fate is a prevailing ailment that taints relief efforts.

However, the Day of the African Child is also a day to recognize and acknowledge the gains that African countries have had in helping the plight of their children. The situation is, indeed, grave, but contrary to popular misconceptions, Africa has taken considerable steps in improving the lives of their children. We must whollyheartedly direct more resources toward education initiatives and community rebuilding. We do have the capability, resources, and the conditions that are favorable to the growth and creating a better life for our children. We can fight disease, illiteracy, and malnutrition with simple, low-cost solutions. It is estimated that a child in Africa can be educated for about $20 a day. With the goal of universal primary school access, the U.N. Children's Fund [UNICEF] has set the years between 1995 and 2000 as the target period to increase primary school enrollment and retention rate. This achievable goal of basic education is also geared to correct the tremendous disparity in the enrollment of female children.

In addition, the United Nations has successfully carried out Days of Tranquility during which children are immunized against the six most prevalent diseases. Warring parties have also been convinced to let convoys carrying desperately needed food and medicine to the innocent women and children trapped in war-torn areas.

For some the Day of the African Child will be a day to rejoice and enumerate the notable gains that African countries have had in helping the plight of their children. The court media coverage tended to focus on disputes between two well-known parents. The court, order, over 7 years old, does not address the current circumstances or the welfare of a young teenage child. Under the provisions of this bill, the current orders relating to the penalties to the mother and visitation by the father, would no longer be operable. However, no bar would be placed on any court from revisiting this issue at any time and weighing the markedly changed circumstances since the original court decree.

Intervention in this issue is not unprecedented, but in my judgment merited for the child's own welfare and desire to return to her native country.