

Joint Statement of Nestle

and the International Nestle Boycott Committee

The Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

October 4, 1984

On January 25, 1984, Dr. Carl Angst, Executive Vice President of Nestle, S.A., and William Thompson, representing the International Nestle Boycott Committee (INBC), signed a Joint Statement.

In this agreement, both Nestle and the INBC stated their firm commitment to see the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes implemented by governments and all parties concerned. INBC and Nestle identified four major areas related to the Code where additional efforts were agreed to. On the basis of this agreement, the INBC suspended the boycott of Nestle products and stated that in the fall of 1984, progress would be evaluated and a final decision would be made regarding the termination of the boycott.

Since January, Nestle and INBC representatives have met regularly to consult regarding progress in these four areas. A number of these meetings were held with representatives of WHO and/or UNICEF. The Nestle Infant Formula Audit Commission (NIFAC) was kept informed of these proceedings. The subjects of labels, educational materials, gifts to health professionals, and free supplies of formula to hospitals were discussed in great detail.

Through these meetings Nestle and INBC reached a satisfactory agreement that the first three subjects of the Statement of Understanding were being appropriately addressed. The fourth area of concern to Nestle and INBC, the donation of the infant formula supplies to hospitals for infants who have to be fed on breastmilk substitutes requires a definition of "have to be fed", i.e., the criteria by which infants fed on infant formula or other breastmilk substitutes could qualify for free supplies.

WHO developed a plan, presented by Dr. David Tejada de Rivero, Assistant Director General of WHO, whereby WHO and UNICEF can give technical advice to governments which will develop definitions based on that advice, with input from industry and consumer groups. Nestle and INBC pledge to cooperate fully in the implementation of the Tejada Plan around the world.

Nestle and INBC offer their full cooperation to WHO, UNICEF and governments to work jointly in developing definitions and implementation procedures for hospitals and health professionals for the limited use of free supplies within hospitals. INBC welcomes Nestle's policy goal that "... in order to remove even the slightest risk of discouraging breastfeeding and to prevent any possibility of even unwillingly promoting routinization of bottlefeeding, discharge packs should be stopped." However, INBC is aware of Nestle's statement that a single member of industry cannot bring about this change in isolation, and that therefore a cooperative effort is required.

Nestle and INBC recognize that throughout the resolution of this issue honest differences between both parties frequently arose and that, while these may occur as our consultations continue, the basic commitment to the WHO International Code by both sides will prevail.

INBC shall continue to observe carefully Nestle's marketing practices and cooperate with NIPAC in the investigation of allegations of violations of the WHO International Code. Nestle shall continue to rely upon the Nestle Infant Formula Audit Commission to investigate allegations of deviations from established infant formula marketing policy.

Nestle and INBC welcome WHO and UNICEF's advice in providing clarifications and definitions which would aid in expediting effective implementation of the WHO International Code. Nestle and INBC will continue to urge national governments to bring about measures which will ensure compliance by all with the WHO International Code in all countries and pledge their cooperation in these efforts.

Recognizing the substantial progress Nestle has made in implementing the WHO International Code INBC has voted to recommend full termination of the international boycott of the company.

In addition, separate discussions were held in Europe about the application of the Code in European nations. Nestle and the INBC have agreed to continue discussions about ways to expedite implementation of the Code in all countries as appropriate to their social and legislative framework.

Nestle and INBC are convinced that the steps they are committed to contribute to the safe and adequate nutrition for infants, protect and promote breastfeeding and ensure the proper use of breastmilk substitutes, when these are necessary, on the basis of adequate information and through appropriate marketing and distribution.

Lastly, Nestle and INBC call upon all concerned to join this process so that the application of the WHO International Code can be more quickly achieved in all countries, and our joint commitment to improved infant health more tangibly realized.

Dr. Carl L. Angst  
for Nestle

Mrs. Patricia Young  
for INBC