

UNICEF News — *UNICEF, Paris, No. 30.*

Some years ago, the late Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru drew the world's attention to the relative silence on the vast amount of co-operation existing between countries, in contrast to the emphasis placed on the conflicts and violence in the world.

He then suggested that perhaps one year might be devoted by the United Nations General Assembly to international co-operation. This period of time, he said, could be devoted—not to speeches about peace—but to furthering all co-operation between nations and looking for new opportunities for common action in as many fields as possible.

This year, 1965, the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations, saw the idea take concrete form. A resolution of the General Assembly established 1965 as "International Co-operation Year". To each month have been ascribed certain areas and activities in which nations can—and do—make common cause. September has been designated the month for children.

Children, and more specifically, assistance to children, has now become an important object of international co-operation. After the horror of a world war which left millions of young victims in its wake, the world has progressively taken cognizance of the need for an international effort to meet the needs of children.

One result of this has been the creation of the United Nations Children's Fund, which was fortunate enough to pool many different resources. For 19 years UNICEF has been able to practice a day-to-day, year-to-year, international co-operation. Its staff, composed of nationals from 70 different countries, has assisted the governments of 118 countries to set up or develop programmes of assistance to children. These programmes are reviewed and funds are allocated by the Executive Board which is composed of representatives of 30 countries.

UNICEF financing is made possible thanks to the voluntary contributions of 121 governments and by the generosity of hundreds of thousands of people in the world. This year UNICEF has at its disposal approximately \$35 million for assistance to country programmes. The supplies and equipment UNICEF delivers throughout the world are purchased from almost 60 different countries and paid for in many different currencies. Hundreds of freighters on the seven seas are carrying these materials to millions of children. In this assistance to children, UNICEF is co-operating closely with many international organisations, such as ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO—themselves living examples of international co-operation. The extent of the co-operative effort is also emphasized by the fact that the countries assisted by UNICEF invest an average of 2½ times the amount made available by UNICEF for the assisted projects . . .

. . . National Committees in 20 countries play leading roles in enlisting

public support for assistance to children, in conducting fund-raising drives and in promoting sales of UNICEF greeting cards. Some of them join in special efforts such as the FAO-sponsored "Freedom from Hunger" campaign, or adopt certain UNICEF projects and provide the financing by fund-raising campaigns.

A great number of international non-governmental organisations are conducting programmes of assistance to children throughout the world. Seventy of them, with more than 3,000 national affiliates, have consultative status with UNICEF and give powerful support to its efforts. Most of the governments in developed countries have extensive programmes of bilateral assistance to developing countries. A sizeable proportion of these efforts are going towards improving the condition of children.

But the total resources now available to meet the urgent needs of most children in the world are grossly inadequate.

Approximately 800,000,000 children have an immediate and urgent need, whether it be in the field of health, food, education, or social protection, or, as is most often the case, in all four of these.

I.C.Y., International Co-operation Year, is not just a year for celebrating co-operation and reckoning with satisfaction our best achievements. As far as we are concerned, this year is a time for thinking of the future of our work, of the millions of children we cannot reach because of our limited resources, and of thinking of the extension of our activities into new directions to link the welfare of each child with the economic development of his country.

It is time for rededicating ourselves to our ideal—the welfare of the world's children—and of gaining new and extended support from individuals as well as governments in our fight.

It has been said of UNICEF that it is "the restless conscience of the world". The pledge of UNICEF is its continued restlessness—so long as there are hungry, sick, uneducated and disinherited children in this world. (*Henry R. Labouisse, Executive Director, p.c. UNICEF*).
