

4



Organization of African Unity

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM, SECRETARY GENERAL
AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE LATE JAMES P. GRANT

Africa Hall, Addis Ababa

February 1, 1995

**Your Excellency,
Children, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Few individuals in this world visualize a cause and summon the courage and exert the effort to farther it on a degree of single minded determination and level of commitment as James P. Grant was able to do. This is a sorrowful occasion as we are gathered here to mourn the death of a colleague and great friend especially of the children. In the death of James Grant, the children have lost an ally, a partner in the struggle for the improvement in their condition of living. The world has lost a leader and the international system an able and indefatigable administrator. But also, in his death we draw inspiration from one person who, by the power of his example of selfless dedication to a cause could make such a difference in how governments, institutions and agencies in the world viewed and dealt with matters affecting children.

Mr. Grant was an inspiration and an example of a hands-on manager who was undeterred by the limitations of diplomacy or the complications of bureaucracy, and reached out to the grassroots to initiate programmes to promote the cause of the silent and defenseless children of the world who are so often forgotten or relegated to margins of our priorities.

We, who had the privilege to work closely with Mr. Grant know of his indomitable spirit, his commitment to the welfare of children and his excellent qualities as a human being, his love for humanity and his abiding faith in the service to the international public. Few individuals in the international service brought to it comparable energy, vision, innovation and tenacity.

His campaign for the eradication of the major killer diseases of children, his organization of the first ever world Summit on Children and his collaboration with the OAU in the organization of the Dakar Conference on the African Child were all testament to his vision and innovation. Even when in failing health, Mr. Grant reached out to his innermost courage and drew energy to plead the case of children at the last OAU Council of Ministers in Tunis last year.

He leaves behind a legacy of selfless commitment to the cause of humanity and children in particular. We can only honour the memory of his tireless crusade by rededicating ourselves to the tasks of promoting the welfare of the children of the world. The greatest eulogy we can make for him is to set forth along the path he paved in the defence of the rights of children and promoting their welfare and survival.

May the almighty rest his soul in eternal peace.