

MISCELLANEOUS

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

The idea of a Universal Children's Day was launched by the International Union for Child Welfare in 1953. Indeed, on October 5, 1953, forty countries declared for the first time that a Universal Children's Day would be instituted with the purpose of "strengthening the feeling of international solidarity with regard to child welfare, emphasizing the value of efforts being undertaken in each country and on an international scale, and demonstrating what is being achieved in each country and throughout the world by private and governmental organizations."

Since then, each year UNICEF (the United Nations' organ responsible for the application of the Assembly's resolution) and the International Union for Child Welfare, with the same aim in view, stress the importance of the first Monday in October by proposing to all the countries of the world a topical theme connected with child education and protection.

Whereas in 1960 the theme which was chosen provided a contribution towards the World Mental Health Year, in 1961 the International Union for Child Welfare has aimed at drawing attention to the agents making the first and foremost contribution towards improving children's mental and physical health: the social welfare services.

Social services for children, especially adequate preventive work, safeguard the community from delinquency and maladjustment; this is the theme which was chosen for Universal Children's Day of October 2, 1961.

At the present moment, a theme such as this is likely to interest all the countries of the world, those which have social services for children which demand constant improvements and reorientations in keeping with new needs, as well as those which are organizing their own programmes for child welfare.