

the total supply of food available per head was 84 per cent of the pre-war supply.

49. The salvation of a whole generation of children was in the balance. In praising the work of UNICEF, President Truman had said that the establishment of lasting peace depended in large measure upon whether those children, who would shape the future, had healthy bodies and a normal and happy outlook on life.

50. In the under-developed countries of Asia, where conditions were aggravated by the war, famine had become endemic. FAO figures showed that the total food available per head in the Far East was 12 per cent below the pre-war figure. Countries in that category were particularly affected by high infant mortality. Those were the reasons that inspired paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, which stated that the emergency needs arising out of the war still persisted over and above the needs of under-developed countries.

51. The next paragraph emphasized the importance of the Fund in the structure of the United Nations welfare bodies. The Fund had provided help throughout the world without discrimination on grounds of race, religion, nationality or political

opinion. The Fund had also successfully intervened when disaster struck a country or region. Its work had captured the imagination of the peoples and their Government. The United Nations Appeal for Children had offered the opportunity to men of good will to do something for the United Nations and for the world's children.

52. Further contributions had to be forthcoming if the programmes in Europe and the Middle East were to be continued. That was the consideration that was embodied in the last paragraph of the joint draft resolution.

53. His delegation expressed the wish that the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.35) would be adopted unanimously. The essentially humanitarian nature of UNICEF should appeal to the members of the Committee. It was a great enterprise in which all the nations, including many nations not Members of the United Nations, could join on a basis of humanitarian co-operation.

54. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to see a film illustrating the activities of UNICEF and the needs of distressed children.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Friday, 18 November 1949, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Carlos E. STOLK (Venezuela).

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund: (a) report of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (b) United Nations Appeal for Children (A/1006 and E/1406) (continued)

1. Mr. CONTOUMAS (Greece) said that he had already expressed his country's deep appreciation of the work of UNICEF at the previous session of the Assembly. In the year that had since elapsed that appreciation had grown even greater, if possible. There were about 642,000 Greek children among the 5 million children in Europe for whom the Fund was providing relief. He fully recognized that his country received much more from the Fund than it was able to contribute and he could not but appeal to the Governments which had contributed so generously to the Fund to continue to do so. The children in his country would be left in a very sorry plight if the Fund were to cease its activities in the near future.

2. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that the *Report of the International Children's Emergency Fund* showed once more the magnitude of the problem confronting the United Nations. The problem was universal in scope and, where the welfare of countless children was at stake, there could be no room for any discrimination. Indeed, one of the basic principles of the Fund was that aid should be given in all instances on the basis of need, without regard to race, creed, nationality or political consideration. The children of the world were mankind's hope for the future and no effort should be spared to restore those who had suffered the ravages of war to health and happiness.

3. The figures mentioned in the report showed that the situation in Europe still left much to be desired. In eight European countries the milk production in the year 1947-1948 had reached only 62 per cent of the pre-war level. In the year 1948-1949 the production had risen, but only to 70 per cent of the pre-war level. The children were undersized owing to malnutrition and because of their weakened condition. They were liable to contract tuberculosis and other diseases. The children who had been through the war looked haggard and desperate; instead of the care-free happiness of youth, tragedy and suffering were mirrored in their eyes. A whole generation was in peril from the dual threats of malnutrition and tuberculosis.

4. The problem was not confined to Europe alone, for in Asia and other parts of the world the high infant mortality rates called for continuous attention. In January 1948, an inter-American congress had been held at Caracas to consider the problem of child welfare and the vital importance of reducing the infant mortality rate had been stressed. In his country, special attention was being paid to that problem and, in spite of all its own difficulties in that field, Uruguay had been glad to contribute 1 million dollars to UNICEF.

5. He recalled the humanitarian statement made by President Truman before the United States Congress about the sufferings endured by half the world's population and the imperative need to bring modern science to bear on the elimination of those sufferings. In his opinion, the General Assembly should declare that it was its responsibility under the Charter to give special attention to the problem of the needs of children throughout

the world. He submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.37) embodying that idea and setting forth a series of general recommendations to Member States. In framing those recommendations he had taken into consideration the difficulty for some countries to contribute to the Fund, especially as they were asked to contribute in dollars. He had therefore suggested that each Government, when allocating sums in its own budget for the care of its children, should at the same time allocate a special sum to UNICEF to alleviate the sufferings of other children throughout the world. Countries should be allowed to contribute either entirely or partly in their own national currencies and the money could be used to purchase supplies from the contributing country. If those principles were accepted it should be possible for UNICEF to become a continuous service.

6. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the United Nations would continue to provide for the needs of children throughout the world and that UNICEF would continue its activities until all malnutrition, sufferings and diseases had been finally abolished.

7. Mr. FREYRE (Brazil) said that UNICEF had done extremely good work in Europe and had saved the lives of thousands of children during the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities. Originally, food had been the most vital need and milk had been of primary importance. Children had been suffering from malnutrition and all its accompanying evils. It was fortunate, however, that most of the countries concerned had been highly developed ones, accustomed to relatively high standards of living and possessing the scientific and technological means to cope with the situation. With the assistance of UNRRA and afterwards of UNICEF spectacular results had been achieved. Well over 100 million dollars had been spent by the Fund alone and the bulk of the assistance had been devoted to Europe. As a result, the infant mortality rates in 1947 had already shown an improvement over the pre-war figures. Moreover, in 1948 the *per capita* consumption of milk and dairy products had reached about 90 per cent of the pre-war level in most European countries.

8. It was true that those results had not been satisfactory in every sector and that, although children's standards of health were higher than before the war in many European countries, there was still room for improvement. Nevertheless, the dramatic period when it had been necessary to concentrate all efforts on meeting the emergency needs of European children had become past history.

9. Brazil had not yet been able to contribute directly to UNICEF. It had, however, helped to alleviate the emergency needs of children in Europe by contributing 40 million dollars to UNRRA and granting direct credits amounting to 43 million dollars to European countries immediately after the war. In the case of a country of which the economic development had not yet reached a very advanced stage, such contributions were clear evidence of a very strong desire to help. The *per capita* income in Brazil was much lower than that in Europe and the infant mortality rates were higher. After its initial effort to alleviate the emergency created for European children by the war, his country had therefore decided that it should henceforth concentrate on the care of its own children.

10. His delegation believed that the Fund had been quite right in concentrating its principal initial activities in Europe. Since, however, the immediate effects of the war had been overcome, he felt that the Fund should turn its attention to other areas and to child health in general. The Fund had itself recognized that changing situation and the Executive Board had adopted the practice of preparing target budgets which would reflect the gradual shift of emphasis in the Fund's programmes as the situation in Europe became more normal. His delegation warmly welcomed that change in policy. It was a statistical fact that, in terms of mortality and morbidity rates, the situation of children in Asia and Latin America was far worse than that of children in Europe. The average infant mortality rate in Europe, with very few exceptions, was below 90 per thousand, while in Latin America it was about 100 per thousand, reaching such figures as 165 per thousand in Brazil and 161 per thousand in Chile. For Asia he mentioned the rate of 204 per thousand in Burma and for Africa the rate of 153 per thousand in Egypt.

11. There were of course some areas in Europe such as Greece and Bulgaria which were still in need of assistance. The high infant morbidity and mortality rates in those areas could not, however, be considered as a direct result of the war since they were actually lower than in pre-war years. For example, the mortality rate in Bulgaria had decreased from 150 per thousand in 1937 to 130 per thousand in 1947. He emphasized, therefore, that the Fund should turn its attention henceforward to giving assistance where it was most needed.

12. He regretted, however, that, in spite of its avowed intention of changing its policy, the Fund had not actually carried out any substantial changes in practice. In June 1949, the Executive Board, after having allocated to Europe 30 per cent of the two alternative target budgets envisaged for the following year, had gone on to allocate 47 per cent of the existing resources to Europe (excluding Germany), while 28 per cent had been allocated to Asia and only 3.6 per cent to Latin America. At its recent meetings at Lake Success,¹ the Executive Board had continued to allocate the greater part of its funds to Europe and the suggested share for Latin America had been less than 5 per cent of the total. He sincerely hoped that, in future, the Board would abide by its own decisions and concentrate its activities in the areas where need was really greatest.

13. In conclusion, he said that he would discuss the draft resolutions at a later stage, although at first sight he felt inclined to support the draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation (A/C.3/L.34).

14. Mrs. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) expressed appreciation for the important work that had been done by UNICEF in many parts of the world and mentioned in particular the commendable speed with which the Fund had sent assistance to the victims of the earthquake in Ecuador. She had spoken at length about the work of the Fund during the Assembly's previous session and she would not enter into the subject in detail during the current session. The Assembly had adopted resolutions 138 (II) and 214

¹ See document E/ICEF/136.

(III) commending the work of the Fund, expressing appreciation for the contributions received and appealing to Member States to make further contributions in order to enable the Fund's work to continue. The Economic and Social Council, at its ninth session, had adopted its resolution 257 (IX) drawing particular attention to the fact that further contributions were needed in order to enable the Fund to carry out the programme it envisaged for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1950. The draft resolution which she had submitted (A/C.3L/34) contained the same ideas as the earlier resolutions adopted, but she had adapted the wording to suit the circumstances.

15. She was glad to note that, owing to substantial contributions and pledges made recently by a number of Governments, only a little over 4 million dollars of the United States appropriation remained to be met. In that connexion, it was true, as Mr. Rajchman had stated, that the United States, in extending the period of availability of United States matching funds, had announced that its participation in the Fund should not extend beyond 30 June 1950.

16. She was glad that the prospects were so bright for fulfilling the Fund's proposed budget for the year ending 30 June 1950 and that the objectives for which the Fund had been established were being so well met.

17. There seemed to be some misunderstanding about the mention of the date 30 June 1950 in her draft resolution. She explained that it was a reference to the date contained in the target budget adopted by the Fund's Executive Board for the fiscal year 1949-1950.

18. Her draft resolution was shorter than that submitted jointly by the representatives of Australia, France, Israel, New Zealand and Mexico (A/C.3/L/35). Moreover, it focused attention more concretely on the precise objectives for which additional contributions were needed. It also avoided the implications contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the joint draft resolution. With regard to paragraph 4, she stated that the Fund had helped greatly in bringing about a diminution in the emergency needs arising from the war, the purpose for which it had originally been established.

19. The general needs of many countries and especially the needs of the under-developed areas of the world were vastly beyond the scope of UNICEF. The needs of children throughout the world were so enormous as to defy full comprehension and those needs would continue for a long time. The United Nations should face the question wisely and take care to assess its strength and its limitations.

20. A study was already being carried out, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, to assess the continuing needs of children and to determine what the United Nations and the specialized agencies could do to meet the challenge. The specialized agencies were collaborating in that study, which would subsequently be discussed by the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council. In her opinion, it was essential that the future work of the United Nations in that field should receive the most thoughtful and careful consideration. She would deplore any action taken by the Committee which might interfere with the work of the study group, however generous and well-meaning that action might be.

21. Consequently, she considered that her draft resolution was a better practical response to the problem at that stage than the joint draft resolution and she urged the Committee to adopt it.

22. Mr. MENESES PALLARES (Ecuador) said that the excellent reports submitted by the Executive Director of UNICEF had given the Committee a clear idea of the vast scope of its work. The programme which it had already carried out in Latin America had been of great importance and considerable sums had been spent upon it. That in itself was valuable; but even more valuable was the fact that it had exemplified the new tendency of UNICEF to share its attention more equitably between the war-devastated areas and the under-developed countries. Such a development could not fail to recommend itself to those who had advocated that policy on the Executive Board. It was to be hoped that that policy would be intensified in the future, as the Brazilian representative had urged.

23. Ecuador had particular reasons to be grateful to UNICEF. Mrs. Myrdal, principal director of the Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations, had visited that country, and it had been on the basis of her report that the Board had decided to assist Ecuador after its disastrous earthquake. The Executive Board had offered to provide 40,000 children in the devastated areas with a daily meal for 10 months, with particular emphasis on milk and fats. It had appropriated 280,000 dollars for that purpose and 56,000 dollars in addition for medical equipment. It had associated the appropriate specialized agencies with that work; they would issue a report in due course. The instance of Ecuador was a striking example of the noble work which UNICEF was carrying out.

24. He reserved the right to speak specifically on the draft resolutions before the Committee at a later stage.

25. Mr. PLEJIC (Yugoslavia) thanked UNICEF for the assistance which it had given to his country; it hoped to receive further aid in the future. Of the approximately 6,617,000 children in Yugoslavia, 773,500 had received assistance in the second quarter of 1949 in the form of additional meals. It would also benefit from a widespread BCG vaccination campaign and a campaign against endemic syphilis.

26. Yugoslavia had suffered tremendous devastation during the war. It had therefore been eligible for assistance from UNICEF. From its own experience it had realized the essential part which UNICEF had played in the humanitarian work of the United Nations. He therefore supported the proposal for the continuation of that work embodied in the joint draft resolution.

27. Furthermore, Yugoslavia was well aware of the needs of the under-developed countries and realized that they should receive equal treatment with the war-devastated countries. Any proposal, therefore, to suspend the activities of UNICEF would be most inopportune and would imply the waste of all the great efforts previously made.

28. Continuation of UNICEF on its present basis was the more necessary because the needs of suffering children were extremely complex. UNICEF, therefore, should not only not be removed from the orbit of the United Nations, but its practice of intimately linking the questions of food

and of health, which had been such a success in the past, should be further extended.

29. There were grounds for optimism with regard to the material resources available to UNICEF. The number of States contributing and the size of their contributions were increasing. Contributions had come in irregularly, which had prevented UNICEF from contemplating more than short-term programmes. If, however, UNICEF were placed upon a more permanent basis, all Member States might be encouraged to contribute. The humanitarian activities of that agency had always been one of the best means of propagandizing the aims and the purposes of United Nations among children. The United Nations, therefore, should state clearly that it accorded priority in its social activities to the needs of children.

30. His Government had hitherto done everything in its power to contribute its share to the UNICEF, realizing that children in other countries were also in need and that the first obligation incumbent upon every society and every person should always be to aid children. Yugoslavia had undertaken to contribute 523,000 dollars. It would continue to contribute whatever it could.

31. Mr. MESSINA (Dominican Republic) expressed his appreciation of the work of UNICEF. His country had been second among the Latin-American countries in the size of its contributions. It would continue to contribute within the limits of its possibilities; even if circumstances should prevent it from contributing cash, it would always contribute its moral support. He particularly hoped that at the next meeting of the Executive Board, the needs of Latin America with regard to medical campaigns would be taken fully into account on a basis of equality with other parts of the world, as the Brazilian and Ecuadorean representatives had urged. He reserved his right to comment on the draft resolutions before the Committee at a later stage.

32. Mr. PACHECO (Bolivia) said that his delegation had been particularly appreciative of the UNICEF report because Bolivia had a problem of lack of proper care and of malnutrition in regions which might appear to be wealthy but were actually impoverished. Bolivia needed considerable help, but realized that the basic question was an economic one. He therefore appreciated the statements of representatives who had said that, if UNICEF were to continue, more contributions would be needed. It was essential that such contributions should be forthcoming; no obstacle should be permitted to hamper the work of UNICEF.

33. Bolivia was expecting great things of the UNICEF campaigns in 1950, both from the example in the use of modern scientific techniques and from actual assistance. Comparative statistics showed that the problem of child malnutrition was as serious in Bolivia as it was in Europe. UNICEF's work in Europe had been admirable; he hoped that its work in Latin America would be equally admirable. In that expectation, he would vote for the United States draft resolution.

34. Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan) had been most favourably impressed by the heartening account of UNICEF's activities given in its report and by the Chairman of the Executive Board. The generous assistance afforded by such countries

as the United States of America, Australia and Iceland was also a welcome demonstration that many countries were willing to share their comparatively favoured position with those poorer than themselves and regarded at least one problem as of universal concern, whatever their approach to other international questions might be.

35. Everyone would agree with the Chairman of the Executive Board that UNICEF's activities must be continued. If the whole field of its operations were considered, it would be seen that its efforts, admirable as they were, were only a drop in the ocean. Sceptics might say that the Fund touched only the surface of the problem, the roots of which lay far deeper—in the economic complex. That might well be true, but experience had shown that such situations must be attacked on as many fronts as possible. The campaign to aid children was an attack which had a very great appeal.

36. The Brazilian representative had attempted to bring out certain points in the report which might otherwise have escaped notice. Undoubtedly, European children had been the ones who had suffered most from the Second World War. It was to be hoped, however, that the efforts of the European Governments might soon succeed in restoring those high standards to which their nationals had previously been accustomed and that assistance could thus be diverted to less fortunate areas. One of such areas was Asia, particularly South East Asia, the plight of which had been briefly but vividly depicted in paragraph 31 of the UNICEF report.

37. That picture could be illuminated by an incident in his own experience. During the past few years, pictures of starving, rachitic European children, with distended stomachs and lolling heads, had been widely distributed. In Pakistan, all civilized persons had been horror-stricken, because they could recall the fine, upstanding European children of pre-war days. Their horror had, however, been redoubled when they had realized with sudden shock that those pictures exactly resembled the children in any Asian country.

38. He hoped, therefore, that the Chairman of the Executive Board would take into full account the hope that it would be possible for UNICEF to divert the bulk of its assistance from the previously war-devastated countries to the under-developed countries. That hope was, he felt certain, shared by many other delegations.

39. Mr. AZKOUL (Lebanon) regretted the fact that his country had as yet been unable to contribute to the Fund. He wished to express particular gratitude to UNICEF and the Governments comprising it for their assistance to the Palestine refugees in Lebanon; in the field of medical aid alone, 16,600 persons had been examined for tuberculosis and 11,000 anti-tuberculosis vaccinations had been carried out; in addition, funds had been distributed to mothers and children throughout the Arab world. A BCG vaccination campaign had been started on 10 October 1949.

40. It was gratifying to note that the assistance of UNICEF would be extended to areas other than those covered in the earlier programmes; it was to be hoped that even greater attention would be paid to the under-developed countries. It was further to be hoped that the Fund would continue its activities, because urgent needs still existed,

with little prospect of any widespread improvement in the immediate future. That hope appeared to be well founded, as many countries had already expressed their intention of contributing to the Fund at any early date. He would therefore support the joint draft resolution.

41. Mrs. DE CASTILLO LEDÓN (Mexico) said that the task of caring for children was one of the United Nations basic social activities. She had recent personal experience of the sad state of children in the devastated and under-developed countries which had led her to hope that that humanitarian task would be continued on an increasing scale so long as the problem existed. Unfortunately it was still very far from a solution. The General Assembly, therefore, should do everything in its power to enable UNICEF to fulfil its mission on an even greater scale.

42. It had been objected that some countries had failed to pay their contributions. In her opinion, such remissness was really a symptom of the weakness of such countries which had been compelled to devote prior attention to their own domestic needs.

43. If it were assumed that UNICEF would continue its obligations and extend them more amply to Latin America in 1950, due regard should be paid to the possibility of contributions from private as well as from governmental sources. Full advantage should be taken of the women's organizations active in the field of child relief. She had therefore introduced an amendment (A/C.3/L.36) to the joint draft resolution proposing that an appeal should be made to such international organizations to collaborate with UNICEF in making special studies or procuring moneys from private sources to assist in its support. Among the most important of such organizations in Latin America were the Inter-American Commission of Women, which was an official body sponsored by twenty-one Governments, and the International American Institute for the Protection of Childhood, both of which would certainly offer help if an appeal were made to them. The special studies made by them and their contacts with other groups active in the field would be invaluable.

44. She welcomed the new trend in UNICEF policy extending assistance to children everywhere, without restricting it to the war-devastated areas. She would therefore support the joint draft resolution.

45. The United States draft resolution did not conflict with the joint draft resolution, but rather complemented it by specifying how funds would be obtained. She would therefore support that draft resolution also.

46. Mr. RAJCHMAN (Chairman of the Executive Board of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), replying to the United States representative, explained that in its resolution 257 (IX) the Economic and Social Council had noted the decision of the Executive Board of the Fund to report to the tenth session of the Council on a study to be conducted in co-operation with the Secretary-General, Social Commission and interested specialized agencies with a view to developing recommendations. The Executive Board would hold its next session at the end of January 1950 and would then formulate its conclusions. The report mentioned by the

United States representative had not yet reached the Executive Board.

47. Furthermore, he must point out that the date 30 June 1950 was not the end of a fiscal year for UNICEF. The target budgets had been established up to that date because the Board had met at the end of June and the beginning of July and had established those budgets for the succeeding months, whereas most Governments established their budgets in accordance with their calendar year.

48. Furthermore, as had been stated in paragraph 20 of the UNICEF report, the UNICEF supply programmes for the period 1 July 1949 to 30 June 1950 would be limited not by children's needs but by available resources. In paragraph 35 of that report it had been explained that the purpose of the target budget was to provide a degree of continuity and forward planning in the Fund's operations as well as to indicate to contributors the needs for which they were being approached. That did not imply that the figures in the target budget corresponded to actual needs; they were rather a maximum figure for the target budget.

49. Mrs. CASTLE (United Kingdom) wished to associate herself with those who had spoken in praise of the great humanitarian work done by UNICEF in the past year and of the generous contributions by Governments—in particular the United States, Australia and Canada—thanks to which the work had been made possible. That did not mean, however, that her delegation approved entirely of the manner in which the resources of the Fund had been distributed.

50. The United Kingdom had always held that the function of the Fund should be primarily an emergency function. It was understandable that a desire to bring lasting benefits to the countries receiving aid should have led the Executive Board of the Fund into commitments of longer duration. She appreciated the point of view of those who, when emergency conditions had ceased to exist in such countries as Czechoslovakia and Poland had been anxious for the United Nations to leave something which would be of lasting benefit, like milk processing equipment or doctors' motor cars. It should not be forgotten, however, that there were many competing claims on the Fund, and it was essential that desirable but less urgent work should not be done at the expense of genuine emergency relief, such as that required for Arab refugees or Greek children.

51. It was on that point that the main anxieties of her delegation arose. Indeed, there could be no doubt that changing needs had not been taken into account sufficiently when allocations from the Fund had been made. Their pattern had tended to follow that initiated by UNRRA, which had naturally been preoccupied with the needs of war-devastated countries, particularly in Europe. The needs of children in many of those areas, however, had since become less urgent than those of other children in other parts of the world. Her delegation had repeatedly called attention to the disadvantage at which the war-devastated countries of South East Asia had been placed in comparison with the countries of Eastern Europe. In 1948 practically the whole of the Fund's resources had gone to Europe, and it was only in 1949 that a slight beginning had been made towards helping

other parts of the world. She was glad to see that many delegations shared her anxiety to achieve a better balance in the use of the Fund's resources.

52. The failure to adjust the allocations from the Fund in the light of new developments had meant that funds had been allocated for projects which could scarcely be described as emergency projects. The Fund had continued to vote money for countries which had previously received emergency assistance. The United Kingdom had never denied their right to that assistance when it had been given to meet a genuine emergency, but it had had to point out that their long-term needs were in no way as urgent as the emergency needs of other countries which were often chronically poorer and whose children were desperately in need of help.

53. Her country had ceased to be a contributor to the Fund, and that decision had not been unconnected with the shortcomings she had just mentioned. Indeed, it would have been incongruous for the taxpayers of her country to contribute to the feeding of Polish children in 1950, when milk consumption in Poland had reached between 80 and 90 per cent of its highly satisfactory pre-war average by the spring of 1949, and when Poland had abolished food rationing. Poland had been the largest individual recipient country, and the Fund's allocations for Poland amounted to over 16 million dollars—7 million dollars more than the sum spent by the Fund to save the Arab refugees from starving. Yet the Fund had still failed to indicate when that Polish feeding programme was to stop.

54. She wished to reject most emphatically the suggestion that her Government had been either parsimonious or politically biased in that matter. The United Kingdom had continued contributing to UNRRA in order to bring the feeding situation of its Eastern Europe allies back to a healthy level after many other countries, including the United States, had ceased to do so. The United Kingdom had given 15.5 per cent of the UNRRA funds which UNICEF had since inherited. The people of her country had also been most generous in their voluntary contributions to UNICEF and their donations to the United Nations Appeal for Children had been the third largest of any country in the world. The United Kingdom, however, could not go on contributing indefinitely for the purposes for which the Fund had so far tended to devote the major part of its resources.

55. That was why her delegation had been particularly pleased with the recent tendency to recognize the claims of the Asian and Middle Eastern countries for help. Her country had been particularly impressed with the contribution made by the Fund to the relief of the Arab refugees who had been forced to leave their homes during the fighting in Palestine.

56. Regarding the programmes for South East Asia, it was unfortunately true, as the representative of Australia had pointed out, that they had made too slow a start. The Executive Board had been repeatedly confronted with a situation in which the already small allocations made for those countries had had to be transferred from one annual budget to another, simply because the necessary plans had not yet been made. That vicious circle had, however, been broken, and small programmes had been started in a number

of areas. They had been carefully worked out so that they might be of cumulative benefit to the children of the countries concerned and had rightly placed the main emphasis on training and on so-called "demonstration medical projects" which could be expanded by the local authorities. A considerable sum of money had also been allocated for similar schemes in other parts of Asia. Furthermore, in initiating those programmes in Asia, the Fund had taken great care to pave the way for other organs of the United Nations to carry on the activities started by the Fund after it ceased operation. Thus, great efforts had been made to obtain the loan of members of WHO and FAO to the Fund.

57. She agreed with the remarks of the Brazilian and Bolivian representatives, who had stressed that the Fund had been slow in appreciating the needs of South American countries, and that it had shown a lack of balance in the allocation of its resources in the past. She felt that the balance should be redressed in the future, when the Fund disposed of the still remaining resources and of any new contributions.

58. Despite those criticisms, her delegation sincerely appreciated the great work which had been done by the Fund. Although her Government was unlikely, in existing circumstances, to contribute any more money to the Fund, it would not like to stand in the way of any other government wishing to do so. She believed, therefore, that the draft resolution submitted by the United States reflected the realities of the existing situation in that it left the door open for new contributions and, at the same time, took into consideration resolution 257 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council. That resolution provided for studies regarding ways in which children's needs could be cared for on a permanent basis through the specialized agencies. In the opinion of her Government, the interests of the future generations could best be served on a long-term basis through the development of the work of the permanent agencies of the United Nations.

59. The joint draft resolution before the Committee covered substantially the same ground as the United States resolution, except for the omission of any reference to the above-mentioned resolution of the Economic and Social Council. For that reason she preferred the United States draft, although she felt that it could be improved by the inclusion of paragraph 3 of the joint draft resolution. If that paragraph were incorporated into the United States resolution, the latter would embody all the relevant points of substance and might then become the only proposal before the Committee.

60. Mr. SUTCH (New Zealand) said that many representatives had criticized the manner in which the Fund had allocated its resources; yet the Executive Board had only abided by the terms of General Assembly resolution 57 (I), which laid down that priority should be given to the children of countries which had been devastated by the war and of countries which had been receiving assistance from UNRRA. The criticisms, therefore, should not have been levelled at the Executive Board, but rather at the resolution itself. Furthermore, he wished to emphasize that the Executive Board based all its decisions on the recommendations of a Programme Committee which, in its turn, based its own recommendations

on the reports of an expert staff which analysed and examined all requests for assistance and all existing needs. The Board consisted of twenty-six member nations and all decisions were always taken by a majority vote.

61. The Fund had been ceaselessly increasing the scope of its activities. Having started by providing assistance to the seven countries which had received aid from UNRRA, it was currently helping thirteen European countries. Outside Europe, its activities extended from Pakistan to the Philippines and from Palestine to Morocco. Although the major part of the assistance went to the countries defined in resolution 57 (I), it should not be forgotten that fifty-four countries and territories were receiving aid from the Fund.

62. The assistance provided by the Fund covered a very wide field indeed. The Fund provided supplementary feeding mostly in the form of powdered skimmed milk and also small amounts of fats, dried fruit, cocoa and the like. That form of assistance accounted for half of the sums expended. Secondly, the Fund provided children's clothing and shoes for school children, institutions, hospitals, and refugees. Thirdly, it had initiated large-scale anti-tuberculosis projects in the form of BCG vaccination, diagnostic equipment, BCG production equipment, and BCG pilot testing centres. Fourthly, it had assisted other medical projects by supplying them with the necessary laboratory equipment and streptomycin. Fifthly, it was promoting a campaign for the reduction of infant and child mortality and morbidity through insect control and anti-malaria measures. Sixthly, it was fighting both against endemic syphilis and the terrible yaws disease in the tropics. Furthermore, general maternal and child welfare programmes were assisted by UNICEF, which supplied X-ray equipment, vaccines, milk-testing equipment, iron lungs, obstetrical appliances, and so on. In addition to all that, UNICEF was also helping in the promotion of better milk production methods, such as pasteurization.

63. The Fund had recently received new resources. The French Government, for instance, had promised to contribute 175 million francs every year as long as the Fund continued its activities. Canada, Australia and Czechoslovakia had sent in further contributions, and so had many other countries. It should always be borne in mind that for every dollar contributed by other countries, the United States was contributing about two and a half dollars. A sum of 75 million dollars had been appropriated by the Congress of the United States for matching the contributions of other countries. That sum had been almost exhausted. Yet it should be remembered that the Congress had originally authorized a sum of 100 million dollars, until 30 June 1950, so that a further 25 million dollars might still become available. He also wished to point out that the Fund was spending very little on administration in its South American programmes, by making use of other staff, belonging to WHO, for instance. By so doing it also contributed to the cause of co-ordination of activities between various agencies.

64. The Fund had been expanding the field of its activities more and more, as shown by its undertakings in Asia and South America; it hoped to do much more in the future in that direction.

65. Having briefly summarized and outlined the main points of the joint draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Israel, New Zealand and Mexico, he said that the existence of a separate United States draft resolution had come as a great surprise to him. Indeed, it had always been an agreed tradition to exclude politics from matters relating to the Fund, and always to have only one proposal put forward. Many points puzzled him in the last paragraph of the United States draft resolution. The first was the reference to a fiscal year ending 30 June 1950. The Fund had no fiscal year, and the only fiscal year ending 30 June 1950 of which he knew was that of the United States. That seemed hardly relevant to the question under discussion. Furthermore, the paragraph referred to supplies, without mentioning experts, and also spoke of some unknown programme. As to the objectives for which the Fund had been established, they were outlined in General Assembly resolution 57 (I), the very resolution which had hampered the Fund in its endeavours to extend its activities throughout the world in a more balanced manner. With time, both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had succeeded in shifting the original emphasis from UNRRA countries to Latin-American and Asian countries, and he wondered, therefore, whether it was wise to lay such stress on the objectives for which the Fund had been established.

66. He could not understand why the Fund should come to an end on 30 June 1950. The studies mentioned in the Economic and Social Council resolution would be referred to the Executive Board the following year, and the Executive Board would probably submit appropriate recommendations to the Economic and Social Council. Eventually, the matter would reach the General Assembly at its session in September 1950. Until then, it was impossible to take any action. Furthermore, what would be the purpose of studying the continuing needs of children if UNICEF were to cease operations on 30 June 1950? Such a time-limit would also prove a great handicap to the success of any appeal for further funds.

67. In conclusion he wished to quote a few words from the leading article of that day's issue of the *New York Herald Tribune*. The article was entitled "Consider these children" and reported President Truman as saying that those words conveyed a message which he would like to send across the land. The final words of that article were that UNICEF was one of the finest and most practical of the United Nations activities. That was a statement with which he was sure all would agree.

68. Mrs. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) said that the only reason why the United States delegation had included any reference to "the fiscal year ending 30 June 1950" in its draft resolution was that those very words were mentioned in the resolution of the Economic and Social Council itself.

69. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the United States delegation and the sponsors of the joint draft resolution should endeavour to agree on a combined text and submit it to the Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.