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BRIEFING NOTE ON CHILDREN'S DRINKING FOUNTAIN HYDE PARK

1. The Great Children's Party was held in Hyde Park on 30 and 31 May, 1979 to celebrate the International Year of the Child which marked the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The party was attended by approximately 200,000 children from all over the United Kingdom.
2. HM The Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh were guest of honour on the first day; HRH The Princess Anne on the second day. Other distinguished visitors included the Prime Minister and the Lord Mayor of London.
3. The party was organised by a voluntary committee chaired by Neville Labovitch. Its members were: Theo Crosby, Hugh Cubitt CBE, Alan Da Costa, R G Emberson MVO, Assistant Commissioner W H Gibson QPM, David Kingsley, E L March, Major Michael Parker MBE, Lord Reilly, Lady Soames MBE, Dr Roy Strong, David Witty, David J Barnes (Secretary).
4. Some 4,000 entertainers gave their services free, performing in 9 performance areas, and there were some 90 tents run by voluntary organisations concerned with children's welfare and others. Food manufacturers gave over 1 million items of food and drink for the children to eat and drink. British Rail, British Airways, London Transport, The National Coach Company and other operators provided free transport for children coming to the party. Finance was provided by a number of sponsors.
5. Early in 1980 Mr Labovitch offered the Department of the Environment the gift of a drinking fountain to commemorate the party in a permanent form. It was also intended as a "Thank you" gesture to Hyde Park for the use of their facilities. Acceptance was approved at Ministerial level and agreement given to the erection of the fountain near to the actual site of the party.
6. The fountain has been designed by Theo Crosby who was a member of the organising committee and approved by the Royal Fine Art Commission as well as the former Chancellor of the Duchy of

Lancaster and the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Crosby is making no charge for his work on the fountain.

The cost of casting the fountain and providing a base has been paid out of the money left over after the costs of the party were paid. Members of the Building Group of Westminster Chamber of Commerce are assisting with its erection. The Department of the Environment has agreed to supply water, the drain-pipe and the mass concrete footing surmounted by a stone base at an estimated cost of £3,000.

7. The fountain is in bronze on a brick built granite-faced pedestal and depicts a mother and child rising from a bed of toys. It is intended as an amusing piece that would appeal to children and has an inscription running round it.