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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Monday, 19 June 1950, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Draft resolution submitted by the representative of Yugoslavia inviting the Government of the People's Republic of China to take part in the work of the Executive Board of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund;
Adoption of the provisional agenda;
Appointment of a drafting committee;
Contribution of Brazil;
Reports of the Executive Director of UNICEF on his visit to the South Pacific, South-East Asia, the Middle East and Europe;
Reports of the Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/R.67, E/ICEF/146, E/ICEF/147, E/ICEF/R.34/Corr.1, E/ICEF/114/Add.3, E/ICEF/132/Rev.1/Add.1/Corr.1, E/ICEF/148/Corr.1, E/ICEF/149, E/ICEF/150);
Report of the Programme Committee (E/ICEF/R.75)

Chairmen:

Mr. SUTCH

New Zealand

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Members:

Mr. QUESADA	Argentina
Mr. SHANN	Australia
Mr. de OURO PRETO	} Brazil
Mr. OZORIO DE ALMEIDA	
Mrs. SINCLAIR	Canada
Mr. TSAO	China
Mr. HOLTEN EGGERT	Denmark
Mr. APUNTE	Ecuador
Mr. AMANRICH	France
Mr. PESMAZOGLU	Greece
Mr. KHALIDY	Iraq
Miss WITTEVEEN	Netherlands
Mr. HANCKE	Norway
Mr. AREVALO	Peru
Mr. WOLLIN	Sweden
Mr. PESTALOZZI	Switzerland
Mr. HAHN	Union of South Africa
Mr. LEDWARD	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Miss LENROOT	United States of America
Mr. PLEIC	Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss SCOTT	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. PATTON	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Dr. INGALLS	World Health Organization (WHO)

UNICEF administration:

Mr. PATE	Director-General of UNICEF
Mr. HEYWARD	Deputy Director of UNICEF
Mr. CHARNOW	Secretary of the Executive Board
General ROOKS	Fund-Raising Co-ordinator

/DRAFT

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YUGOSLAVIA INVITING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO TAKE PART IN THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF

1. Mr. PLEIC (Yugoslavia) submitted the following draft resolution:

"The Executive Board of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund invites the Government of the People's Republic of China to take part in its work."

2. The CHAIRMAN did not think that the Executive Board of UNICEF was competent to consider the draft resolution presented by Yugoslavia. A similar resolution had been submitted at an earlier meeting of the Executive Board, when it had been decided that that matter did not come within the Board's competence. The same attitude should consequently be adopted in regard to the draft resolution now before the Board. He therefore ruled that the Yugoslav draft resolution was not admissible.

3. Mr. TSAO (China) approved of the Chairman's decision. He thanked the Yugoslav representative for his interest in the population and children of China, but pointed out that his proposal, though well meant, was based on incorrect information. It was true that a population of 450 million should be represented on the Executive Board of UNICEF, but the point at issue was which Government was legally entitled to do so. He would not enter into political considerations, but would merely point out that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the puppet of a foreign Government. The Yugoslav representative was doubtless unaware of the existing situation in China.

4. The question arose whether the Government of the People's Republic of China was capable of providing the necessary aid to the children of China; judging by certain reports that was not so.

5. In regard to the procedural question raised by the Yugoslav proposal, he agreed with the Chairman's view that the Board was not competent to decide which Government should represent China on the Board. The Executive Board of UNICEF was not an independent body. The question, moreover, was political rather than administrative. The matter had already been raised under another form at the preceding session of the Board, which had then decided that it

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was not qualified to discuss the question. Its position regarding the Yugoslav draft resolution was therefore perfectly clear, and he wholeheartedly supported the Chairman's decision.

6. Mr. PIETIC (Yugoslavia) disagreed with the view that the Board was not competent to consider his draft resolution and therefore challenged the Chairman's ruling.

7. The CHAIRMAN put the question to the vote.

The Chairman's ruling was upheld by 9 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

8. Miss IENROOT (United States of America) explained that she had voted against the Chairman's ruling, not because she had wished to take up a position on the substance of the question but in order to be consistent with her previous vote in identical circumstances.

9. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) gave the same explanation of her vote against the Chairman's ruling.

10. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) had voted in favour of the Chairman's ruling because she felt that the Executive Board of UNICEF was not an independent body and could not, therefore, consider a draft resolution such as the one submitted by the Yugoslav representative.

ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

11. The CHAIRMAN asked the Executive Board whether it had any comments to make on the provisional agenda for the session.

As there were no comments the provisional agenda was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF A DRAFTING COMMITTEE

12. The CHAIRMAN called upon the Board to appoint the members of the drafting committee which was to prepare the report on the current session. He proposed the representatives of Brazil, France and the Netherlands.

The representatives of Brazil, France and the Netherlands were appointed members of the Drafting Committee.

/13. Mr. AMANRICH

13. Mr. AMANRICH (France) thanked the Board for the honour it had conferred upon him, and hoped that the Drafting Committee would be able to meet as soon as possible as he would be obliged to leave New York within a few days.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that that would be arranged. The Secretariat of UNICEF had done admirable work in preparing the necessary material, which would greatly facilitate the work of the Board.

CONTRIBUTION OF BRAZIL

15. Mr. de OURO PRETO (Brazil) informed the Board that his country was making its first direct contribution to UNICEF of 2 million cruzeiros, of which 1,700,000 cruzeiros would be allocated to the work of UNICEF outside Brazil. Brazil had already contributed indirectly to the work of UNICEF by the introduction of a national child welfare programme.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF ON HIS VISIT TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE

16. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Brazilian Government for its generous contribution. He then called upon the Board to examine the report of the Director-General of UNICEF whom he had already asked to report briefly to the Board on his prolonged visit to Europe, the Middle East, South-East Asia and the South Pacific.

17. Mr. PATE (Director-General) said that he had returned to headquarters at the end of the previous month after an absence of two and a half months. He had begun by flying to Australia and New Zealand, both of which countries had shown great interest in the work of UNICEF, and had given it considerable financial and moral support. In Australia he had met Dr. Chisholm, Director-General of the World Health Organization, who was also on a visit to that country. He had then journeyed to Indonesia with Dr. Cottrell of WHO, Dr. Watt and Dr. Cumpston, who had been in charge of the Health Services in Australia for 31 years and had now retired.

/18. In Indonesia

18. In Indonesia he had been joined by Mr. Schmittlinger, UNICEF Programme Co-ordinator, and Mr. Keeny, Director of the Bangkok office. He had visited Jakarta, Jogjakarta and several villages in which he had seen the first results of the campaign against yaws. That was a striking example of the useful work which could be accomplished in the South Pacific countries. In Indonesia there was one doctor to every 70,000 persons. The medical staff was competent but unfortunately too small. The equipment and materials allocated for child health work in Indonesia would enable the programme in that field to be further extended.

19. At Bangkok he had met representatives of WHO, with whom he had examined the plans for the Asian countries, and had taken certain preliminary decisions on that subject. He had then visited Burma, India and Pakistan. Dr. Watt of New Zealand, when he was Director of the Bangkok office, had done admirable work in placing the work of UNICEF on a solid foundation. All the Governments of Asia had shown great interest in that work, and had provided credits in their budgets for matching UNICEF supplies. They had also prepared excellent plans for utilizing UNICEF assistance.

20. In Calcutta he had visited the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, which had done splendid work. In New Delhi he had met Colonel Lakshmanan and other Indian Government officials and they had made provisional arrangements regarding the Calcutta Centre, which was to be financed by the Government of India and UNICEF.

21. In the Asian countries he had visited he had made a point of going to small towns and villages in order to get an idea of the conditions prevailing in rural areas and to study methods of improving them. It was in areas far from urban centres that children were in most need of help.

22. After Dr. Watt and Dr. Cumpston had left, he had visited the Middle East, accompanied by Mr. Schmittlinger, UNICEF Programme Co-ordinator. They had visited refugee camps. He had been gratified to see that the children were in good physical condition, thanks to the medical attention they were receiving from WHO. It was interesting to note in that connexion that of 10 million dollars worth of UNICEF supplies, approximately 450,000 dollars represented medical and pharmaceutical products. The most pressing problem was, however, to find work for the refugees. In Israel Mr. Pate had visited a number of centres for children. In that country also the work of UNICEF was deeply appreciated. In Northern Greece he had visited a number of villages which were being rebuilt after the war, in the company of the Greek representative, Mr. Pesmazoglu.

/23. In Rome

23. In Rome he had taken advantage of the fact that the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization was meeting in that city to make a statement on UNICEF's current activities and future plans in the sphere of child welfare.

24. At Geneva he had attended several meetings of the World Health Assembly and of committees of the World Health Organization and had made a statement to its Executive Board on UNICEF operating methods. He had also studied plans for co-operation in the field between UNICEF and WHO with Dr. Chisholm. At Berne he had had interviews with the President of the Swiss Confederation and with the Swiss Foreign Minister. Finally, he had been in touch with the heads of the European missions who were meeting in Paris.

25. He was glad to report that, given an average harvest, the food situation in Europe was expected to show a considerable improvement. The chief cause of concern was the shortage of milk in Albania, northern Greece, southern Yugoslavia and southern Italy. The only new allocations of foodstuffs, which were planned for Europe in the current year, were for Greece and Yugoslavia.

26. In conclusion, Mr. Pate said that he planned to visit the Latin American countries in the autumn in order to get a first hand impression of the progress made.

27. The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Pate for his statement and for the work he had undertaken in the course of his travels. He invited General Rocks, Fund Raising Co-ordinator, to make a statement.

28. General ROCKS (Fund Raising Co-ordinator) said that he was glad to report that since the previous session of the Executive Board contributions or pledges amounting to 1,117,420 dollars had been received from 14 additional countries; if the contribution promised by the Government of Brazil was included, the number of contributing countries was brought up to 43. That announcement was a source of great satisfaction to the UNICEF Administration. The Board knew that during the past few years it had been a matter of great importance that contributions from Governments should reach a sum which matched the contribution of the United States of America. That object had now been attained.

/29. The Board

29. The Board was aware that the United States Congress had recently passed the Foreign Economic Assistance Act of 1950, an extract from which was given in Annex III of the report before the Board, (E/ICEF/R.67). The Act provided for the appropriation of 15 million dollars for the financial year ending 30 June 1951, which would be used either for permanent child welfare programmes within the framework of the United Nations or else to meet the needs of UNICEF. It was the intention of Congress to prevent any interruption of UNICEF's work by providing the necessary funds to enable it to carry on until the United Nations had made permanent arrangements for child welfare work. The UNICEF Administration interpreted paragraph 501 (b) of Chapter V of the Foreign Economic Assistance Act to mean that the President of the United States would fix the ratio of the United States' matching contribution to those of other countries. That ratio might remain at the present generous level of 72-28, or it might be lower. The Senate Appropriations Committee was considering appropriations under the Act and there was every indication that a favourable decision would be reached in four to six weeks' time.

30. With regard to private contributions to the United Nations Appeal for Children, there was nothing to add to the Executive Director's report.

31. Mr. PESMAZOGLIU (Greece) thanked the Executive Director of the Fund for giving a general picture of the situation in Greece.

32. The war, which had begun in Greece in 1940, had only come to a close at the end of 1949, as the struggle had been carried on underground throughout the enemy occupation and fighting had continued long after the liberation, at a time when the other countries of Europe were on the way to reconstruction and recovery.

33. The territory of Greece had been laid waste by war for a period of ten years; 800,000 refugees, or one tenth of the population, had been driven from their ruined homes. The resettlement of those refugees was a crucial problem for Greece and the Executive Director of UNICEF, when in that country, had been able to see for himself the precarious conditions in which those unfortunate people were living, despite the efforts that had been made to help them.

34. They had not, however, lost hope and had resolutely embarked on the work of reconstruction. They had cultivated the land and had built temporary homes. They were demanding that schools should be rebuilt for their children and teachers provided for them. They were refusing to be crushed by fate.

/They were

They were the type of outcasts which the founders of UNICEF had had in mind. Their children were in greater need of UNICEF help than ever before and it was vital that such help should be given in the coming winter.

35. On behalf of the Greek Government, Mr. Pesmazoglu thanked the Executive Director on UNICEF for the breadth of vision, the humanity and the fresh and constructive spirit in which ^{he} had undertaken his inquiries and had approached the problem as a whole. He also expressed the gratitude of the Greek families and their children who had benefited from the effective and generous help given by UNICEF.

36. Mr. SHANN (Australia) thanked the Executive Director, on behalf of his Government, for the work he had done in Australia and the countries of Asia. The Australian Government, which had not at first been entirely satisfied with the progress of UNICEF's work in Asia, had been glad to see that it had recently been accelerated. He had already stated his views to the Programme Committee on the order of priority to be established for UNICEF assistance, and would reiterate that the most urgent need was for action in the medical field, i.e. to assist countries in setting up dispensaries and medical training centres, and that the other programmes to be carried out should be, in order of urgency, the campaign against malaria and yaws, the anti-tuberculosis campaign, and the maternity and child health programmes.

37. Miss LENROOT (United States of America) expressed the gratification of her delegation at the generous offer of the Government of Brazil. Congress had given evidence, by its adoption of the recent Act, of the desire of the United States that whatever permanent financial arrangements were made eventually should embody the principle of matching.

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF (E/ICEF/R.67, E/ICEF/146, E/ICEF/147, E/ICEF/R.34/Corr.1, E/ICEF/114/Add.3, E/ICEF/132/Rev.1/Add.1/Corr.1, E/ICEF/148/Corr.1, E/ICEF/149, E/ICEF/150)

38. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the members of the Board wished to make any observations with regard to the various reports listed in item 2 of the agenda.

39. At the request of Mr. PATE (Executive Director), Mr. DAVIDSON (Director, European Headquarters) presented the progress report on the milk conservation project (E/ICEF/148). He was happy to be able to state that very rapid progress had been achieved, and that the shipment of supplies was already well advanced; it was expected that the majority of deliveries would have been completed by the autumn. A few would be continued until the end of the year, and those to Greece until 31 March.

40. He paid a tribute to the achievements of the Governments participating in the programmes; UNICEF's role had been limited to furnishing the countries with supplies which they could not procure on the spot. Hence financial contributions by Governments had frequently amounted to several times the actual value of the supplies furnished by UNICEF.

41. Mr. PATE (Executive Director), referring to the report on the use of UNICEF raw materials in Europe for the manufacture of children's shoes, clothing, and supplies for hospitals and children's homes (E/ICEF/150), stressed the fact that while UNICEF's financial contribution had amounted to almost 6 million dollars, the manufacturing costs, which had been borne by the recipient countries, had been twice that amount. He observed that receiving countries greatly preferred raw materials to finished goods, as the furnishing of raw materials enabled them to contribute directly to improving the condition of their children, and also to assist a much larger number of children.

3. Report of the Programme Committee (E/ICEF/R.75)

42. The CHAIRMAN invited the Chairman of the Programme Committee to explain the general outlines of the report.

43. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada), Chairman of the Programme Committee, asked whether, in the opinion of the members of the Board, the summary review of UNICEF activities mentioned in paragraph 4 of the report should form one chapter of the Executive Board's report to the Economic and Social Council, or be issued as a separate document.

44. Mr. AMANRICH (France) suggested that that question should be taken up in connexion with the consideration of item 6 of the agenda, which dealt with the continuing needs of children.

It was so decided.

45. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada), Chairman of the Programme Committee, said that in view of the cessation of UNICEF operations in Romania, the Programme Committee had recommended that the balance of the credit for Romania should be returned to the general reserve. That recommendation was set forth in paragraph 11 of the report.

46. Mr. PLEIC (Yugoslavia) objected to the wording of the third sentence of paragraph 11, which implied that that recommendation had been made because the Executive Director had observed an improvement in food production in Romania. It could not in fairness be positively affirmed that the food situation in Romania had improved until the result of the harvest was known.

47. Mr. PATE (Executive Director) agreed that the wording of the sentence could be improved by saying that the Executive Director felt that after the next harvest the food situation in Romania would be improved. He added that if the Romanian Government requested assistance as regards feeding, the Administration would not hesitate to recommend favourable action on such a request by the Board.

48. Mr. LEDWARD (United Kingdom) pointed out that in considering the balance of the credit for Romania, no account had been taken of the stocks referred to in the report of the Committee of Auditors. He would revert to that question when the report of the Committee on Administrative Budget was being drawn up.

49. Mr. PATE (Executive Director) said that the stocks in question consisted chiefly of reserves of powdered milk; he assured the Board that the distribution of those stocks had continued after the cessation of the programme. It was regrettable that UNICEF had received no reports on the operations in question.

50. Mr. OZORIO DE ALMEIDA (Brazil) recalled that during its session in July 1948, the Executive Board had decided that priority should be given to regions outside Europe when the next allocations were made for 1949 from reserves and supplementary funds (E/901, paragraph 56). The Board had borne that decision in mind when preparing its financial estimates for the period ending 30 June 1950. The division of funds among the various regions had been as follows:

Europe, 30.9 per cent of the total resources; Asia, 35.7 per cent; Latin America, 4.7 per cent; Palestine refugees, 4.7 per cent; other countries, not specified, 24 per cent.

51. Thus the Board, at least in theory, had endeavoured to apply the principles which it had itself formulated. Since that time, however, the Administration had proposed allocations which contravened those principles, and in June 1949 the Board had decided to allocate 47 per cent of available resources to Europe, while Asia received 28 per cent instead of 35.7 per cent, and Latin America received 3.6 per cent instead of the 4.7 per cent which it should have had.

52. The preceding March, all allocations made had been for the benefit of Europe and the Middle East, while Asia and Latin America had received nothing. In actual fact, of the 25 million dollars allocated since the adoption of the budget, Europe had received 49.5 per cent, Asia 27.7 per cent, the Middle East 16.2 per cent, and Latin America 7.3 per cent.

53. In his opinion, therefore, the Board was very far from carrying out the decisions it had taken, and, what was even more serious, the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

54. He quoted paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 318 (IV), in which the Assembly "notes with approval the decisions of the Executive Board of the Fund to devote henceforth a greater share of the Fund's resources to the development of programmes outside Europe".

55. He urged the members of the Board to adhere to the terms of that resolution when allocating the funds currently available to UNICEF. The special circumstances which had arisen from the war no longer prevailed; the criterion for the allocation of funds should be simply the improvement of the condition of children in general. If mortality rates were considered, the condition of the children of Asia and Latin America was more serious than that of the children of Europe.

56. Unquestionably the children of some parts of Europe stood in need of assistance. Their needs, however, must be compared with those of the children of other areas before new allocations were made; otherwise there was danger that the Board might make ill-considered allocations, disregarding the principles laid down by the General Assembly after long study.

57. He pointed out that the reserve for Latin America amounted at present to only 400,000 dollars, a sum which would be insufficient to carry out the programme under consideration; he therefore suggested that a credit of 1,200,000 dollars should be allocated to Latin America.

58. The Administration had said that the financial participation of some European countries was greater than that of UNICEF itself. That fact, far from constituting an argument in favour of prolonging UNICEF programmes in Europe, should impel the organization to turn its efforts toward countries which could not afford such heavy expenditure.

59. Referring to the programme of cod-liver oil distribution and to the allocation of funds for the purchase of medical supplies, he expressed surprise that the Administration had not investigated the needs of children in areas outside Europe.

60. He did not wish to submit a specific proposal as regards allocations, but he did not feel that the procedure followed by the Administration was satisfactory, since it forced the Programme Committee and the Board to withdraw funds from one country in order to give to another. In his opinion the only remedy for that situation lay in a more equitable distribution of the available funds. He therefore proposed that, of the available funds, 1,200,000 dollars should be allocated to Latin America and 1,180,000 dollars to the Middle East. Such a division would reduce the allocation to Europe to 582,000 dollars, if the reserve fund and the allocation for freight were maintained at their present level. It should be remembered, however, that the reserve had now been increased, and that the amount set aside for freight costs might be slightly reduced.

61. He therefore proposed that 200,000 dollars should be deducted from the freight allocation and 600,000 dollars from the general reserve, a measure which would make it possible to raise the allocation for Europe to 1,382,000 dollars.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

7/7 a.m.