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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND



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TO: Regional Directors
UNICEF Representatives
HQ Directors and Section Chiefs
Field Information Officers

6 December 1983

EXD-2870

FROM: J. P. Grant **JP**
Executive Director

F O R A C T I O N

SUBJECT: Accelerating child survival and development - co-operation with NGOs

The Executive Board, endorsing UNICEF's external relations policy at its session last May, agreed that collaborative links with NGOs should be extended. This letter provides an update on non-governmental co-operation in support of accelerated child survival and development actions.

League of Red Cross Societies

At the recent General Assembly of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies 1/ I asked the League to join with UNICEF in special country efforts to help raise public awareness of child survival prospects and promote the four main actions - growth monitoring, oral rehydration, breast-feeding and weaning foods, and immunization - in their national health training programmes.

The Assembly responded with the following resolution, adopted by acclamation:

"The General Assembly;

"Aware of the appalling mortality and morbidity associated with diarrhoeal infections, malnutrition and preventable diseases in children, and realizing that most of this suffering and death is avoidable with present knowledge,

"Recognizing that National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies can make a significant contribution to the control of diarrhoeal infections by continuing to promote breast-feeding and by supporting comprehensive, community-based programmes that help people learn how to prevent and treat diarrhoea,

1/ See the statement "Children in Growing Peril" (E/ICEF/Misc.412) delivered by James P. Grant to the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva on 9 October 1983.

The League is now identifying a number of countries and appropriate activities for a joint action programme. We look forward to your suggestions as to countries where joint actions might be appropriate and to possible pilot activities. Consultations with the League Secretariat will begin before the end of the year.

It is my sincere hope that UNICEF representatives will take all possible action in support of this initiative. To assist you in these contacts, a copy of the list of participants in these Red Cross statutory meetings is attached (Annex I).

Information, suggestions, queries concerning joint actions should be addressed to Sheila M. Barry, Office of Non-Governmental Affairs, UNICEF headquarters, New York.

International Pediatric Association

Following my keynote address to some 5,000 Paediatricians meeting in Manila in early November, UNICEF and the International Pediatric Association (IPA) have agreed to a collaborative set of actions.

The full text of a resolution adopted by IPA in Manila follows:

"Whereas, the International Pediatric Association, recognizing that the major causes of death and disability of children are preventable and remediable, and

"Whereas, there exist low-cost, highly effective health technologies for the prevention and treatment of these causes of death and disability, in particular by the use of growth charts, of immunization, of oral therapy for diarrhoea, and by the promotion of breast-feeding and safe weaning, and

"Whereas, these effective health technologies can be applied on a wide scale, in the context of primary health care, employing, in particular, methods of mass communications and social organization, and

"Whereas, the combination of technology, communication, and social organization make possible a virtual Child Survival Revolution which could reduce the toll of disease and death of children by half within the next decade,

"Therefore, be it resolved that,

"The International Pediatric Association commits itself to partnership in this effort to so reduce childhood mortality and morbidity, and resolves to work at all levels with UNICEF, WHO, and other partners to bring about a Child Survival Revolution.

- "2. Seed Grants to National Pediatric Societies: UNICEF will make available to IPA, for distribution among up to 20 national pediatric societies in developing countries, modest resources to catalyse pediatricians' involvement in child survival activities, in the fields described above. These seed grants are envisaged as each being on the order of up to \$1,000. They may be used towards training, research or service activities. IPA shall decide on distribution and use of the funds, but will report annually to UNICEF on progress achieved.

- "3. Familiarization with UNICEF Program: In order to further enhance the links between IPA and UNICEF, in conjunction with the Regional Meetings described under (1) above, a limited number of IPA leaders (from Standing Committees and/or from the Region concerned) will visit a number of selected countries within the region, familiarizing themselves with the conceptual and operational perspectives of UNICEF programs in those countries. This activity will strengthen IPA and UNICEF mutual understanding and working relationships."

I urge you to find the ways that are most relevant to your individual country sections to build upon those linkages. To assist you in these contacts a copy of the list of participants in the Manila Meeting of the International Pediatric Association, whose Executive Director, Dr. Ihsan Dogramaci is a former Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board and a recent Vice Chairman of the World Health Assembly, is attached (Annex II). Please address any questions, comments, or ideas you may have on this topic to Dr. Stephen Joseph, Special Coordinator, Child Health and Survival.



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"Accelerating child survival and development -- cooperation with NGOs" Memo for action, EXD-2870, from J.P. Grant, Executive Director, to Regional Directors, UNICEF Representatives, HQ Directors and Section Chiefs, and Field Information Officers.

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Notes

Discusses UNICEF cooperation with: League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (with relevant League resolution); International Pediatric Association (with full text of relevant resolution);

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Saroja Douglas

Signature of Person Submit

Saroja Douglas

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