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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

18 December 1981

UNICEF

The attached is the text of a letter the Prime Minister today sent to the Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund in Australia, Mr Hugo Idoyaga.



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

118 DEC 1981

Dear Mr Idoyaga,

I would like to pay tribute to the work of the United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

UNICEF, since its inception in 1946 has done valuable, indeed vital work, initially in providing emergency assistance to children in war-ravaged countries and subsequently in responding to the continuing struggle of the vast majority of the world's children simply to survive and to enjoy a basic social and physical environment which might allow them decent opportunities for continued well-being.

Australians have every reason to be proud of their country's association with the establishment of UNICEF and its contributions through the years.

When UNICEF came into being Australia was one of the first four countries to pledge its support and was represented on UNICEF's first Executive Board, and is currently a member. The Australian Government's contribution to UNICEF for 1982 will be a \$3.5 million, one of the ten highest on a per capita basis, among the 157 member countries of the United Nations.

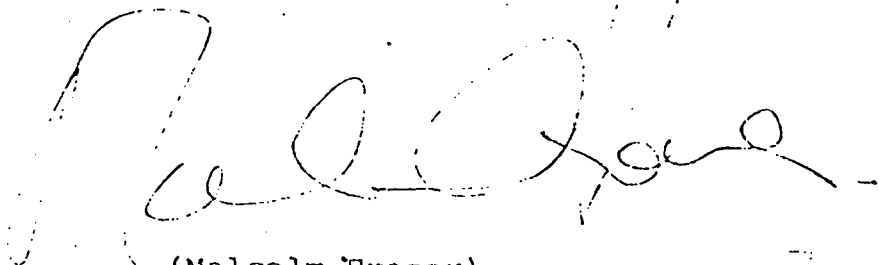
In my opinion, UNICEF is special in two ways : it puts its emphasis on children as the hope of the future, and it serves as a means through which governments and private people around the world can work together to deal with the problems of children in need.

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The Australian Government gives full support to UNICEF in its mission of responding to immediate emergencies, to long-term deprivation and to acting for the improvement of the conditions and opportunities of children all over the world.

Again I extend to UNICEF my own congratulations on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary and wish it well in its important mission ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Fraser', with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

(Malcolm Fraser)

Mr Hugo Idoyaga,
Representative,
United Nations Children's Fund,
Box 4045, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2001