

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Manila

August 19, 1985

MECS MEMORANDUM
No. 128, 9. 1985

1985 COMMEMORATION OF UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCE

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Chief of Service and Heads of Units/Centers
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
Vocational Schools Superintendents/Administrators

1. The United Nations observes the following celebrations for 1985:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| - August 26-September 6 | - Seventh United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Milan, Italy) |
| - September 8 | - International Literacy Day |
| - September 17 | - International Day of Peace and Opening of the 40th Session of the UN General Assembly, some meetings of which will be devoted to the World Conference for the International Youth Year (IYY) and its theme: Participation, Development and Peace |
| - October 7 | - Universal Children's Day (first Monday in October) |
| - October 9 | - Universal Postal Union Day (founding of UPU in 1874; became UN agency 1948) |
| - October 11 | - Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners |
| - October 16 | - World Food Day (founding of UN Food and Agriculture Organization or FAO) |
| - October 17-24 | - United Nations Week |
| - October 24 | - United Nations Day (40th Anniversary of the UN) and World Development Information Day |
| - October 24-31 | - Disarmament Week |
| - November 29 | - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People |

- December 10
- December 12
- 1986
- Human Rights Day
- End of the 40th Session of the UN General Assembly
- International Year of Peace

2. Fitting activities may be undertaken by the schools in cooperation with local government agencies and various socio-civic-religious organizations in the community to celebrate the significance of these events.

3. Inclosed for your guidance is a brief background of these United Nations observances and events with suggested activities for the teachers and classes.

4. For further particulars concerning references to these events, please contact:

The Director
United Nations Information Center
NEDA Building, Amorsolo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati
Metro Manila

5. It is desired that immediate and widest publicity possible be given to this Memorandum.

(SGD.) JAMES C. LAYA
Minister

Incl.:
As stated

Reference:
MECS Memorandum: No. 156, s. 1984

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
SCHOOLS
UNITED NATIONS

BACKGROUND ON UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES AND EVENTS
SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER 1985

September 8 - International Literacy Day

Proclaimed by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1967 to stimulate public support for the World Literacy Campaign. Despite progress, population growth is raising the number of illiterates in the world from 314 million in 1960 to 634 in 1990. This figure could increase to nearly a billion by the year 2000, unless the campaign is pursued more vigorously.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) class discussions on what literacy and education mean to youth, the family, the nation, and the world community;
- 2) individual or group visits to printing plants, newspaper offices or libraries and/or bookshops and reports to classes on the different uses of the printed word;
- 3) school or class exhibits of simple "books" the students have made, or their favorite books (with a brief presentation to the class on why they like the book).

September 17 - International Day of Peace

Opening of the UN General Assembly regular session (this year, the 40th anniversary session). In 1981, the General Assembly declared that the third Tuesday in September "shall be officially dedicated to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among nations and peoples."

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) Competitions of posters on UN Week/IVY themes and on scientific research projects to further UN goals;
- 2) Class discussions and/or essay writing on the meaning of peace (utopia or merely the absence of war?) and what is required to achieve peace in the world, and, for example, in the school or in the family.

September 23-30 - International Maritime Week

An observance of the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). IMO makes possible international co-operation and exchange of information among Governments on shipping engaged in international trade; encourages the highest standards of maritime safety, navigation efficiency, and control of marine pollution from ships.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) class discussions on ships as a link between nations (this might be based on newspaper shipping advertisements which indicate where international ships stop after leaving the Philippines and what kind of laws and regulations are needed in their operation;

- 2) if any students have relatives who are employed on international ships, they might be encouraged to report to the class on international maritime safety and pollution control measures;
- 3) older students might be interested in doing research on the Law of the Sea.

October 7 - Universal Children's Day (First Monday in October)

Originated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1952. The purpose of this observance is two-fold:

- 1) to encourage children to participate in recreational activities; and
- 2) to educate and inform the public about the importance of children; their rights and their well-being. Its permanent theme is "The Universality of Children" and its 1985 theme is "Community Participation" in the context of International Youth Year.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) sporting, theatrical and recreational events for (and with the participation of) children;
- 2) class discussions on UNICEF, how it helps children, and its four main objectives in its "Child Survival Revolution":
 - a) Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) to combat child deaths from diarrheal diseases;
 - b) growth-monitoring to make sure babies and young children are developing properly;
 - c) immunization against six major child-killing diseases; and
 - d) breast-feeding for babies because mother's milk is clean, more nutritious and protects the baby against disease; and
- 3) students might be encouraged to make lists of what needs to be improved in their schools or communities; to discuss a project that they and their classmates could carry out; to draw up together a plan of action for the project; and to carry it out by themselves. Projects might be cleaning up the school or the neighbourhood; building desks or bookcases or some other needed item for the school; turning an unused lot into a playing field or garden. The important thing is that the students themselves identify the project, plan it and carry it out.

October 9 - Universal Postal Union Day

The founding date of the UN's second oldest Specialized Agency, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), established in 1874, and a UN member since 1948. The UPU makes the postal service between countries possible and

decides on postal rates, what can be sent by post and all other matters involved in the international mailing system. It is a pioneer in international co-operation, and has been called the "lifeline to the world."

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) class discussion based on different aspects of the international postal service (its history-before the UPU, how did letters go from one country to another?, its different services (letters, packages, money orders, etc.); what kinds of international co-operation are necessary (air, sea and land transportation, rates, sizes, safety regulations, etc.);
- 2) stamp exhibits; and
- 3) individual or group visits to local post offices to see how international mail is handled.

October 11 - Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1976 in a resolution demanding "the immediate and unconditional release of all persons imprisoned or restricted for their involvement in the struggle for liberation of South Africa." South Africa is ruled by a minority of four-five million white people, but the majority of the population is made up of some 22 million black Africans. The white-controlled Government enacted the laws of apartheid - the most extreme form of racial discrimination and the only one practiced by law in the world - - in 1948. Under these laws, millions of blacks and other South Africans have been imprisoned. In recent months, protest movements against apartheid have increased and the repression of the South African Government has grown more violent.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) Current Events Class students might be encouraged to clip photographs and articles on the situation in South Africa from newspapers and make displays of them for a school or class exhibit;
- 2) class discussions on how racial discrimination in South Africa can affect other nations and the world community (South African attacks on neighbouring countries to pursue alleged insurgents; economic interests of other countries in South African companies, mines and banks; multinational companies; moral indignation of people all over the world at the human rights violations of apartheid;
- 3) class discussion on other forms of discrimination and ways they can be overcome.

October 16 - World Food Day

Proclaimed in 1979 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In 1980, the UN General Assembly endorsed observance of the Day in consideration of the fact that "food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity." FAO was founded on October 16, 1945 and thus 1985 is its 40th anniversary.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) class discussions on world food problems (regions where they are worst, reasons) and solutions (increased production, elimination of waste and losses, better distribution);
- 2) students might be encouraged to do research on the different basic foods people eat in different regions (rice, wheat, corn, etc.);
- 3) individuals or groups might be encouraged to visit or speak with farmers, fishermen, food processing plant and food store employees about their work in providing food to the community;
- 4) where appropriate, students may be encouraged to provide and make up packages of food items for less fortunate families in the community.

October 17-24 - United Nations Week

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 1985 as International Youth Year with the theme: Participation, Development and Peace. Suggested day-to-day themes by the United Nations Association of the Philippines are as follows:

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|------------------------|--|
| October 17 - Thursday | - Children and Youth for World Peace |
| October 18 - Friday | - Science and Technology for Peace |
| October 19 - Saturday | - Women for Peace |
| October 20 - Sunday | - Prayers and Music for Peace |
| October 21 - Monday | - Equality and Development for Peace |
| October 22 - Tuesday | - The UN in Action for World Peace |
| October 23 - Wednesday | - Reflections on the Projections of UN Objectives in Art |
| October 24 - Thursday | - Salute to the UN on its 40th Anniversary |

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) organize poster making or painting contest on the theme for IYY;
- 2) hold essay or theme writing competition on how to expand youth participation at national, regional or local levels and publish winners in local newspapers;
- 3) organize intersectoral community-based activities for health education, nutrition, family planning and other welfare services for children and youth to facilitate self-care;
- 4) observe an international convocation program showing puppet show, music festival with songs and dances from all over the world; and
- 5) hold a costume party or parade to the theme where children and youth dress and eat like children of other parts of the world.

October 24-31 - Disarmament Week

This is an observance bringing October 24, UN Day up to the end of the month. Promulgated in 1978 following the first special session on Disarmament and later included as part of the World Disarmament Campaign adapted in 1982. It sets aside the following aims:

- Foster an international atmosphere conducive to progress in disarmament negotiation.
- Find more effective ways of alerting wider public opinion against the dangers of the arms race.
- Find new channels for publicity.
- Improve cooperation among organizations and individual activities in promoting armaments.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) Individuals and organizations can organize activities during the week and keep the UN informed so that appropriate information materials can be made available;
- 2) discuss in classes the dangers of the arms race to the whole world.

November 29 - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

This annual observance was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1977 in a resolution calling for a number of measures to disseminate information on inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the United Nations efforts to promote the attainment of their rights at the request of the General Assembly. The objectives are organized by the General Assembly in consultation with the UN Committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. A set of recommendations was endorsed by the Assembly that included a plan for the return of the Palestinian to their home in the establishment of an "Independent Palestinian entities."

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) essay or theme writing is recommended for the students to participate concerning the plight of the Palestinian people;
- 2) oratorical and extemporaneous speech for articulate students is highly encouraged.

December 10 - Human Rights Day

In 1948 the UN General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act, the UN General Assembly called upon all member countries of the UN to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read, expounded principally in schools and other educational establishments, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories,"

Since then, December 10 has been observed as Human Rights Day. Individuals and organizations have been called up to play the part in the UN's promotion of human rights and many have done so, working in their local communities in cooperation with other organizations, where efforts are effective.

Some Suggested Activities:

- 1) schools are encouraged to teach about human rights and stimulate the media to write on the subject;
- 2) Convocation programs, assemblies with talks of resource or guest speakers are suggested. Panel discussions and debates may be organized.

