

# 40th Anniversary of the United Nations - Affirmation of Commitment - 1985

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## Issue

- 1) The fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace.
- 2) Recommitment of all Governments to the 1990 goal of Universal Child Immunization.

## Background

1985 marks the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Its Charter was signed by 51 member states in San Francisco on 26 June 1945, and the UN came into force on 24 October 1945. A commemorative session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, now numbering 159 member states, was held at its headquarters in New York on 24 October 1985.

As the preamble of the Charter states, a main purpose was, and is, "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security." Unfortunately, the history of postwar international relations has too often shown that the common interest in peace and security asserts itself only when hostilities have reached a dangerously critical stage. Even then solutions may be thwarted through a failure to use the international organization effectively. Also distressing are the number of occasions when the diplomats of some countries use the UN for unjustified vicious attacks on a member state such as Israel. Yet the family of nations needs the United Nations and in many areas of endeavor it sets standards for the benefit of humanity.

The fortieth anniversary commemorative session of the General Assembly coincided with the proclamation of the United Nations International Year of Peace, 1986. This will be observed not only in member countries but also throughout the United Nations system which includes its many important Specialized Agencies.

The Specialized Agencies have initiated expanded strategies looking forward to the year 2000, among them: food programs by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); health plans by the World Health Organization (WHO); environment proposals by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP); industrial development by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); employment strategies by the International Labor Organization (ILO); and immunization goals by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), among them NFTS, play an important role in furthering the ideas of the United Nations Charter through being a two-way medium of communication between the UN and the public.

On June 10, 1985, in unprecedented personal letters to each Head of State or Government of every Member State of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations reported that the "improbable" had become possible. Recalling the 1974 commitment of the World Health Organization, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly, to achieve by the year 1990 the universal immunization of all children against the principal child-killing and child-maiming diseases, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported that experiences in many countries, drawing upon recent advances in technology and social organization, now make possible the immunization of all children on a scale and within a time frame which until quite recently seemed highly unlikely.

The Secretary-General proposed that a fitting tribute to the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations would be a serious recommitment of all Governments to the 1990 goal of Universal Child Immunization. He called upon

each Head of State to make reaffirmation of Universal Child Immunization by 1990 a major focus of his or her Government's participation in the 40th General Assembly.

World tension is accentuated by the lack of progress in disarmament and arms limitation which has heightened fears of nuclear confrontation; by violence in several parts of the world; by continued economic difficulties in spite of a recovery in certain developed countries and a deterioration in the situation of many developing countries; by drought and famine in several regions; by an assault on human rights, whether through terrorism or other means of repression.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the last day of his life in 1945, still during World War II, wrote these words to deliver at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, at which the UN Charter was being drafted:

The work, my friends, is peace: more than an end of this war—an end to the beginning of all wars. I ask you to keep up your faith. The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and active faith.

#### Resolution

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods affirms its commitment to:

- 1) Promote the causes of peace, international cooperation and human rights which are the basic purposes of the United Nations;
- 2) Conduct programs of education and action on behalf of world peace and through more knowledge and better understanding strengthen the United Nations, the World Court, peace-making and peace-keeping machinery, and the Specialized Agencies in their stated goals;
- 3) Comprehend and work for peace not only as the absence of war, but also as the betterment of social and economic conditions to fulfill the Biblical perspective of shalom.
- 4) Support the 1990 UN goal of Universal Child Immunization which will save the lives of more than 3,500,000 children annually and prevent the permanent disablement of a like number each year.