



The Year of the Child the Year of Hope

Millions and millions of dollars and pounds are being spent on war and armaments all over the world. But how little is being spent on "peace"!

It is vain to speak of the Children's Year in the shadow of canons and bullets. Violence like fire is spreading everywhere and threatening the world with extinction. And all of us are responsible for this degradation. All of us should endeavor to prepare for our children a better world in which to live. Children are the responsibility of the whole society, as well as that of their parents. Without a chance for normal growth it will be impossible for them to become useful citizens. They should be taught to avoid the blunders that brought misery and death for their fathers and mothers. They should be inculcated with the belief that nothing can deprave human souls and turn civilized people into wild beasts like war.

The United Nations Organization devotes for the children of the world a large share of its activities. The UNICEF, for example, has been very active in providing for some of their immediate needs. The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) assigns to needy children a large portion of its aid. Recently the U.N.O. has published a long declaration, in 10 points, of the international rights of children.

There is one thing the U.N.O. has not been able to provide; one without which all help will be in vain: Peace. The right of the child to grow in a peaceful atmosphere has been forfeited. Peace requires world cooperation, which the U.N.O. has failed to bring about.

Renewed efforts for peace should be the main objective of all those who participate in the International Year of the Child. Let us spend on peace one tenth or at least one hundredth part of our expenditure on war.

If men have created war, women and children who make more than two-thirds of the world population, should become the force of Peace.

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