spots for radio and special weekly programmes); (2) orientation of school teachers, community and religious leaders and local Government officials (1,000 health officers, 350 medical doctors, 1,100 mullahs, 3,500 teachers, 150 school health staff, 1,000 Government officials and mass media workers); (3) use of special media such as 5 public announcement vans, 6 billboards, 10 movie houses and 12 megaphones and (4) distribution of 960,000 leaflets, pamphlets and posters and 25,000 GOBI kits.



The evaluation report concluded: "the high coverage achieved after the 18-month campaign has to be sustained. Education of the community and provision of services as close to the people as possible, have to be continued."

#### WHO CONFIRMS SUCCESS OF EPI CAMPAIGN IN KABUL AS IMPRESSIVE AND ENCOURAGING

WHO Regional Office in Alexandria called the evaluation report on the EPI Campaign coverage in Kabul prepared by Dr. V. P. Kimati, and Dr. R.N. Basu, ( see item on Universal Immunization) in Kabul as "a sound document" and "the results impressive."

The Regional Office of WHO declared: "The coverage report is a sound document clearly detailing the survey findings. The results are impressive and the only critical factor will be the extent to which these high immunization levels can be maintained in the future, especially in the face of a rapidly growing population."

#### ORT CAMPAIGN DISTRIBUTES 2.7 MILLION ORS PACKETS; QUALITY CONTROL STUDY FINDS MOTHERS' PREPARATION ACCEPTABLE

The oral rehydration therapy (ORT) campaign in Kabul last summer distributed 2.7 million oral rehydration solution (ORS) packets through 400 distribution centers. The campaign started on 14 June and ended on 15 October.

ORS packets were distributed through the following institutions: private pharmacies (266); Government pharmacies (38); MCH clinics (27); Red Crescent clinics (9); Polyclinics (5); Basic Health centers (8); factory clinics (14); Kindergarten clinics (2); EPI mobile teams (6); Women's Club clinics (14) and local government offices (11).

It was estimated that about half a million patients, under five years old, benefited from the campaign. Each patient received 4 packets per episode on the average.

The use of home-made solution was also given priority during the campaign. All health centers demonstrated the preparation of salt-sugar solution during the holding of mothers' classes almost everyday.

Quality control study of ORS packets and salt-sugar solution prepared by the mothers and nurses was carried out in the month of September. Some 80 mothers were made to prepare the ORS packet solution while another 80 prepared the salt-sugar solution in the health centers and in the individual homes. About 40 nurses were also made to prepare both the ORS packets and the salt-sugar solutions.

The evaluators collected 200 samples of the solution from the preparations made by the nurses and the mothers and had them examined at the Avicenna Pharmaceutical Institute quality control lab-

Laboratory results indicated that the mothers and nurses knew how to prepare the correct mixture of the two solutions.

ORS packets solutions prepared by the mothers had the following results on the average: sodium chloride, 3.63 grams per liter of water; potassium chloride, 1.64 grams per liter of water, glucose, 21.73 gr./lit. Laboratory analysts considered the above results as "pass" or within the acceptable range.

In the salt-sugar solutions prepared by the mothers, these were the following results on the average: salt, 3.92 grams of sodium chloride per liter of water, and sugar 30.86 grams of glucose per liter of water. Laboratory technicians found the salt content as within the normal range while the sugar content was considered slightly higher than those prepared in the packet solutions by the mothers.



Programme communication support to the ORT campaign included the broadcast of ORT spots in radio and TV, and the distribution of 6,000 posters, 75,000 leaflets and 49,000 handbills. Also, 1,500 booklets on clinical management of ORT were distributed during the orientation sessions conducted prior to the launching of the cam-



paign.

The mobile public announcement vans went around the city throughout the day for the whole summer promoting ORT messages.

An evaluation of the efforts of the campaign will be undertaken in January 1987. As contemplated by the Government, the evaluation plan hopes to find whether the campaign was effective in helping to reduce mortality, reduce referrals, and admissions to curative units and reduce morbidity in children. It will also review the effects of the water and sanitation of the city as it relates to the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases.

Before the campaign started, the Avicenna Pharmaceutical Institute was producing ORS at the rate of 5,000 packets per day. The production rate rose to 20,000 per day during the campaign.

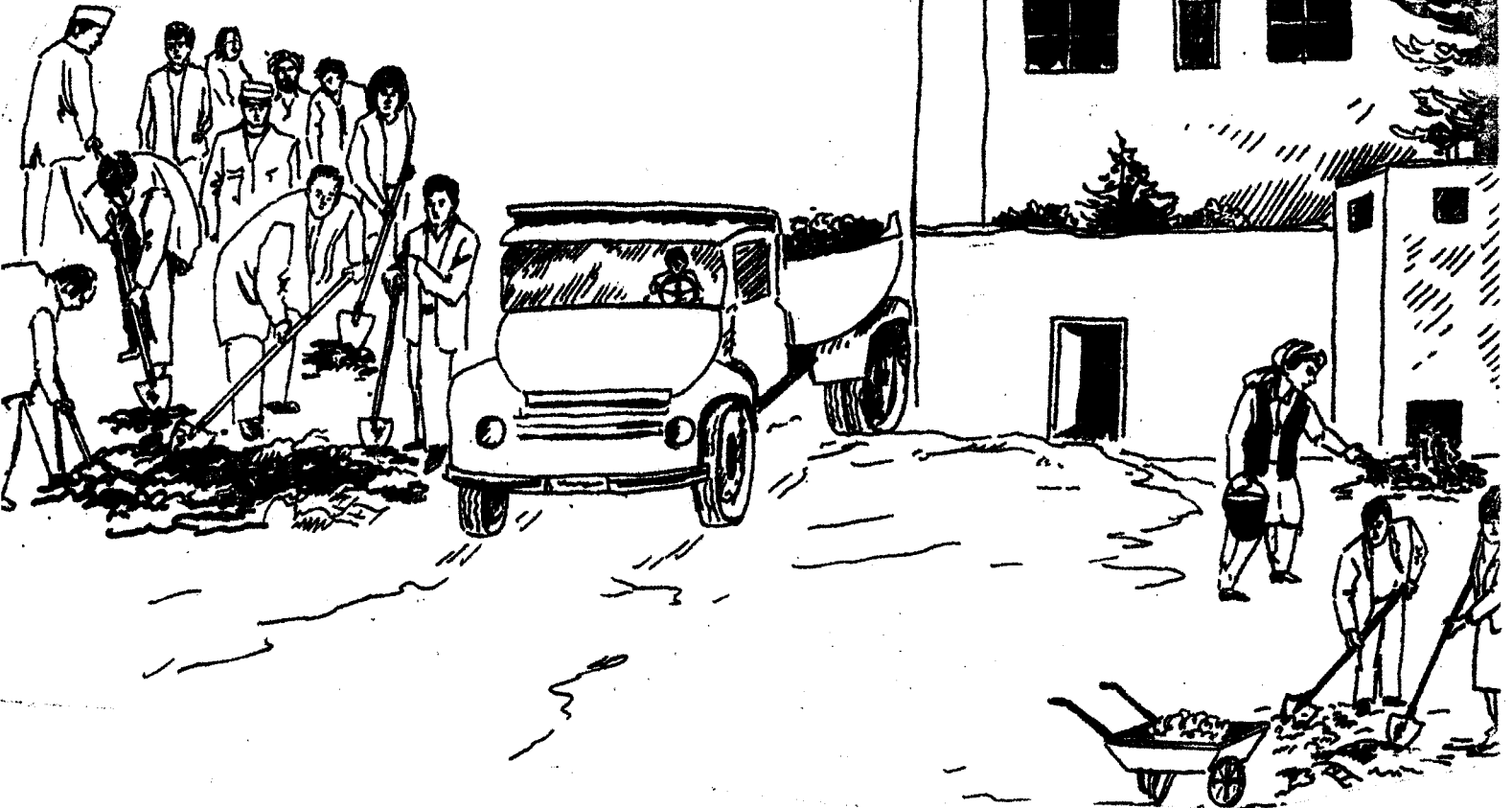
In 1984, the ORT campaign distributed 263,000 ORS packets through 138 distribution centers. The figure increased in 1985 when the campaign distributed 2 billion packets through 245 health centers, pharmacies, social institutions and the local government offices.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN DISPOSES 60,000 CUBIC METERS OF WASTE

The environmental sanitation campaign in Kabul collected and disposed 60,000 cubic meters of waste from 11 districts last summer. The campaign, which began in July ended in October.

Aimed at reducing the incidence of diarrhoeal and other environmental-related diseases, it was implemented simultaneously with the oral rehydration therapy (ORT) campaign to create a stronger impact on the control and management of diarrhoeal diseases which are most prevalent in summer.

More than 50 dump trucks were utilized to haul the waste. The campaign also involved 750 sanitation workers who cleaned the streets throughout the week including holidays, during the campaign.



About 40 tons of lime powder were sprayed to fly-breeding areas such as open toilets, small canals (after cleaning) and narrow garbage dumping points.

To ensure the participation of the community in the campaign, some 600 mullahs, wakils, teachers, youth, women, including party and political leaders were oriented about the campaign operation and about ORT and immunization.

Communication support to the campaign, included the distribution of 50,000 leaflets on environmental health, 5,000 posters on the campaign and GOBI-related communication materials. Two mobile public announcement vans moved around the city announcing the campaign.

Radio and television station broadcasted environmental sanitation spots and reported regularly the progress of the campaign.

Kabul Municipality spearheaded the overall campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health. As envisaged by the Government, the environmental

health campaign for 1987 will give emphasis to toilet improvement and cleaning.

**600 NURSES ATTEND IMR CONFERENCE**

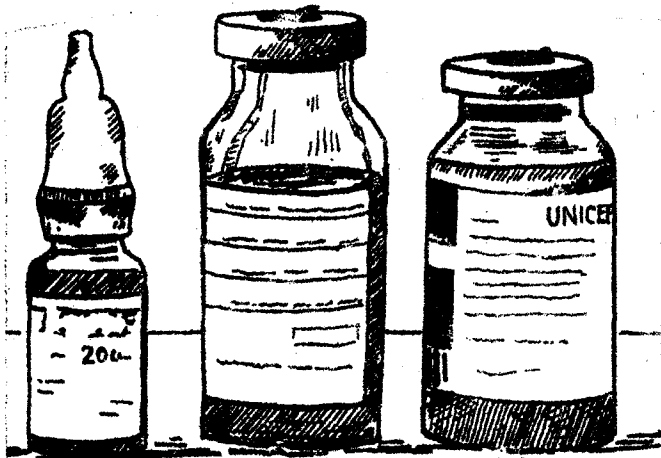
600 nurses from Kabul attended a conference that called for the reduction of infant mortality rate (IMR) at the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) at a gathering on 12 May to celebrate Nurses' Day.

The Conference discussed the role of the nurses in the reduction of infant mortality and improvement of maternal and child health, using the low-cost GOBI (growth monitoring, oral rehydration therapy, breastfeeding and immunization) techniques.

A film on Child Survival Revolution(CSR) produced in Kabul, was shown during the one day meeting. Communication materials dealing with GOBI messages were also distributed to all the nurses.

As a follow-up of the results of the discussions during the Conference, Mr. J.A. Lopez-Penela, UNICEF Representative, revealed recently that discussions are underway between UNICEF and the MOPH to review the training curriculum for nurses in order to integrate permanently CSR subjects into the training of nurses.

\* \* \* \*



**CONGRESS OF TEACHERS DEVOTES ONE DAY FOR CHILD SURVIVAL REVOLUTION**

A three-day long Congress of Teachers in Kabul devoted one day to discuss child survival revolution (CSR) topics last October at Isteqlal Lycee.

During the "CSR Day", UNICEF staff discussed with 200 teachers issues such as immunization, ORT, growth monitoring, breastfeeding and environmental sanitation. Dr. Aisha Amir, President of Mother and

**BUREAU OF POSTS TO ISSUE THREE CSR STAMPS IN 1987**

The Bureau of Post of the Ministry of Communication will issue three stamps depicting child survival revolution in 1987.

The three stamps will promote the messages of universal immunization, oral rehydration therapy and growth monitoring. In 1985, the Bureau of Post issued four GOBI stamps.

Mr. Khoshal Zazai, President of the Department of Post wrote UNICEF: "The General Directorate of Philately of the Ministry of Communication of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has decided to print three types of stamps on the occasion of the Universal Children's Day " in 1987.

Mr. Sharaf, artist of the Bureau, is currently working with UNICEF Programme Communication section on the production of three CSR artworks.

\* \* \* \*



Child Health Department, explained to the teachers the services offered by MCH health centers. A CSDR film, produced in Kabul was shown and all the teachers received a CSDR kit.

The Ministry of Education, as a policy, incorporates CSDR topics in all its orientation and training activities for teachers.

**DOCUMENT: HISTORY OF UNICEF IN AFGHANISTAN ISSUED**

More Than An Agency (A History of UNICEF in Afghanistan), a booklet describing the work of UNICEF in Afghanistan from 1949 till 1985, will be issued this month to help commemorate the 40th anniversary of UNICEF in Kabul.

Preparation of the project for Afghanistan began in July 1984 in the office of Mr. Jack Charnow, Coordinator of the History Project of UNICEF at the Headquarters.

The 74-page document describes UNICEF's involvement in Afghanistan in segments of five years.

**SIX WOMEN TRAINED AS FACILITATORS**

Six members of the Women's Club underwent a special training at UNICEF Kabul office on how to become training facilitators last 13-17th July. The training was conducted by UNICEF staff of Planning, Women's Development and Programme Communication sections.

During the workshop, the women passed through several exercises designed to make them effective presentors on topics dealing with child survival revolution.

UNICEF plans to bring them back to a follow-up seminar to review the progress of their facilitating skills and to learn more on child care measures including the preventive and curative aspects of health. Another group of 12 women will be trained as training facilitators before the end of 1986.

**SALE OF SPORTSWEARS FROM SPANISH UNICEF COMMITTEE: AFS. 240,000.00**

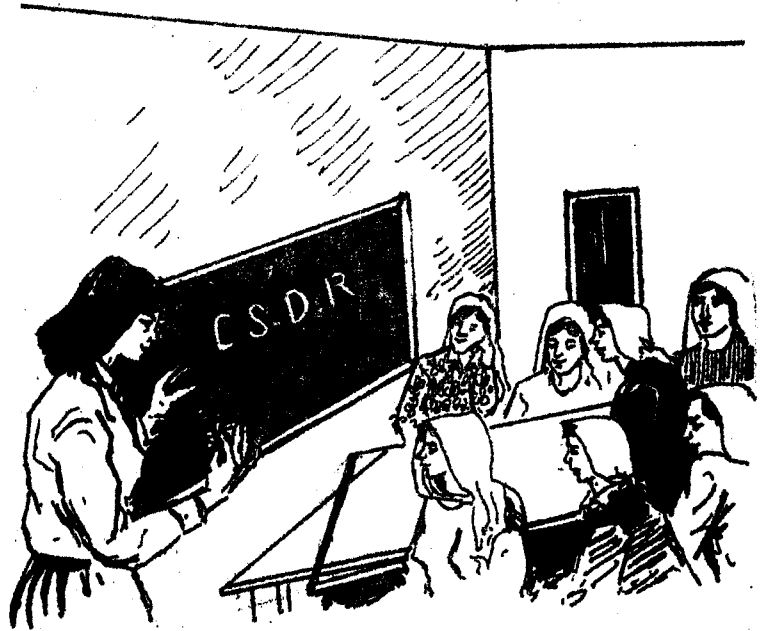
UNICEF Kabul sold Afs. 240,000.00 worth of sportswears received from the UNICEF Spanish Committee last summer.

The apparel sold included jogging suits, sweaters, sport jackets, bags, shirts, toes and scarves.

In view of their popularity, a new order will be placed from the Committee to meet the growing demands coming from the Afghans and members of the UN and the international community.

**CSDR BOOKLETS FOR NEO-LITERATE WOMEN**

The Central Women's Club has prepared two illustrated booklets called "Prevention of Diarrhoeal Diseases" and "Safe Care of the Eyes". The booklets contain basic messages dealing with child survival and development revolution (CSDR) messages. The booklets will be distributed to some 10,000 neo-literate women.



**THE STAFF OF UNICEF KABUL OFFICE EXTEND TO ALL COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS AND THE READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER THE SEASON'S GREETINGS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# STAFF NEWS

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2. Mr. N. Hidayat as Admin. Asst.
3. Ms. Atia Masoud as Receptionist.
4. Mr. A. Rahman as secretary to Programme Section.
5. Ms. P. Mathur Senior Secretary from ROSCA loaned to Kabul for 3 months.

## Farewell

The staff of UNICEF Kabul Office held a tea party on 30th November to bid farewell to Mr. G. Dastagir, Driver who has been with the organization for 13 years and who is leaving to set-up his own business. We wish him all successes in his new endeavours.

## Additions to the UNICEF family

The UNICEF family in Kabul increased with the arrival of new babies between April-December 1986. We congratulate::

1. Mr. S. Amiry on the birth of a son (Wais).
2. Mr. M. Osman on the birth of a son (Nabiullah).
3. Mr. M. Taher on the birth of a daughter (Sabera).
4. Mr. M. Anwar on the birth of a daughter.

## Promotions

Promotions were granted to the following staff during the year to place them in the grade of their posts:

1. Mr. A.R. Wessa From GS-6 to GS-7  
Translator/Secretary
2. Me. A.R. Shafiq From GS-6 to GS-7  
Jr. Finance Asst.
3. Ms. K. Yousufi From GS-6 to GS-7  
Jr. Supply Asst.
4. Mr. N. Alborz From GS-7 to GS-8  
Supply Assistant
5. Mr. Rahimdad From GS-3 to GS-4  
Sr, Driver

## New Staff

Dr. O. Legon of Cuba joined as Programme Officer for Health in the month of April 1986.

The following staff joined UNICEF on temporary appointments during the last quarter:

1. Mr. A. Haidary as Statistical

Staff from Kabul Office participated in the following Workshops, Conferences and Meetings during the last six months:

### EPI Seminar at Srinagar, India, July '86:

Dr. O. Legon, Project Officer, Health

Conference on Peace and Development at Yerevan, USSR, Aug. 1986:

Mr. J.A. Lopez-Penela, Representative

PAF Workshop in Bangalore, India, Aug. 1986:

Ms. M. Menezes, Admin./Finance Officer.  
Ms. Zohra.S.E., Sr. Personnel Asst.  
Mr. Aziz A.R., Jr. Finance Assistant.

Budget Review Meeting at Bangkok, Oct. 1986:

Mr. J.A. Lopez-Penela, Representative  
Ms. M. Menezes, Admin./Finance Officer

### PIDB Workshop at Delhi, November 1986:

Mr. J.A. Lopez-Penela, Representative  
Mr. Z. Hannan, Supply Officer

## Visitors/Consultants

UNICEF Kabul welcomed the following visitors/consultants:

1. Dr. R.N. Basu and Dr. V.P. Kimati, who visited Kabul in July in connection with evaluation of the immunization campaign.
2. Mr. J. Beaumont, who visited Kabul in June and September 1986.
3. Mr. M.P. Sinha, Chief, Personnel Section, ROSCA, who spent a week here in July.