STATEMENT ON UNICEF

We believe that today the best hope for peace is through a strong United Nations. We must all strive to make the United Nations strong.

This is especially important in light of the division caused largely by the aggressive foreign policies of the Government of the USSR and by the very nature of its revolutionary Communist philosophy.

One of the most effective agencies in the United Nations has been UNICEF. Within the limitations of its budget, it has provided food, medicine and other forms of assistance to 35 millions of hungry, ill-clad and sick children in 51 countries.

While many of the acute needs, caused by World War II have been met, much still remains to be done. We believe, moreover, that the problems facing millions of children in war-devastated countries and others have not been created by the war alone but are the result of poor economic and social conditions over a longer period of time.

These problems have not been solved and cannot be solved on an emergency basis. A long range program is essential. This program must include, in addition to supplementary feeding and supplies, training projects and technical assistance of many kinds.

We believe, therefore, that UNICEF should be reorganized into a permanent agency within the United Nations so that the children of the world may receive permanent attention. We believe, further, that this permanent UN agency for children should be given adequate authority and funds to enable it to undertake and prosecute, at the invitation of participating member nations, such projects and programs that may be found necessary. It should have the technical assistance of such existing UN agencies as WHO, FAO, UNESCO, etc. It should have also such usable surplus commodities as cooperating nations may want to make available to it.

We hope that our Government will adopt this position and will develop it within the United Nations. Our nation can provide moral leadership on this issue if we take this position. Children, after all, are not political, not even in this divided world. They are the direct concern of all of us who want to help build a better and more peaceful world.

We hope, therefore, that our Government will assume its full responsibility in helping to finance the work of the proposed UN children's agency on an equitable basis in cooperation with other nations of the world.

Leo Perlis, Chairman
Helen Hall
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For the U. S. Committee for UNICEF

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