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Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark) .

AGENDA ITEM 12

**Report of the Economic and Social Council
(chapter VI, section II) (A/3154, A/C.3/L.506)**

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that under General Assembly resolution 417 (V) the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) comprised the eighteen States represented on the Social Commission and eight other States, not necessarily Members of the United Nations, which were designated by the Economic and Social Council for three-year terms. The Council had decided that it would be desirable to separate the membership of the Board from that of the Social Commission, and in its resolution 610 B (XXI) had recommended a suitable amendment to paragraph 6 (a) of resolution 417 (V). If the General Assembly accepted the proposal, the present members of the Board would serve until their terms of office had expired, and new members would then be elected under the procedure proposed by the Council. The first elections under the new procedure would be held at the resumed twenty-second session of the Council, in December 1956.

2. He invited Mr. Rajan, the Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF, to make a statement.

3. Mr. RAJAN (Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF) said that in 1956, UNICEF activity had reached its highest peak since the Fund had been given its present terms of reference. Total allocations for programmes had amounted to \$21.5 million in 1956, as compared with \$14.4 million in 1955 and \$17.1 million in 1954. The total number of beneficiaries had risen to 37 million in 1956, as compared with 32.5 million in 1955. In 1956, 98 different countries were receiving services under 311 UNICEF programmes, 305 of which were long-range.

4. One-third of the Fund's total allocations for 1956 had been earmarked for 46 anti-malaria programmes, 23 of which aimed at eradicating the disease completely in certain areas. Fourteen malaria eradication programmes were being carried out in Latin America, 7 in the Eastern Mediterranean area and 2 in Asia. During 1956, ten million mothers and children would be protected against malaria. Yaws programmes were

being carried out in 24 countries, and 5.7 million mothers and children had been treated by the middle of 1956. During 1956, 43.3 million children would be examined for tuberculosis and 15.5 million given preventive treatment with BCG vaccine, bringing the total number of children vaccinated by the end of the year to 77.1 million. There were 12 leprosy programmes, the largest ones in French Equatorial Africa and Nigeria. Under the 9 trachoma programmes, 632,000 children would be treated during 1956. Furthermore, 3.8 million children in 56 different countries had been the beneficiaries of feeding programmes carried out through maternal and child welfare centres and a further 2 million from emergency feeding programmes in 6 other countries. Under the milk conservation programmes, 178 plants had been authorized, 132 of which were already in operation, mainly in Europe. In the field of maternal and child welfare, 91 programmes had been carried out in 65 countries. Equipment would be supplied to some 11,000 rural centres and over 12,000 centres would receive drugs, diet supplements and soap.

5. The figures were impressive, but the reality behind them was even more so. Land that had been malarial swamp was now being cultivated. Yaws, trachoma and leprosy were becoming less terrifying scourges. Millions of children in under-developed areas were receiving milk, and were growing up with healthy bodies and the energy to improve conditions around them. Thousands had been saved from premature death by the mother and child welfare centres. Saving life was not an expensive luxury. The five-year malaria eradication programme undertaken in Mexico was costing about \$1.50 per person, counting the cost both to the Government and to UNICEF. The total cost to UNICEF and the Governments of treating a child for yaws or trachoma was about \$1. For the same amount, a child could be supplied with milk for about one year, thanks to the generosity of the United States of America in supplying dried milk, on which UNICEF paid only the freight and the Government the internal distribution costs.

6. Since the inception of the Mexican malaria eradication programme eighteen months previously, the number of such programmes had increased to 23. Most of them formed part of a larger project: the complete eradication of malaria from large areas, such as Latin America and the Middle East. Despite the technical difficulties which existed in those areas, there were grounds for hope that malaria would be eliminated within the next five or six years. That would indeed be a great achievement. Similar success could eventually be expected from the treatment of yaws in Asia and of leprosy in Africa and elsewhere. It was hoped that means would be found to treat tuberculosis with the help of new drugs, instead of concentrating on prevention only, as had been done so far. Much remained to be done in child nutrition in some areas where no action had yet been possible.

7. However, as the Executive Director had pointed out to the Executive Board, the increasing demand would have to be met by an increase in government contributions. In 1957, UNICEF would need \$1.3 million more and in 1958 \$2.9 million more than its current income; by 1960 its operating budget would need to reach \$30.5 million. Those figures might appear high, but they should be considered in the light of the Fund's past achievements and its future needs. That Governments had full confidence in UNICEF was proved by their contributions to its budget, which had reached \$17.2 million for the current year, the largest amount since 1950, when UNICEF had begun to operate under its new mandate; but needs were growing. The emergency programmes for Europe had helped the continent to recover from the devastation of war, but the problems of the under-developed areas could not be solved on an emergency basis. Children who now had limited chances of survival and a grim, under-nourished future in a disease-ridden world must be helped to live in a brighter world. Governments were aware of the need for change but they would need assistance if the spectre of poverty, with all its attendant evils, was finally to be vanquished.

8. The observance of a Universal Children's Day was one method of stimulating public interest in, and understanding of, such problems. The response to the circular letter of inquiry which the Executive Director of UNICEF had addressed to eighty-three Governments requesting information on the methods by which they intended to observe Universal Children's Day had been somewhat slow but had gathered momentum. More than fifty Governments had replied so far, stating that they had designated such a day and, in many cases, outlining their plans for its celebration. There could be no doubt that it would promote a feeling of brotherhood among the children of the world and a better understanding of existing needs and of the aims and activities of the United Nations.

9. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF for his statement.

10. Mr. EPINAT (France) paid a tribute to the work of UNICEF and stressed the need for Governments to support its work.

11. Introducing the draft resolution submitted by Canada, France and the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.506), he said that its purpose was the same as that of resolution 610 B (XXI) of the Economic and Social Council—to improve the operation of UNICEF by giving adequate representation on the UNICEF Executive Board to countries which wished to participate actively in the work of the Fund.

12. At present, eighteen members of the Social Commission were automatically members of the Executive Board; but a given country might not attach the same importance to UNICEF as it did to social matters, or *vice versa*. It would therefore be preferable for all twenty-six members of the Board to be elected direct. Such a procedure would also solve a practical problem, which had arisen when the Economic and Social Council had decided to extend the term of office of the members of the Social Commission from three to four years. As a result of that decision, eighteen of the Board's members currently served for four years, whereas the eight others were elected for only three years.

13. It would have been possible to change the election procedure more radically than was proposed under Council resolution 610 B (XXI) or than would be the case if the three-Power draft resolution was adopted. The twenty-six members of the Board might all have been asked to withdraw and an entirely new Board elected, the members serving for terms of one, two or three years, the terms to be decided by drawing lots.

14. Although the sponsors of the draft resolution had not considered such a procedure completely unacceptable, they had felt that the rights of the existing members of the Social Commission who were *ex officio* members of the Board should be respected. They had therefore proposed a formula which provided for a gradual change-over. Nine countries would be nominated to the Board at the end of 1956; six of them would replace members of the Social Commission and the three others would replace three elected members. They would all serve until the end of 1959. In 1957, eight new members would be elected, only two of the replaced members being elected members. The term of office of those eight new members would expire at the end of 1960. At the end of 1958, three elected members would be replaced by three new elected members, who would serve for the period 1959 to 1961. At the end of 1959, the Economic and Social Council would have to elect six members to replace the last six of the members of the Social Commission to be replaced on the Board. They would be elected for two years only, so that the normal system of replacing one-third of the members could be resumed in 1961. The members appointed at the end of 1956 would be replaced by nine others for the period 1960 to 1962.

15. Mrs. SHIPLEY (Canada) said that her country's interest in and support of UNICEF were well known. She was happy to be able to announce that the Canadian Government would make the same contribution to UNICEF in 1957 as it had made in 1956.

16. Canada had been one of the sponsors of resolution 610 B (XXI) in the Economic and Social Council and was co-sponsoring the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506). Her delegation's purpose in both cases had been to improve the operation of the Executive Board and to enable as large a number of countries as possible to play an active role on it.

17. Two considerations had prompted the proposed changes. First, the fact that the term of office of the members of the Social Commission had been extended to four years had introduced an element of confusion in the representation on the Executive Board, as the elected members of the Board had been nominated for only three years. Secondly, many delegations had felt for some time that all the members of the Executive Board of UNICEF should be elected direct to the Board. The countries interested in election to the Social Commission were not necessarily equally interested in serving on the Board. If all its members were elected, the Board would represent the countries really interested in the work of UNICEF.

18. Resolution 610 B (XXI) of the Economic and Social Council on the same subject had been adopted unanimously. She expressed the hope that the three-Power draft resolution would meet with similar support.

19. Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom) expressed her Government's satisfaction with the reports on the activities of UNICEF and its whole-hearted support of the Fund's work, which was of the greatest importance to every nation. The improvement of the health and welfare of millions of children was an investment in the happiness and prosperity of society throughout the world.

20. The activities of UNICEF were expanding rapidly. In 1954, 28.3 million mothers and children had benefited by its programmes; the figure for 1956 was 39.5 million. Three hundred and five programmes were now being carried on in 98 countries, 43 more than in 1954. Malaria, which had cost affected countries millions of dollars a year, had been eradicated in Europe and the Mediterranean area, and successful techniques had been devised for fighting other infectious diseases. The development of child welfare centres, provided that they could be staffed with qualified personnel, would lead to the prevention of much ill health and the avoidance of malnutrition through the propagation of training and knowledge and the supply of milk and other foodstuffs. The large quantities of food distributed with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations would help to lower the death-rate among children in underdeveloped areas, in some of which one child in ten died before reaching the age of one year. The nations of the world were meeting the challenge of such conditions by supporting UNICEF. Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals were uniting in their efforts to continue and expand the activities of UNICEF, which the organization of Universal Children's Day would undoubtedly help to publicize.

21. Turning to the draft resolution, of which her delegation was a co-sponsor, she reminded the Committee of the Economic and Social Council's decision, taken with no opposing vote, to recommend that the membership of the Executive Board should be dissociated from that of the Social Commission. It might be argued that the present system had the advantage of ensuring co-ordination between the Social Commission's work and that of UNICEF; however, the reports of UNICEF were now made direct to the Council, and although the original intention had been that States should send the same representatives to the Commission and to the Board, that seldom happened in practice. Moreover, since the establishment of the present procedure, the work of UNICEF had been closely co-ordinated at all levels with the social work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Accordingly, the time had come to bring the membership of the Board up to date by deciding that all its members should be appointed direct by the Council.

22. Mr. PUDLAK (Czechoslovakia) expressed deep appreciation of the work done by UNICEF for the children of the entire world. He hoped that UNICEF would receive sufficient funds to be able to expand its activities further, in order to meet urgent needs. His Government would make a sizable contribution to the budget of UNICEF, as it had in the past.

23. It would set a tone of harmonious co-operation at the current session if the Committee could adopt unanimously the draft resolution dealing with the first item on its agenda. At the twenty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, such harmony had not been achieved on account of the fact that in its resolu-

tion 610 B (XXI) the Council had abandoned the principle laid down in General Assembly resolution 417 (V)—that the Executive Board of UNICEF could also include States "not necessarily Members of the United Nations". The draft resolution submitted by Canada, France and the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.506) sought to restrict the membership of the Executive Board. In a spirit of compromise, and in the hope of achieving unanimity, he would not repeat the proposal made in the Council, that the words in the draft resolution "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies" should be replaced by the language of the General Assembly resolution, but would suggest instead that they should be deleted. The trend towards universality manifested in the recent admission of new Members to the United Nations would be furthered by such an amendment, and he hoped that it would meet with the Committee's approval.

24. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran) thanked Mr. Rajan for his brilliant report, and reaffirmed his country's strong interest in the work of UNICEF. It was obvious that if it was to cope with its task adequately, UNICEF would need more funds. Iran had greatly increased its own contribution in recent years, and he hoped that other countries would do likewise.

25. Since the activities of UNICEF had been expanding, there was every justification for increasing the membership of the Executive Board along the lines suggested in the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) and instituting a system of direct election. Such a change would enable some of the new Members to take part in the direction of the activities of UNICEF. He would therefore vote for the draft resolution.

26. Mr. GREENBAUM (United States of America) also supported the draft resolution. The membership of the Executive Board of UNICEF had originally been linked with that of the Social Commission for purposes of co-ordination, but experience had shown that there were better ways of co-ordinating the social work of the United Nations. The proposed change should be to the advantage of both the Social Commission and UNICEF.

27. The United Nations Children's Fund had an outstanding record of achievement, and he congratulated it, the specialized agencies which had collaborated with it, and the assisted countries themselves on their remarkable performance. The Fund deserved all the support the various countries could give it. An important aspect of its work was that it generally initiated programmes which the assisted countries were then able to carry on themselves. Furthermore, its humanitarian endeavours were also important from the economic point of view: whereas sick and undernourished children were a burden on society, healthy children were an economic advantage. Lastly, since the assisted countries themselves played so important a part in the programmes, the work of UNICEF was not charity, but international co-operation at its best.

28. The financial support which the United States Government was gladly giving to UNICEF was only one indication of the admiration of the people of the United States for its work. The pennies collected by millions of children on Halloween strikingly illustrated the widespread enthusiasm for UNICEF throughout the United States.

29. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her Government, being convinced of the usefulness of international collaboration in social matters, had contributed large sums to UNICEF and had taken an active part in its work, with a view to ensuring that the most effective use should be made of available resources. It believed that the Fund should have the best possible administrative organization, and it considered the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) with that in view.

30. She agreed with the sponsors of the draft resolution that the system of membership of the Executive Board should be simplified, and that direct election would best achieve that purpose. However, as the Czechoslovak representative had pointed out, the General Assembly had felt that the humanitarian activities of UNICEF should extend to all children who needed help, whatever country they lived in. It had therefore decided to permit States not Members of the United Nations to sit on the Executive Board. Despite that, the Economic and Social Council had taken the view that membership in the Executive Board should be restricted to Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies; and that position was also reflected in the draft resolution before the Committee. Such a policy unjustly excluded countries which might well be interested in UNICEF and be able to contribute to its work. Political considerations should not be injected into what was a purely humanitarian question. She therefore hoped that the majority of the Committee would agree that non-member States should not be precluded from making their contribution to UNICEF, and would delete the relevant passage in the draft resolution.

31. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that UNICEF was a great and successful experiment in human solidarity. Its name had become a new word in the universal language of man; it was understood everywhere, and UNICEF itself was welcome everywhere. In its work, UNICEF rose above the fears and anxieties of the contemporary world and brought with it the hope of peace and a better future for all mankind.

32. All of its programmes were useful; some, like the malaria eradication programme, which was eliminating an age-old scourge, appeared miraculous. The maternal and child welfare programmes could not be commended too highly. The accomplishments of UNICEF overshadowed budgetary figures and government contributions, important as those were: it showed what men of good will could do to help themselves and each other.

33. When UNICEF had first been set up as an emergency organization, Uruguay had been one of its first contributors and most ardent supporters. In that connexion, he paid a tribute to a number of eminent Latin Americans who had done much to help UNICEF in its pioneering stage.

34. Since then, UNICEF had become a permanent institution. The demand for its services was very great. According to statistics, one out of seven children in under-developed countries died before the age of one; in some areas, the percentage was unfortunately much higher. Every assistance should be given to UNICEF so that it could continue and expand its noble work, and every effort should be made to improve its organization. He was therefore in general agree-

ment with the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506), but would comment on it in detail at a later stage.

35. Universal Children's Day, which was faithfully observed in his country, was useful in that it provided an occasion to consider the needs of children all over the world and to foster international solidarity.

36. Mr. MONTERO (Chile) thanked the Chairman of the Executive Board for his excellent report on the activities of UNICEF, which represented an object lesson in the possibilities of genuinely non-political effort for international co-operation. The Chilean delegation felt that the joint draft resolution would have the effect of improving the work of UNICEF, and hoped that it would receive unanimous support.

37. The UNICEF aid which Chile had received had provided a valuable stimulus to the national services responsible for maternity and child welfare, dried milk production, penicillin and anti-tuberculosis vaccine manufacture and the training of nurses and doctors. Chile had increased its contribution to UNICEF, and would support all measures designed to improve and expand its work.

38. Mr. VLAHOV (Yugoslavia) observed that the results of the work of UNICEF showed that international co-operation in accordance with United Nations principles and methods was possible even in the most difficult times. As a member of the Executive Board for several years, Yugoslavia was well acquainted with the various stages through which UNICEF had passed, from the post-war emergency stage to the stage of long-term planning and expansion. The aid provided by UNICEF was now being concentrated increasingly on the countries whose needs were greatest, and the number of beneficiary and contributing countries was increasing. Accordingly, the composition of the Executive Board, as the policy-making body, should be altered, in order to ensure the necessary close co-operation between Governments, specialized agencies and other interested bodies and individuals. The adoption of the joint draft resolution would serve to strengthen the position of UNICEF; the Yugoslav delegation would vote for it, but reserved the right to comment on any amendments that might be presented.

39. Miss BRUUN (Denmark) said that she would support the joint draft resolution. She noted with satisfaction the close co-operation that had been achieved between UNICEF and the specialized agencies, particularly the World Health Organization; the problem of co-ordination and of avoiding duplication always had to be borne in mind in strengthening United Nations social work and ensuring the wisest use of available funds. Denmark approved of the priorities agreed upon by the Board. The stress laid on malaria eradication, disease control, the scientific improvement of child nutrition and the development of maternity and child welfare services was wise, although it would necessitate additional funds. In 1955, about 90 per cent of the contributions had come from seventy-two Governments; it was to be hoped that more countries would contribute in future and, in particular, that new Members which were not already doing so would assist UNICEF.

40. Mr. SHAFQAT (Pakistan) said that Pakistan, a member of the Executive Board, welcomed the proposal in the joint draft resolution, which would bring

about even closer co-operation between UNICEF and Governments, specialized agencies and voluntary organizations. He would vote for the draft as it stood, or with the inclusion of any amendment which would improve it.

41. Mr. GOMEZ ROBLED0 (Mexico) thanked the Chairman of the Executive Board for his references to the malaria eradication campaign in Mexico. His Government regarded the campaign as yet another opportunity of indicating its support of UNICEF, and pledged itself to continue to give its full co-operation in the work.

42. Mr. BRATANOV (Bulgaria) said that while his delegation agreed that the system of membership of the Executive Board needed alteration, it doubted the wisdom of restricting the membership to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. That would deprive UNICEF of the co-operation of a number of countries which could make useful contributions to its humanitarian work. On previous occasions, the General Assembly had appealed for contributions to UNICEF on a universal basis. Bulgaria, which had made great strides in improving the health and welfare of its children, had received UNICEF aid and had contributed to the Fund.

43. With a view to furthering international co-operation by extending UNICEF activities to all countries of the world, his delegation would support the amendment proposed by the Czechoslovak representative.

44. Mr. TSAO (China) commended UNICEF for its record, which was outstanding both in concrete achievement and as an example of the possibilities of international co-operation. As a member of the Executive Board, China felt strongly that the balance between the allocations for the three types of activities on which UNICEF had decided to concentrate should be maintained. The present proportions were approximately 56 per cent for disease control, 21 per cent for maternal and child welfare services and 22 per cent for child nutrition; it was essential to avoid undue expansion in any one field at the expense of the others.

45. His delegation would support the joint draft resolution for two reasons: first, the membership of the United Nations had increased since the establishment of UNICEF, and new Members should be given the

opportunity to be represented on the Executive Board; and secondly, countries which were interested in the work of the Social Commission might be less interested in being represented on the Executive Board.

46. The principle of universality had been invoked, in connexion with a suggestion that the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies" should be deleted from the draft resolution. It should be borne in mind, however, that the principle of universality could be interpreted to mean either that the United Nations and other international organizations should be open to as many States as possible, provided that their basic purposes were similar, or that they should be open to all States irrespective of their aims and qualifications. The first interpretation, in his view, was correct; the second was distorted for political purposes. The Charter laid down certain conditions for admission to, as well as conditions for expulsion from the United Nations; many political entities did not fulfil those qualifications, and were consequently ineligible for membership of international organizations. In order to avoid political discussion, therefore, it would be advisable to retain the phrase to which exception had been taken.

47. Mr. MIGONE (Argentina) paid a tribute to the success UNICEF had achieved through mutual assistance. The improvement of the health and welfare of children in under-developed areas was an excellent economic investment for all Governments. The new Argentine Government had hastened to correct an error of national policy by contributing 1.5 million pesos to UNICEF in 1956, and it would continue to lend its support to the Fund. National social policy had been reorganized along the lines advocated by international organizations, and the mothers of Argentina were to be assisted by legislation establishing equal pay for equal work, improving women's welfare and introducing social security measures. Steps were being taken to guide public opinion in Argentina towards a greater awareness of the need for international co-operation; United Nations Day had been widely celebrated and it was hoped that the observance of Universal Children's Day would lead to increase interest in the work of UNICEF.

48. He would support the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506), but reserved the right to comment on any amendments that might be submitted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.