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ON PAGES 48 AND 49 OF TEMPORARY SOCIAL COMMISSION REPORT.

Statement by Mrs. Krista Djordjevic.

In countries where the war was fought, where everything, so to speak was burned and devastated, the question of the children is a most painful and urgent one. However, the proposal that on-the-spot missions be sent, seems to me to be unacceptable because much time will be lost. It has been proved that before the war there were difficulties in sending such missions. Now, when travelling is more difficult, not to say impossible, because of the recent war, especially in the countries in question, and when there are no possibilities of proper food and lodging even for the inhabitants, it is hard to imagine that a mission would learn more and see more than if the governments of the respective countries would submit reports on the situation.

Further, until the proposal would be accepted by the Economic and Social Council, and until the mission could be formed, much precious time would pass. There is a saying in my country, "Quick help is double help". Therefore, I think it would be most advisable if the countries in question would submit immediate reports to the Commission, which after approval by the Council, should come to their aid; not only with advice but with those goods which children of such devastated countries need most. In my own country of Yugoslavia, we have done much in this direction since the liberation. 65,000 children were placed in about 650 homes and about 50,000 were placed in the care of families, mostly peasants. The Czechoslovakian Government took more than 3,000 children and housed them in various factories, taking over complete care of them. There is still almost as great a number of children, who have not as yet been placed anywhere. The difficulty lies in the fact that there are not inventories for the homes, and private persons are not in a position to take in children as they

themselves are inadequately housed. I believe that the situation is similar in all countries through which the enemy has passed. In Greece it may be even worse. Therefore, help to neglected and orphaned children is most urgent, and this problem should be quickly and practically solved. This means just one thing - immediate material help.
