



Thank you remarks by HRH the Princess of Hanover

President of AMADE

Charity Dinner

25 October 2004

Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Manila

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all gathered here today for the same reason that I have flown so many thousands of miles to be with you : because we all care for our children ; they define, wherever they may be found, the essence of humanity and what our community of nations can hope to accomplish in this generation, and in generations yet to come.

There is tremendous work to be done for our children. But there are so many of them in dire situations that even our best, it would seem, may never be enough. What has to be done must go beyond feeding them, and healing the wounds that have been inflicted upon their fragile bodies. Their rights must be recognized, and there must be true punishment for violation of those rights. There must be accountability for wrongs done to our children. It is in this area that we should hope to make greater progress. Indeed, there are bold initiatives that are aggressively being undertaken today by the world's unspoken heroes in the protection of children and their rights. Child advocates are becoming more innovative and more aggressive in fighting the senseless crimes committed upon the world's children, crimes that shock the conscience of humanity. Humanitarian relief should not be the singular approach to the upliftment of children from their poverty and misery.

Hand in hand with such relief is the need for each and every nation to seek accountability from those who fail to uphold appropriate international standards spelled out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or in the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court. Governments and their leaders must be vigilant in protecting the children, and must demand compliance with standards that apply to all nations, big or small.

As President of the World Association of Children's Friends, I hope to continue focusing the need to prioritize children in national and international agenda and to redress all forms of wrongs that are done to them. Make no mistake, a nation that ignores its most valuable human resource is bound to fail in the governance of its people.

The World Association of Children's Friends expresses its warmest appreciation for your generosity in supporting this effort to make this world better for our children. Your generous contributions will go to the Filipino children who need it most -- to the children of AMADE-Philippines and Virlanie Foundation. One of these days, streetchildren will be an anomaly, incarcerating children will be taboo, and exposing them to hazardous conditions will be an international crime whose perpetrators will be punished. May that day come soon. The success of AMADE-Philippines and Virlanie Foundation in this direction will be the success of humanity in this side of the world.

Once again, we reiterate our deepest gratitude for your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

Thank You and Good Night.