

Mr. David Gershon
President, First Earth Run
U.N.I.C.E.F.
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New York, NY 10017

The First Earth Run, commemorating 1986 as the International Year of Peace and UNICEF's 40th anniversary, is a compelling global initiative for peace that will touch the lives of people throughout the world and inspire enthusiastic participation. Carrying the torch of peace around the world is stunning in both its rich symbolism and utter simplicity. Because of this, it has the strength to evoke a powerful response and inspire mature reflection about the future, everyone can play a part in some way and benefit the children of the world.

The United States of America is honored to serve as one of the host nations for this historic journey, which involves thousands of people united in their resolve to make the world a place of friendship and freedom for the family of humankind. The collaboration among nations will be a dramatic statement of global cooperation that will improve harmony and constructive discussion among nations.

I urge my fellow world leaders to lend their voices in support, so that the humanitarian objectives this event espouses may meet with universal acceptance. Clearly, you and your colleagues at the First Earth Run have the experience and professionalism to carry out this ambitious undertaking, your partnership with UNICEF under the able leadership of Jim Grant offers you a vast international network.

I extend personal congratulations and best wishes to the organizers of the First Earth Run, to those in the private sector who are lending it their support, to the international community, to the multitude of participating volunteer groups and to each person who will hold the torch aloft and move it closer to the finish line.

Ronald Reagan
White House, Wash. D.C.
Sep. 12, 1986