

That involves two challenges for supporters of the United Nations. The first is to advertise the successes of the United Nations system, and the second is to recognize its failures, and work hard at turning them around.

Let us start with the successes. Compared to what the world was in 1945 and the chaos it contained, the United Nations has been a spectacular success.

Not in all it tries to do, to be sure, not in all we want it to do, and certainly not in all we need it to do. But in those areas where Member States have given it authority - sometimes very limited authority - it works well. And in some cases, it works magnificently.

UNICEF is perhaps the outstanding example. Single-handedly it virtually justifies the United Nations' existence. 400,000 children every year are saved by UNICEF - 400,000 children!

Skeptics should know about UNICEF's oral rehydration packets which, for a few cents, keep desperately poor children from dying of diarrhea and dehydration. They should know that thanks, in part, to UNICEF and its child survival revolution, most of the world's children could be immunized against serious contagious diseases. Fighting in rural El Salvador actually stopped for three days to let UNICEF's immunization program take place. And the cost of this immunization? Five to ten dollars per child. The skeptics should know that for fifty cents, a third world child can be saved from blindness.

Nor is UNICEF the whole success story. Through the World Health Organization, smallpox has been virtually eradicated from the world, malaria has been beaten back in many areas, and progress has been made on measles, chicken pox and polio. We are making headway against major tropical killers such as river-blindness and bilharzia. And day in and day out, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees saves ten of thousands of people, and provides shelter for those fleeing their homes in terror.

The United Nations Development Programme handles 8500 projects in 150 countries - helping developing countries build viable economies.

In Africa, we are seeing the degradation of a whole environment, the slide of half a continent toward disaster. We have also witnessed, in Africa, the United Nations at its best, its people working under conditions of