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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)
(*continued*)**

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (*concluded*)

1. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) associated himself with the general praise of the great humanitarian work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), of which his own country was a grateful beneficiary.
2. While the preamble of the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) implied that the sole purpose of the amendment contained in the operative paragraph was to alter the system of membership of the Executive Board of UNICEF, the purpose of the text was also to amend, in a restrictive way, the provision of General Assembly resolution 417 (V), under which countries not Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies were eligible for membership of the Executive Board. The work of UNICEF was purely humanitarian, and such a restriction was therefore inadmissible, particularly in view of the recent trend towards universality within the United Nations. Furthermore, recent humanitarian conventions had been opened for signature to all countries without exception.
3. The draft resolution also failed to take into account the recent increase in the membership of the United Nations. In order to afford new Member States a greater opportunity to participate in the work of UNICEF, he would support the amendment proposed by the representative of the Dominican Republic (687th meeting), which was designed to increase the membership of the Executive Board from twenty-six to thirty States.
4. With the changes proposed by the representatives of Czechoslovakia (686th meeting) and the Dominican Republic, the draft resolution would be acceptable to a much larger number of States. For himself, he also wished that the draft resolution had taken into account the position of countries which, like his own, received no financial aid from outside and should therefore enjoy a larger share of UNICEF assistance.
5. Mr. BARRIGA (Ecuador) said that UNICEF had achieved admirable results, especially in under-developed areas, and that it was generally recognized

as the most successful United Nations organ working in the social and humanitarian field. The Government and people of Ecuador were sincerely grateful for the invaluable assistance they had received from UNICEF. He paid a tribute to the Executive Director, the administration and the Executive Board of UNICEF for their tireless efforts, thanks to which UNICEF had become a symbol of international solidarity.

6. The three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) was only a reiteration of Economic and Social Council resolution 610 B (XXI). It was to be recommended in view of the fact that, as the membership of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies had increased considerably since 1950, it was advisable to give all contributing and recipient countries the opportunity to participate in the work of the Executive Board. His delegation would therefore vote for the draft resolution provided that the countries at present represented on the Executive Board and which would have to remain members until their term of office expired retained their present right to membership in the Social Commission.

7. Mr. GREENBAUM (United States of America) pointed out that the phrase "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies" used in the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) was commonly used to determine the membership of subsidiary organs of the United Nations and of international conferences held under United Nations auspices. The Committee should respect that precedent, particularly as the words objected to would not prevent UNICEF from continuing to extend aid to all countries which asked for it, without exception. However, the policy-making body of UNICEF should be governed by the same principles as other United Nations organs. He therefore strongly opposed the deletion of the phrase in question.

8. He did not think the proposal to increase the membership of the Executive Board to thirty States was well advised; the Board was already as large as it could be if it wished to remain an efficient body.

9. Mr. EPINAT (France) said that, in co-sponsoring the three-Power draft resolution, his delegation had wished to keep the Executive Board free of political considerations, so that it could pursue its practical and humanitarian tasks with due serenity.

10. In reply to the Syrian representative, he pointed out that the draft resolution did not possess the scope of an international convention; it merely determined the composition of an executive body. While it was true that General Assembly resolution 417 (V) had been broader in its terms, it had to be realized that since 1950 several States had come into being whose international status was still questionable. The present wording had been chosen with a view to enabling the Economic and Social Council to elect States to the Executive Board of UNICEF without wasting time on long and bitter discussion. To delete the

its population were under the age of twenty. It had benefited by UNICEF assistance in regard to disease control before achieving its independence, and had made a small contribution, which it would increase in 1957. His Government believed that a country's best investment was in the health of its children. It had set up a Ministry of Youth, which was establishing a network of holiday camps, playgrounds, rural centres, medical units and maternal and child welfare centres. Two new schools for instructresses and midwives had been set up. One of the Ministry's chief concerns was the rehabilitation of delinquent children; it was to be hoped that UNICEF would turn its attention to that subject in the near future.

40. He would vote for the joint draft resolution.

41. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) was surprised that her simple proposal to increase the membership of the Executive Board should have given rise to so much discussion. Several speakers in the debate had stressed the need for wider representation in view of the increase in the membership of the United Nations; those statements had prompted her to make her proposal. There was no reason to believe that a larger membership would impair the efficiency of the Board; the dignity of the United Nations had undeniably been enhanced by the presence of its new Members. The argument that such a step should be approved by the Economic and Social Council was unfounded, for the Council was a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, and was itself composed of only eighteen members. Moreover, the Executive Director had stated that no additional expense would be involved. From her long experience of its work, she could assure the Committee that UNICEF was in a unique position and should be given special treatment.

42. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that he had not been convinced by the arguments in favour of retaining the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies" in the operative paragraph of the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506). He did not agree that the deletion of those words involved political considerations which it would be wiser to exclude. Some representatives had felt that the text should not be altered because the wording had already been approved by the Economic and Social Council, but that was not a valid argument, for the Third Committee was not obliged to approve action taken by the Council. The effect of the resolution would not, in any event, be altered if the words in question were deleted; the Council would not designate States which were not Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies. He was somewhat surprised that those who had opposed the phrase had not stressed more strongly the fact that General Assembly resolution 417 (V) had specified that the membership of the Executive Board should consist of the members of the Social Commission "and the Governments of eight other States, not necessarily Members of the United Nations". That formula had been adopted in order to enable non-member States such as Italy and Switzerland to participate in the work of the Fund, but that was now no longer necessary. Several delegations had cited as precedents the practice of other United Nations bodies; but such precedents did not automatically apply to UNICEF. Much stress had been laid upon the desirability of avoiding the introduction of political considerations into the election of the members of the Executive

Board, but that was precisely what the wording of the draft resolution did. If the phrase in question was deleted, there would be no question of political considerations. He feared that the majority would vote against its deletion; but it would be some consolation to know that the protests of the right-thinking minority would appear in the Committee's records.

43. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that the Turkish representative's remarks concerning UNICEF aid to Palestine refugees had left the impression that UNICEF was bearing the whole burden of their support, whereas the Governments of the host countries had also assumed a very heavy responsibility. At all events, the United Nations was morally bound to assist the Palestine refugees, in view of the fact that its decision was at the root of the Palestine tragedy. Although Syria was grateful for the assistance provided by UNICEF for the Palestine refugees in Syria, it looked upon such assistance not as a favour, but as a right.

44. The United States representative had mentioned the danger of disregarding precedents. That was precisely what the three-Power draft resolution did, for it totally disregarded the provisions of General Assembly resolution 417 (V).

45. The French representative had said that the draft resolution did not have the scope of an international convention; but it would, in effect, have international implications, since the Executive Board was a body composed of representatives of different States. All countries should be eligible for membership of the Board, for the activities of UNICEF were world-wide; but the draft resolution would restrict the Board to Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies.

46. He supported the Dominican representative's proposal that the membership of the Executive Board should be increased to thirty, as that would ensure wider representation.

47. Mr. MIGONE (Argentina) supported the draft resolution. The work of UNICEF should be universal in scope, and there should be no restrictions on assistance to children, whatever their nationality. He did not feel that it was necessary to delete the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies", as that was a realistic formula with no political implications. The provisions of General Assembly resolution 417 (V) had been appropriate in 1950, when many countries had not yet become Members of the United Nations, but that was not now the case; in point of fact, nearly all countries were now represented in the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

48. He supported the Dominican representative's proposal, as the suggested increase should not have adverse results on the functioning of the Board, and there were definite advantages in ensuring the widest possible participation in the Fund's activities.

49. Mr. ASIROGLU (Turkey), replying to the representative of Syria, said that he had not intended to imply that the obligations assumed by the countries which had taken in the Palestine refugees were not extremely heavy; he had merely wished to do justice to the amount of assistance being supplied by UNICEF and to express his Government's gratitude to UNICEF for its aid to the children of Turkish refugees driven from Bulgaria and to other refugees.

50. Mr. TSAO (China) said that some delegations apparently felt that the inclusion of the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies" in the draft resolution would prevent countries which were not Members of the United Nations from participating in the work of the Fund. Actually, that would not be so. In the past, four countries which were not Members of the United Nations, namely, Ceylon, Italy, Japan and Switzerland, had been elected to the Executive Board; since then, those countries had become members either of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies. The present wording would, therefore, not prevent any sovereign State from participating in the work of UNICEF if it wished to do so. Furthermore, virtually all sovereign States were now represented either in the United Nations itself or in the specialized agencies.

51. The formula in question had been included for the specific purpose of giving the Council guidance in selecting the members of the Executive Board. As the draft resolution was now worded, there would be no danger of political entities which were not States being elected to the Executive Board, thus excluding Members of the United Nations. Far from introducing political considerations, it would prevent protracted political discussion concerning the membership of the Board.

52. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala) supported the draft resolution, including the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies". There was no danger that that provision might restrict the work of UNICEF; the draft resolution referred only to the membership of the Executive Board, and would not prevent any State from contributing to or benefiting by the work of UNICEF. Furthermore, the draft resolution placed no restrictions of any kind on the assistance which might be extended to children throughout the world.

53. Mr. PUDLAK (Czechoslovakia) felt that the draft resolution restricted the membership of the Executive Board quite unjustifiably. The text should be made entirely neutral, which could be done by deleting the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies". The New Zealand representative had said at the preceding meeting that the administrative control of UNICEF, a United Nations organ, should remain in the hands of the United Nations; but there was no danger that that would not be the case, as the overwhelming majority of the Executive Board would, in any event, be Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies.

54. It was difficult to see how some delegations could appeal to precedent, when they were supporting a draft resolution which flew in the face of the precedent established by General Assembly resolution 417 (V).

55. He could not agree with the Uruguayan representative that the procedure envisaged in the draft resolution as it stood was entirely satisfactory, for it did not leave the Council free to elect the members of the Board purely on the basis of geographical distribution. Moreover, it even deprived the Council of a right it had held in the past, that of electing States which were not Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies. The sponsors of the draft resolution would lose nothing if they agreed to delete the words in question, and they would gain much by ensuring the unanimous adoption of their text.

56. Mr. AYALA MERCADO (Bolivia) said that the work of UNICEF was very highly appreciated in Bolivia, which, for geographical and historical reasons, was experiencing considerable economic difficulties. However, the Bolivian Government was doing all it could for children, in spite of its limited means, and was grateful for the help received from UNICEF.

57. He supported the draft resolution, which was well adapted to current conditions.

58. Mrs. SHOHAM-SHARON (Israel) supported the deletion of the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies", as she felt that the Executive Board should reflect the non-political and entirely humanitarian character of the work of UNICEF. It was undesirable to impose any restriction on the membership of the Executive Board.

59. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the amendment proposed by the representative of the Dominican Republic (687th meeting) whereby the Executive Board of UNICEF would be increased from twenty-six to thirty members.

At the request of the representative of the Dominican Republic, a vote was taken by roll call.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia.

Against: Denmark, Norway, Sweden.

Abstaining: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Turkey.

The amendment was adopted by 24 votes to 3, with 42 abstentions.

60. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies" in the text proposed in the operative paragraph of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506).

At the request of the representative of Saudi Arabia, a vote was taken by roll call.

Mexico, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg.

Against: Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet

Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel.

Abstaining: Morocco, Nepal, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, Dominican Republic, Iraq.

It was decided by 44 votes to 19, with 8 abstentions, to retain the words "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies".

61. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) as a whole, as amended.

The draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 68 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

62. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) explained that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution as he was now convinced that the principle of universality was safeguarded by the text as it stood.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.