

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday, 21 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) concluded

1. Mr. OTAÑO VILANOVA (Argentina) associated himself with the tributes paid to UNICEF's humanitarian work.

2. The problems of children's misfortunes should normally be solved at the national level. That was the principle operative in Argentina, where a series of social laws for the protection of children had been passed. Aid to children had been given a strong impetus by Mrs. Perón's initiative.

3. Argentina was also aware of the distress in other countries and had joined in UNICEF's efforts. The Eva Duarte de Perón Foundation had established a number of fellowships in connexion with UNICEF's technical training programmes and the Government of the Argentine Republic further proposed to make such gifts in kind such as clothes and shoes.

4. The Argentine delegation was pleased to note that international solidarity had made great progress in the field of aid to children. It seemed that the nations were more and more conscious of the truth of the maxim that the best way of enriching oneself was to help others. It was important that that principle should be applied universally, regardless of national frontiers and of distinctions based on the causes of the suffering inflicted on the children.

5. It was in that spirit that the Argentine delegation joined with the Brazilian delegation in submitting certain proposals to the Commission (A/C.3/L.38) with a view to combining the draft resolution of the United States (A/C.3/L.34) with the joint draft resolution of Australia, France, Israel, Mexico and New Zealand (A/C.3/L.35) and to introducing certain new elements.

6. The delegations of Argentina and Brazil were prepared to accept any new suggestions which might be useful in the preparation of one single text which might win unanimous approval.

7. Mr. Otaño Vilanova understood the difficulties which had caused the representative of the United Kingdom to state that his Government was unable to make any further material contribution to the Fund, but he hoped that that great country would soon recover and would participate once again in the great humanitarian work of the Fund.

8. For its part, Argentina would not hesitate to make its contribution to the Fund in various forms.

9. Mr. FREYRE (Brazil) thought that the United States draft resolution and the joint draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Israel, Mexico and New Zealand, were mutually complementary and should be combined into one text.

The first two paragraphs of the United States draft seemed to be meeting with general approval, but that was not the case with the third paragraph, which might usefully be replaced by paragraphs 3 and 4 of the joint draft resolution, provided certain changes were made.

10. In introducing the amendment which his delegation was submitting jointly with the Argentine (A/C.3/L.38), Mr. Freyre said that, first, the order in which the countries affected by the Fund's operation were enumerated should be rearranged. The order in which they were shown in the joint draft resolution might give the impression that the Fund's aid had been equitably allocated among the different parts of the world. Its principal effort had in fact been concentrated in Europe, while other continents had only derived belated and restricted benefit.

11. The proposed amendment to paragraph 4 of the joint draft resolution was based on the view that the majority of the needs which had to be met at that time were not the direct result of the Second World War, but of events which had occurred at a later date.

12. Finally, the new paragraph proposed by the delegations of Brazil and the Argentine was designed to remove the misunderstandings which appeared to exist in regard to the terms of reference of UNICEF.

13. Some were in favour of strict compliance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 57 (I) and therefore of continuing indefinitely to give priority to countries which had been victims of aggression and countries which had received assistance from UNRRA. The term "priority" in fact appeared to have become a synonym for "exclusively". It had, however, become obvious that the countries of Europe had reached or even surpassed their pre-war standards and European children were better fed and less exposed to disease than the children of many countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

14. The sufferings endured by children were no longer the result of devastation wrought by the Second World War. In Greece, they were caused by the civil war; in the Middle East, India and Pakistan, by the upheavals resulting from the creation of new political frontiers. In other countries, they were the direct consequence of underdevelopment. In short, the prevailing circumstances were very different from those which had warranted the adoption of resolution 57 (I).

15. The representative of Brazil recalled the specific considerations on which that resolution had been based. In the first place, it had been assumed that the bulk of the resources of the Fund would consist of UNRRA assets. In the second place, it had been considered that the countries victims of aggression were precisely those where the child morbidity and mortality rates were highest. Neither of those assumptions still held true. The provisions of resolution 57 (I) granting priority to children in countries victims of aggression and recipients of UNRRA aid were no longer justified. On the contrary, it was the principle of

universality, expressed in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of the resolution, which should be paramount.

16. The reason why no one had as yet formally proposed a modification of the terms of reference of UNICEF was the provisional character of the Fund. The Executive Board had not, however, overlooked the changes which had occurred since 1946. Taking into account the substantial credits allocated to the European countries, it had decided in June 1948 to grant priority to the areas outside Europe when the allocation of the credits available for 1949 was made. In May 1949, the Programme Committee had made a similar recommendation concerning the draft budget for the fiscal year 1949-1950.

17. Unfortunately, those recommendations did not seem to be translated into action. The credits designed for aid in Europe were still much greater than those for other parts of the world.

18. For that reason the Brazilian delegation hoped that the final text of the resolution would mark a change in the terms of reference of UNICEF and make its activity truly universal.

19. Brazil, moreover, reserved the right to express its opinion on the future of UNICEF, when the Economic and Social Council, at its tenth session, would examine the advisability of prolonging its existence.

20. Whatever formula the Council reached, Brazil's attitude would be that aid to children should correspond to known needs and not to a rigid formula such as that in resolution 57 (I).

21. His delegation hoped that the authors of the two draft resolutions would accept the amendments it had just presented jointly with the Argentine delegation and that the Committee would give them a favourable reception.

22. Mrs. KRIPALANI (India) also wished to associate herself with the tribute paid to UNICEF for the remarkable results it had obtained.

23. After briefly considering resolution 57 (I) of the General Assembly, she mentioned the Economic and Social Council's resolution 44 (IV) of 29 March 1947. Neither of those texts provided for the complete cessation of UNICEF's activities. On the contrary, paragraph 1 (c) of General Assembly resolution 57 (I) alluded to the well-being of childhood generally, which seemed to show that, already in 1946, the idea existed that the Fund should be of a permanent nature.

24. The United States draft resolution seemed implicitly to provide that the Fund's operations should end by 30 June 1950. Her delegation viewed such a possibility with some anxiety, since UNICEF had developed its work in Asia at quite a recent date. It was an unenviable position for the representatives of a recipient country to have to recommend the extension of the terms of reference of that body. To that was added the regret which her delegation felt that its Government should not be able to make a more substantial contribution to the Fund. Apart from the 80 million rupees which India had given to UNRRA, that country had allocated the sum of 100,000 rupees to UNICEF in 1948 and the same amount in 1949. India's financial effort had not been greater, because its Government had, in

that field, to face the enormous task of supporting several million refugees.

25. From table I in the *Recommendations by Executive Director for Revised Budget of Operations for 1949 and for New Allocations*¹ it appeared that during 1948, out of a total of 46 million dollars, the Executive Board of UNICEF had allocated credits of 36,800,000 dollars to European countries. Only one Asian country, China, had received UNICEF help, to the extent of 447,000 dollars.

26. The allocations provided for 1949 were 43 million dollars for Europe and 20,500,000 dollars for Asia, out of a total of 98,500,000 dollars. Out of the 13,980,000 dollars available for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1950, Europe's share was 6,500,000 and Asia's 4 million, as appeared from paragraph 69 of the UNICEF report (E/1406). On page 14 of the same document it was stated that out of a target budget of 42 million dollars Asia should receive assistance amounting to 15 million dollars.

27. Her delegation hoped that Asia would receive a larger share of the assistance given by UNICEF. Even those Asian countries which had not been devastated during the war had suffered from the economic repercussions of that calamity.

28. Mrs. Kripalani gave an account of a visit she had paid in the Punjab to a huge camp sheltering 300,000 refugees. The children in the camp were suffering from all sorts of diseases and their parents had begged that they should be given more medicine to alleviate those sufferings. The doctor in charge of the camp hospital had then explained that there was not a shortage of medicines but that it was impossible to stamp out the diseases which attacked the frail bodies of the under-nourished children. What they needed was milk and food rich in vitamins as well as a change of clothing which would reduce the chances of infection. The Indian Government provided all the sustenance it could to those 300,000 refugees. But its resources were sorely tested. Since it was unable to give each one more than a minimum quantity of provisions, it was inevitable that the children should suffer most, since their constitution was less robust.

29. The countries of Asia were striving with all their might to combat the ravages of under-nourishment. The aid of UNICEF would be of inestimable value to them. For that reason her delegation hoped that that body might continue to develop its work after June 1950, and give attention to the needs of children in under-developed countries.

30. Mr. KATZNELSON (Israel) recalled that the international scope of problems relating to child welfare had already been recognized twenty-five years previously in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1924. Many international organizations, official or non-official, had dedicated their whole energy to the work of child assistance. UNICEF had been created to mobilize all those energies, to co-ordinate domestic activities in each country, and to add to the national resources which were available.

31. He associated himself with the delegations which had praised UNICEF for the success of its

¹ Document E/ICEF/100.

efforts. He could not support the criticisms made by the United Kingdom representative of the Fund's activity in the Middle East. Having had an opportunity of observing that activity closely, he recalled that UNICEF had been the first organization to act on the spot by making an initial allocation of 6 million dollars to aid Palestinian refugees. Meanwhile, the action undertaken in Europe had not been abandoned, in view of the great needs of that continent which had been the main theatre of the war, while preparations for the programmes for Asia and Latin America had already been begun.

32. With reference to Asia, he pointed out that some of the States of that continent had barely begun to emerge, which partly explained the difficulties encountered by the authors of the UNICEF programmes. Moreover, the needs of those countries were enormous; statistics showed that in the countries in question 500 children out of every 1,000 born died before reaching the age of 5, and 200 out of every 1,000 before reaching the age of 1 year. The average expectation of life was 25 years, whereas in Europe it was 65 years. Those figures signified a great tragedy. It was surprising to hear some delegations express sympathy for such distress and at the same time visualize the ending of UNICEF's activities.

33. The task of the Fund was certainly very difficult. But the task of preserving the peace was no less so. Neither one nor the other could discourage the United Nations for it was to safeguard peace and to endeavour to ensure the welfare of humanity that the United Nations had been established.

34. Those considerations must dictate the reply to the question whether UNICEF's activity should continue. The reply could only be in the affirmative.

35. A second question was whether the financial resources on which the Fund could count were sufficient to enable it to carry out its task. The work so far accomplished proved that Governments as well as individuals had supported the Fund's cause. The latter had been in a position to spend from 4 to 50 million dollars annually. It was perhaps too soon to draw final conclusions. The least that could be said was that there was no reason for despair.

36. All delegations were unanimous in paying a tribute to the United States Government for its generous contribution to the Fund. But it should not be forgotten, on the other hand, that the Governments of recipient countries had in their turn given to each assistance programme a much larger contribution than that of UNICEF. That consideration militated in favour of an extension of the terms of reference of that body, which was capable of mobilizing so much good will.

37. His delegation considered itself honoured to be among the sponsors of the joint draft resolution with Australia, France, Mexico and New Zealand.

38. Mrs. KALINOWSKA (Poland) recalled that UNICEF had been established in the first place to meet the needs caused by the war at a time when the terms of reference of UNRRA were drawing to a premature end.

39. Her delegation did not, however, underestimate the needs of children in other parts of the world.

40. Poland had benefited largely from UNICEF's help. But it did not feel that it had been unduly favoured, for it had also borne to a greater extent than many other countries the sufferings caused by the war. After the end of hostilities, Poland had exerted itself to the utmost to help its children. Often those efforts had been hindered by the lack of certain indispensable products, in particular penicillin, which it could not produce because the discriminatory practices of certain countries prevented it from receiving the necessary materials from abroad.

41. Poland expressed its gratitude to the Fund for the aid it had given it. That aid had enormous value as a symbol of international solidarity. Nevertheless her delegation could not share the opinion of the United Kingdom representative who had said that the Fund's action was not tainted by any political bias. Albania and Hungary had been the victims of notoriously discriminatory treatment. For that reason the Polish delegation made certain reservations on paragraph 3 of the joint draft resolution.

42. After recalling that her Government had been able to give UNICEF a contribution twice as large as that of the United Kingdom, Mrs. Kalinowska concluded by saying that her delegation would vote for an extension of the terms of reference of the Fund.

43. Mr. TSAO (China) noted with satisfaction that most delegations were in agreement on the following three points:

44. First they recognized that UNICEF had done valuable work in bringing relief to needy children all over the world. The administrative expenses of the Fund had never exceeded 4 per cent of the sums spent, which proved that the Executive Board had acted very prudently. Furthermore, the Fund's work in Ecuador was an example of the organization's great efficiency.

45. Secondly, in regard to the future activities of UNICEF, the majority of the Committee seemed to think that henceforward the Fund should make larger allocations to countries outside Europe. That principle had moreover been specifically recognized by the Executive Board of UNICEF and by the Economic and Social Council. The question, therefore, was to determine how it could be applied.

46. Thirdly, the whole world seemed to agree that in setting aside credits for relief, UNICEF should give priority to countries where an emergency existed. Long-term projects and durable equipment were undoubtedly very important but the basic principle should not be "all or nothing". Even if it were impossible to give all, an attempt should at least be made to give everything possible to countries where the need was particularly pressing.

47. Mr. Tsao then turned to the problem of Asia and the Far East. Certain speakers had referred to the discouraging conditions in South-East Asia as well as in China and had wondered whether it was wise to allocate credits to those regions.

48. There might be a lack of trained personnel in those regions and they might not have enough resources to match the Fund's supplies; conditions in those regions might be somewhat unsettled and subject to political or military disturbances. It was nevertheless true that the children

needed assistance. UNICEF had been established precisely to meet that need; the difficulties to which reference had been made were not in any way insurmountable. China, for example, had been one of the victims of the last war and the situation had deteriorated even further as a result of the political and military events which were taking place. Notwithstanding that fact, the Fund had, during the last two years, assisted not only the areas under Government control but also the zones occupied by the communists. Even while military activities were in progress the Government had helped the Fund's representatives to enter communist areas. That showed that the Chinese Government had never lost sight of the sufferings endured by children in the communist areas and that the Fund was quite capable of carrying out its work under the most difficult circumstances. If that was true in China, it should also be true of all other countries in Asia.

49. The Chinese delegation therefore thought that understanding and sympathy on the part of Member States and adaptability and efficiency on the part of the Executive Board of UNICEF were the most essential requirements for the success of their common cause—assistance to children.

50. Mrs. WILSON (Canada) was happy to note that during the past year UNICEF had extended its sphere of action and that it was attaching ever-increasing importance to long-term programmes such as the milk conservation project, BCG vaccination, the campaign against venereal disease and the training programme. Those activities would prove of lasting benefit to the recipient countries which had shown a desire to help themselves in collaboration with the Fund.

51. Mrs. Wilson also wished to congratulate the Executive Board on the efficient way in which it had managed UNICEF's financial affairs. Its far-sighted and efficient policy had been one of the factors which had decided the Canadian Government, the previous month, to make a further contribution to the Fund by placing at its disposal considerable quantities of powdered milk.

52. Mrs. Wilson then turned to the future of UNICEF and stated that no important change in the operation of the Fund was necessary at that time. She therefore felt that it was inadvisable to encourage the extension of the Fund's activities by mentioning one group of countries specifically. If under-developed areas were mentioned, it would certainly be impossible to leave out other countries in the world where the need for assistance was as great. It was particularly inadvisable to make a recommendation of that nature to the General Assembly in view of the fact that contributions from Governments might be considerably reduced in the future.

53. She thought it premature, moreover, to consider an extension of the Fund's activities in the manner suggested by the representative of Uruguay (A/C.3/L.37). Before adopting the proposal that the United Nations should assume the responsibility for looking after destitute children in every part of the world, Governments would certainly wish to study it very carefully. The vast sums of money which had so far been spent on what had been considered as an emergency operation would give Governments some indication of the cost of the much more ambitious plan, proposed by the representative of Uruguay, to im-

prove child welfare and nutrition throughout the world.

54. At its ninth session the Economic and Social Council had set up a working group composed of members of the Secretariat and representatives of the specialized agencies to study the continuing needs of children. That study would enable the United Nations to obtain some idea of the work which it would have to accomplish after UNICEF ceased to exist. After being reviewed by the Social Commission, in December, that study would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council the following February. In view of that fact, Mrs. Wilson thought that the Assembly should defer any decision as to the future of UNICEF until the Governments concerned and the appropriate bodies had studied that Committee's report.

55. Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) presented to the Committee a resolution (A/C.3/L.39) which he had drafted, taking into account the amendments which had been submitted to the joint draft resolution of Australia, France, Israel, Mexico and New Zealand (A/C.3/L.35). In view of the fact that he had not been able to consult the other authors of the joint draft resolution, he was submitting the new text, which embodied some important changes, in the name of his own delegation.

56. He had given a more general form to paragraph 2 (formerly paragraph 5) as it had seemed to imply a decision on the structure of the United Nations bodies concerned with assistance. The joint draft resolution was not intended, *ipso facto*, to make the Fund a permanent body. Such a decision was not necessary at that stage and, like any proposal to alter or modify the Fund, required careful study.

57. Furthermore it had seemed advisable to incorporate in paragraphs 4 and 5 of his draft the majority of the suggestions made by the representatives of Argentina and Brazil (A/C.3/L.38). While able, personally, to accept their fourth amendment approving the decisions of the Executive Board of the Fund to devote in the future a greater share of the Fund's resources to the development of programmes outside Europe, he felt that that proposal should be voted on separately.

58. Finally, the last two paragraphs of his new text reproduced word for word the relevant paragraphs of the original draft resolution.

59. Turning to the amendment submitted by the Mexican delegation (A/C.3/L.36), he said that he was prepared to incorporate it in his text, provided that the Mexican representative was willing to alter it to read as follows:

"Appeals to the various official and private international organizations interested in child welfare to collaborate with UNICEF in every possible way".

60. The draft resolution submitted by the representative of Uruguay (A/C.3/L.37) was a basic resolution; he had not been able to incorporate it in his own text. He fully appreciated the value of that draft resolution, but thought that it could not be adopted without exhaustive study. He therefore proposed that it should be transmitted to the Working Group on the Continuing Needs of Children.

61. Mrs. BASTID (France) expressed her appreciation of the methods employed by UNICEF in carrying out its work.

62. The Fund had shown considerable flexibility, and its Executive Board had realized that the problems facing it had not been the same in all countries and that its activities must therefore be adapted to circumstances. That flexibility had been accompanied everywhere by a high degree of efficiency.

63. With regard to relations with the recipient Governments, UNICEF had shown wisdom in not wishing to substitute a programme drawn up *a priori* for the plans which those Governments had prepared themselves. It had consulted each of the Governments concerned, and had adapted its activities to their national plans. Such consultations had, naturally, required a certain amount of time, but their result had been excellent. The activities of UNICEF had therefore been adapted to immediate needs, as well as to the conditions prevailing in each country, and it had thus had very great educational value.

64. The Fund had also been able to establish very valuable relations with Governments which had wished to assist the children of the countries which had needed such aid, as was shown by the BCG vaccination campaign which had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scandinavian countries, and the establishment of an international research and training Centre for child welfare in Paris. In that connexion, she wished to thank the countries which had helped to bring about the success of that very important activity.

65. Finally, UNICEF had succeeded in establishing very effective collaboration with the specialized agencies—a difficult task in view of the complexity of the problems before it and the difference in the structure of the various organizations concerned.

66. Mrs. Bastid then turned to the two essential problems which the Committee was called upon to settle—its attitude towards UNICEF and the question of contributions.

67. Various criticisms had been levelled at the Fund, particularly that it had neglected Asia and Latin America. It was to be hoped, of course, that UNICEF would direct its activities increasingly towards those regions. It must not be forgotten, however, that the Fund had been in existence only for three years, and that in 1946 everyone had agreed that priority should be given to the war-devastated countries. It should not be forgotten either that the States in Europe which were receiving assistance from UNICEF had been among the first to examine the problem of children and they had therefore been in a position to submit programmes previously drawn up.

68. Nevertheless, it was certain that the authors of the resolution adopted in 1946 had not viewed the situation in any narrow way, and that they had investigated the problem of the protection of children in all its aspects. Thus, UNICEF was fully competent to extend its activities outside Europe.

69. It had been argued that the situation in Europe had almost returned to normal. It was true that conditions had greatly improved and that UNICEF had considerably assisted in that improvement. Nevertheless, the hardships which

the European people had suffered during the war were continuing to produce disastrous results and the children born in 1944, for example, had serious constitutional defects which must be remedied.

70. The problem of child health was far from having been solved in Europe and the activity of UNICEF was still justified. That did not mean, however, that the Fund should refrain from extending its activities to other parts of the world. Such extended action would have to take into account the results of the study currently being made on the continuing needs of children.

71. On no account should the work which had already been done and which had given such good results be relinquished immediately. It would therefore be wrong to terminate UNICEF, as the representative of the United Kingdom appeared to have proposed. A final distribution of UNICEF's funds would in no way provide a satisfactory solution to the problem. Indeed, UNICEF did not distribute money; it gave its services to the countries which needed them and those services should continue.

72. With regard to the question of contributions, she thought that UNICEF was in a special position because it owed its existence to voluntary contributions alone. The representative of the United Kingdom had stated that her country could no longer contribute to the Fund. Mrs. Bastid was well aware that the difficulties which the United Kingdom was undergoing currently were the result of the part which that country had played during the war, and she fully appreciated it. She was convinced, moreover, that as soon as circumstances permitted, the United Kingdom would again do what it could to assist in the protection of children. Meanwhile, many other Governments could make their contribution to UNICEF and they must be encouraged to do so. The General Assembly, therefore, should draw the attention of Member States to the fact that it was essential that the activities of UNICEF should continue.

73. Mrs. Bastid finally turned to the draft resolutions before the Committee. She thought that the Uruguayan proposal (A/C.3/L.37) provided clear guidance on the direction which the work should take in the future. Nevertheless, that proposal contained a number of entirely new ideas, and the Governments should be enabled to study them thoroughly. She hoped, therefore, that it could be taken into account at a later stage.

74. With regard to the United States resolution (A/C.3/L.34), the French representative acknowledged that it offered a means of settling the urgent problem of finance. Nevertheless, the last paragraph, which set the date 30 June 1950 for the termination of UNICEF's activities, appeared unduly restrictive, as it was obvious that the Fund would not have fulfilled its purpose by that time.

75. She was therefore prepared to accept the Australian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.39), which she considered entirely satisfactory. She would, however, like to see the word *structure* substituted for the word *constitution* in the French translation of paragraph 2, which would make it closer to the meaning of the English text. Furthermore, she suggested that the expression "other calamities" should be substituted for the words "natural catastrophes", giving a broader meaning.

76. If that draft resolution were adopted, each member of the Committee should explain to his Government the urgent necessity of guaranteeing UNICEF's finances.

77. In conclusion, she thought that the Mexican document (A/C.3/L.36) deserved the Committee's attention and that the proposed appeal to international organizations was of considerable importance. She must point out in that connexion that if the Committee at its current session took a decision likely to endanger the existence of UNICEF, she would have considerable difficulty in explaining that decision to the international groups with which she was personally in contact.

78. Mrs. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) said that, in view of the spirit of conciliation and goodwill shown by the Australian delegation, she would withdraw her proposal (A/C.3/L.34) in favour of the new draft resolution which had just been submitted (A/C.3/L.39).

79. She wished to emphasize, however, that she considered paragraph 5 of the new draft resolution simply as a statement of the current situation in the world. It would, of course, still be understood that the Programme Committee of UNICEF would continue to follow its terms of reference in all circumstances.

80. In conclusion, she stated that she would vote in favour of the Mexican amendment (A/C.3/L.36), if it were redrafted as suggested by the representative of Australia.

81. Mrs. DE CASTILLO LEDÓN (Mexico) accepted the new drafting suggested by the Australian representative, which fully covered the spirit of her amendment.

82. Mr. OTAÑO VILANOVA (Argentina), speaking also on behalf of the representative of Brazil, said that, in order to facilitate the Committee's work and to make a unanimous decision possible, the Argentine and Brazilian delegations would withdraw the first, second, third and fifth amendments (A/C.3/L.38) which they had submitted to the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.35) since the new Australian text amply covered those amendments.

83. They would, however, be obliged to insist on a vote on the fourth amendment because it dealt with a question of principle concerning the future activity of the Fund, a point which was of the utmost importance to the peoples of Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

84. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) did not think that the representative of Israel had been justified in stating that Europe had been the chief theatre of activity during the Second World War. He pointed out that the war had been waged with equal violence in Asia, where China had stood against fascism even before any attacks had been made in Europe, and where the Philippines had borne their share of sufferings and destruction. If assistance was to be granted in proportion to the evils suffered as a result of the war, no one could question the undoubted right of the peoples of Asia to receive international aid.

85. Mr. SALAZAR (Peru) was gratified that the discussion on the protection of suffering children had kept a high moral tone and that the delegations which had spoken in the name of the Latin American countries had done so in the spirit of

human solidarity which had been the inspiration of the noble draft resolution submitted by Uruguay (A/C.3/L.37).

86. There was one point, however, which had not been stressed sufficiently. Although the Second World War had been waged chiefly in Europe, Asia and certain parts of Africa, and although the populations of those countries had borne the direct brunt of the hostilities, it was none the less true that the indirect effects of warfare were equally devastating. Thus, the countries of Latin America had had to suffer the disastrous consequences of the collapse of their economic systems as a result of the Second World War. Certain activities had been completely paralysed, the cost of living had risen by 400 per cent in certain countries, with the consequent impoverishment of the working classes; naturally the ones affected first and most seriously were the children. That factor should not be forgotten and the under-developed countries of Latin America were entitled to invoke it when aid for war-devastated countries was being discussed.

87. His delegation would vote in favour of the new draft resolution submitted by Australia and would also support the amendment submitted by Argentina and Brazil.

88. Mr. CONTOUMAS (Greece) said that, although there seemed to be general agreement that the conditions in the European countries devastated by fascist aggression had improved considerably and that those countries could no longer be given priority in the programme of assistance to children, as had been required by General Assembly resolution 57 (I), it had, at the same time, been recognized that there were certain exceptions to that general rule. Greece had been mentioned among those exceptions because of the political upheavals it was undergoing.

89. There seemed, however, to be an omission on that point in paragraph 5 of the Australian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.39). The only causes of emergency needs for children it mentioned were war—and that inferred the Second World War—and natural catastrophes, which meant disasters caused by the elements. If that text were followed strictly, the exceptional cases that had been mentioned—and therefore Greece—would be excluded from the Fund's assistance. He feared that the text might well be interpreted in that way, especially if the Committee were to adopt the Argentine and Brazilian amendment, which was aimed at directing the Fund's activities towards countries outside Europe.

90. He did not believe that such an interpretation really corresponded to the wishes of the Committee. That was why he had decided to take up the suggestion made by the representative of France and to propose that the Australian representative should replace the word "natural catastrophes", in paragraph 5 of his draft resolution, by the words "other calamities". If the Australian delegation accepted that amendment, it would be understood that the words "other calamities" covered not only natural catastrophes but also all the other disasters which might befall a country, such as political disorder, civil war, and any other form of armed conflict subsequent to the Second World War.

91. The CHAIRMAN asked the representatives of Israel and New Zealand whether, as joint

authors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.35), they would accept the new draft submitted by the representative of Australia, which was already assured of the support of the representatives of France and Mexico.

92. Mr. KATZNELSON (Israel) said that his delegation would willingly accept the draft, which retained all the main elements of the original resolution. There was, however, one comment which it would like to make, in the hope that the representative of Australia would take note of it and amend his text accordingly. Paragraph 4 of the Australian draft resolution congratulated the Fund on the task which it had accomplished in Europe and noted that it was extending its work to Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa; it would, however, be doing the Fund a grave injustice to seem unaware of all it had accomplished in the past year on behalf of Palestine refugees, to whom it had to date allocated 10 million dollars.

93. Mr. Katznelson further noted with lively satisfaction that the Australian draft resolution had the assured support of the United States delegation. Personally, he would like to see it incorporate the Mexican amendment.

94. The representative of Israel wished, before concluding, to reply briefly to the Philippine representative and to assure him that it had never been his intention to minimize the part played in the war by Asiatic countries, nor the devastation which they had suffered. When UNICEF had been asked to come to the aid of the victims of war in Europe, it had been able to do so immediately. That had not been the case in some other regions, particularly Asia, where the official ending of the war had not always coincided with the end of hostilities and where it had been necessary to decide what forms action should take before a beginning could be made. Mr. Katznelson thought that the Fund could not be blamed for not hesitating to give aid wherever it could be most immediately useful; for that reason he refused to associate himself with the accusations of political discrimination unjustly brought against it.

95. Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) accepted the suggestions made by the representative of Greece and Israel.

96. Mr. SUTCH (New Zealand) pointed out that the representative of Australia had proposed a substitution for paragraph 5 of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.35), which referred to "the important role played by the Fund in the structure of the United Nations welfare bodies". The Australian representative's wording of paragraph 2 of the new text (A/C.3/L.39), spoke more vaguely of "the important role which the Fund has been playing in the structure of the United Nations". That alteration seemed to Mr. Sutch regrettable, since the essential function of the Fund was precisely that of supplementing national programmes of assistance and co-ordinating the activities of specialized agencies in the sphere of child welfare. It was that aspect of its work which had been the token of its success and it was important to take note of it.

97. However, the delegation of New Zealand understood the Australian delegation's reasons for drafting a compromise text and would vote for it in the same spirit of conciliation. It hoped that

the new resolution, of which the United States had already expressed its support, would be unanimously adopted, since aid to children in distress was a sacred duty which overrode all political controversy.

98. At the request of Mrs. ROOSEVELT (United States of America), who thought the wording more correct from the point of view of procedure, Mr. OTAÑO VILANOVA (Argentina) and Mr. FREYRE (Brazil) agreed to change "Approves in paragraph 4 to "Notes with approval".

99. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) was glad to note that the Australian resolution, which seemed to have the support of the majority of the Committee, was on sound lines since it aimed at the continuance of UNICEF and the extension of its activities not only to the children of countries which had suffered directly from the war, but to all the children in the world who needed help. As the representatives of France had rightly pointed out, the urgent needs created by the war still existed and temporary aid, however precious, could not suffice to obliterate the sometimes indelible traces which the world catastrophe had left on a whole generation of children. Moreover, as the earthquake which had devastated an entire region of Ecuador had shown, natural catastrophes might have consequences as fearful as those of war itself and it was natural that, when one of its members was stricken, the international community should give concrete proof of its solidarity.

100. Thus, in substance, the Australian draft resolution came close to that submitted to the Committee by the delegation of Uruguay itself (A/C.3/L.37). There was, however, an essential difference between the two texts. The Uruguayan draft really aimed at obtaining from the General Assembly a general statement of principle solemnly reaffirming the universal duty incumbent on States to share in the protection of children. By the terms of that draft, the Assembly considered it a fundamental duty under the Charter to devote special attention to the position of destitute children in every part of the world, and to that end decided to keep UNICEF in operation and recommended that each Member State should make a special appropriation for the relief of destitute children through the Fund.

101. In keeping with that principle, the Uruguayan draft envisaged specific measures for facilitating the payment of contributions, which had become obligatory. Like the Mexican amendment, it also expressly demanded the co-operation of existing regional agencies specializing in child welfare services. In that connexion Mr. Rodríguez Fabregat stated that he had in mind such organizations as the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood, at Montevideo, the activities of which had been praised by the representatives of Bolivia.

102. Mr. Rodríguez Fabregat feared that the Australian draft resolution did not lay sufficient stress on the fact that assistance to children should be a universal obligation. The General Assembly of the United Nations should reiterate its appeal to all Governments to take part without exception in the work of UNICEF. The desirability of such action had been understood by the many speakers who had paid a tribute to the Uruguayan draft resolution and Mr. Rodrí-

gues Fabregat was most grateful to them. They had, however, stated that the draft was deserving of close study and that, before it was adopted, the Governments and organizations concerned should be consulted. The delegation of Uruguay would not raise any objection to that procedure if it were given an assurance that its proposal, to which it attached great moral significance, would be duly submitted to the Assembly.

103. The CHAIRMAN stated that, if there were no objections, the Uruguayan delegation's draft resolution (A/C.3/L.37) would be submitted to the Working Group on the Continuing Needs of Children for study and report and that the decision would be duly recorded in the Committee's report.

It was so decided.

104. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the modified joint Argentine-Brazilian amendment (A/C.3/L.38), which read as follows:

5. *Notes with approval* the decisions of the Executive Board of the Fund to devote henceforth a greater share of the Fund's resources to the development of programmes outside Europe".

105. That text, if adopted, would be inserted after paragraph 4 of the Australian draft resolution.

The amendment was adopted by 38 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

106. Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would abstain from voting on the Australian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.39), which provided for the continuance of UNICEF, by reason of the discriminatory policy adopted by that body, in flagrant violation of the principle of non-discrimination proclaimed by the Charter, against two beneficiary countries, Hungary and Albania.

107. The CHAIRMAN recalled the fact that the representative of Australia had agreed to embody in the text of his resolution the Mexican amendment (A/C.3/L.36), in the revised form (paragraph 59) approved by the representative of Mexico. The passage should therefore be inserted between paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Australian draft resolution.

108. He put the Australian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.39) to the vote in its amended form.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 40 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday, 28 November 1949, at 3 p.m.

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

Draft convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others: memorandum from the Sixth Committee (A/C.3/530, A/C.3/526 and A/C.6/L.102)¹

1. The CHAIRMAN requested the Committee to examine a memorandum from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee to the Third Committee on questions referred to the Sixth Committee in connexion with the draft convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others (A/C.6/L.102). In so far as the Sixth Committee's opinions referred to purely legal matters, the Third Committee would do well to be guided by them. The Committee would take as its working paper a note by the Secretary-General listing the conclusions of the Sixth Committee (A/C.3/530).

ARTICLE 1 (*continued*)

2. Mr. PETREN (Sweden) observed that the Sixth Committee had correctly pointed out in section IV of its memorandum that a number of States would be unable to sign the convention because of the omission of the stipulation that incitement to prostitution should be punishable only if committed for purposes of gain. That stipulation had appeared in the original draft transmitted by the Economic and Social Council in the annex to its resolution 243 B (IX).

3. Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan) said that that observation by the Sixth Committee raised the important question how far the Third Committee should consider itself bound by the Sixth Committee's opinions. The statement mentioned by the Swedish representative was not, in his opinion, a statement on a point of law but merely a piece of information of which the Third Committee was already perfectly well aware. The statement was, therefore, both superfluous and tendentious.

4. A convention could be drafted in accordance with one of three principles. Either it must be a lowest common denominator, containing only provisions which were already embodied in the domestic legislation of all the signatory States; or it could be a standard to aim at; or, finally, it could be a compromise between those two principles. The Third Committee was fully aware of its responsibility in that connexion. Before it discussed the specific point raised by the Swedish representative, the Committee should therefore discuss the basic question of principle raised by the Sixth Committee in connexion with the expression "subject to the requirements of domestic law", (A/C.6/L.102, section II). The question at issue was whether the entire convention was to represent a lowest common denominator or a standard to aim at, regardless of whether the specific stipulation mentioned by the Swedish representative was or was not embodied in domestic law.

5. Mr. PETREN (Sweden) agreed with the representative of Pakistan that the implications of the phrase "subject to the requirements of domestic law" must be thoroughly discussed, because for

¹ See previous meetings on this question (237th-248th meetings).