



GENERAL

E/ICEF/SR.84

27 November 1951

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Dual Distribution

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris,  
on Thursday, 8 November 1951, at 11 a.m.

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Mrs. SINCLAIR

Canada

Members:

Mr. BRENNAN

Australia

Mr. MEERT

Belgium

Mr. SALINAS ARAMAYO

Bolivia

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE

Brazil

Mr. KUSOV

Byelorussian Soviet  
Socialist Republic

Mr. JAYASURIYA

Ceylon

Mr. TSAO

China

Miss BERNARDINO

Dominican Republic

Mr. ALBORNOZ

Ecuador

Members (continued):

Mr. DEBERÉ	France
Mr. NATARAJAN	India
Miss SUDIFDJO	Indonesia
Mr. KHALIDY	Iraq
Mr. BAROR	Israel
Mr. MONTINI	Italy
Mr. DAVIN	New Zealand
Mr. LINDT	Switzerland
Mr. SAVUT	Turkey
Mr. FOURIE	Union of South Africa
Mr. CHECHETKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. ANDERSON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Miss KERNOHAN	United States of America
Mr. PLEIC	Yugoslavia

Secretariat:

Mr. PICOT	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs
Miss HENDERSON	Department of Social Affairs

UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE	Executive Director
Mr. HEYWARD	Deputy Executive Director
Mr. EGGER	Director of European and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
Mr. KEENY	Director of Asian Regional Office
Mr. SCHMITTLINGER	Programme Co-ordinator
Dr. BORCIC	Chief Medical Officer
Mr. CHARNOW	Secretary of the Board

OPENING OF THE SESSION

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The CHAIRMAN, after welcoming the members of the Executive Board, said that she was happy to be able to introduce to them the new Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs, Mr. Picot, who had agreed to attend the opening meeting of the session.

Mr. PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs) paid a tribute to the important work carried out by UNICEF and also to the activities of the Executive Board. He recalled that, on the previous day at the opening meeting of the sixth session of the General Assembly, the President of the French Republic had made particular reference to the scale of the campaign undertaken by UNICEF and by the International Children's Centre.

He congratulated the members of the Executive Board as being the efficient artificers of UNICEF's programme of work, and assured them that they could count on the support of the Department of Social Affairs and also upon his own support.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, since the Programme Committee had been unable to complete its work during the previous week, its Chairman had requested the convening of a meeting for that same day. The meeting would be held in the afternoon, after that of the Executive Board.

She announced that the French representative wished to put forward a proposal which would give those members of the Board who so desired an opportunity of observing more closely the various forms which assistance to children took in France.

Dr. DEBRE (France) stated that the Ministry of Health and Population would be pleased to arrange, for those members of the Board who might be interested, visits to centres dealing with crèches and day nurseries, to institutions for sick and mentally defective children, and to children's restaurants. The Ministry had made arrangements for visits of one or two days' duration in Paris and the Paris area, and for visits lasting three days to more distant towns, such as Lille or Nancy.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN requested those members of the Board whom the proposal interested to inform the secretary of the Board within twenty four hours, at the same time stating the length of time which they would be able to devote to the visits.

She proposed that the Board adopt its agenda.

The agenda was adopted.

#### REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(a) General Progress Report (E/ICEF/182, 182/Add.1, 182.Corr.1)

Mr. PAEE (Executive Director), introducing the general progress report to the Board (E/ICEF/182), observed that it threw into strong relief the large number of beneficiaries under UNICEF programmes. Up to the present time, 18,000,000 women and children had been receiving assistance from UNICEF and, with approval of the programmes proposed, that number would rise to 35,000,000. It was to be noted that, in respect to both figures, a large number of the persons in question obtained simultaneous benefit under several programmes, including feeding, BCG vaccination, etc. Great progress was being made in the field of child welfare and UNICEF action was being received by governments with a continually rising confidence. Since the publication of the report, the Executive Director had visited the Scandinavian countries, accompanied by Mr. Freehagen, the UNICEF voluntary representative in Norway. He had received a uniformly warm welcome everywhere and had had talks with important officials in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, with the double purpose of providing more information on the new UNICEF programmes and of investigating the possibilities of obtaining financial support, both public and private, in those three countries.

There was a tendency to believe that less now remained to be done in the field of aid to children, in view of the fact that the war had long since been over; nevertheless, investigations which had been carried out showed that serious problems presented themselves and that, in certain countries, children who had not suffered from the war were, apparently, in need of UNICEF assistance.

/He stated

He stated that, as a result of having accompanied the members of the Programme Committee on their recent visit to Yugoslavia, he was strongly impressed by the wide difference between the UNICEF contribution to maternal and child welfare in Yugoslavia, which amounted to \$9,000, and the Yugoslav Government's contribution, which was ten times as large. Even if that fact was comforting in itself, it none the less appeared that a very great effort was being demanded of the countries receiving assistance.

He stressed that a large number of countries receiving UNICEF assistance were making efforts, irrespective of the scale of their own requirements, to pay their contributions to UNICEF activities. This was particularly the case with respect to Thailand and Japan, the latter country having provided, in the form of labour, a contribution which practically equalled the value of the assistance it received.

The total amount of credit allocations and apportionments recommended by the Programme Committee was approximately \$15,000,000; if the Executive Board approved that recommendation, UNICEF would retain an unallocated reserve of less than \$70,000. The Administration was not concealing the gravity of the present financial situation; however, it had good reason to hope that, assuming sufficient publicity for UNICEF's programme and objectives, the contributions to be received would enable the balance to be redressed.

In conclusion, he stated that the Board could, if it so desired, hear statements by those senior UNICEF officers who, having made recent visits to the various countries receiving assistance, were in a position to define existing requirements and to describe the work accomplished in the field of child welfare. Dr. Borcic, UNICEF Chief Medical Officer, who was carrying out on behalf of UNICEF and of WHO periodical inspections of UNICEF medical services in the various countries, could also provide some important information.

Dr. BORCIC (Chief Medical Officer) stated that he would indicate the main lines of development of UNICEF's activities, which were being more and more concentrated on long-term programmes.

More than two-thirds of the credits at present available were devoted to the maternal and child welfare programme, the basic importance of

/which

which had been recognized by the Executive Board in May. In carrying out that programme, which related to the field of health protection, UNICEF was called upon to collaborate ever more closely with WHO, both in the preparation of plans of action and in their implementation.

One of the essential principles observed by UNICEF, within the framework of that programme, was to link up the maternal and child health centres it was organizing and the public health services already in existence.

The problem of the lack of specialized and auxiliary medical personnel continued to be acutely felt, even in European countries. Accordingly UNICEF was seeking to assist governments to train the specialized personnel they required. In view of the costs involved the difficulties were serious: formerly, most of the prospective members for that personnel provided for their own maintenance during the training period, but at present there was a constantly increasing tendency to recruit the personnel in question from among the poor rural population so as to ensure a future supply of doctors and midwives in the country districts.

He pointed out that the general trends of the activities undertaken by UNICEF varied with the geographical areas, the most important problems not being identical in all countries. Thus, in Europe, UNICEF was devoting the greater part of its efforts to the establishment of maternal and child welfare centres in rural areas, whereas in Asia, where the birth-rate was very high, the BCG vaccination campaign was being much more actively carried on than in Europe. While on the one hand malaria continued to be a particularly acute problem in Africa and Asia, the countries of Latin America on the other hand were showing great anxiety at a number of cases of yellow fever, which might possibly constitute a serious danger for the economy of those countries.

At a more general level, UNICEF had to face two basic problems, namely the control of trachoma, which caused millions of cases of blindness, and the control of intestinal diseases, which decimated the infant population and for which the necessary antibiotics and germicides had to be provided.

In conclusion, he pointed out that, although progress was still somewhat slow owing to the difficulties which governments faced in implementing programmes, a definite advance had been made, and there was reason for hoping that, if UNICEF continued the activities it had already begun, it would have greatly contributed, in twenty or thirty years' time to improving the lot of humanity.

/Mr. BRENNAN

Mr. PREMMAR (Australia) was glad to be able to inform the Executive Board that an allocation of £ Australian 250,000, or about \$500,000, had been provided for UNICEF in the budget estimates submitted to the Australian Parliament.

Mr. LINDT (Switzerland) said that a proposal had been submitted to the Swiss Parliament that UNICEF should be allotted a sum of Swiss fr. 700,000 each year for three years to come.

Dr. DEBRE (France) said that the French Government had included the sum of French fr. 175,000,000 for UNICEF in the 1952 budget.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the entire Board, asked the representatives of Australia, Switzerland and France to convey UNICEF's thanks to their respective Governments for their generous contributions.

Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) recalled that his country had benefited greatly from the assistance given to the world by the United Nations in general, as was the case during the recent earthquake in Ecuador, and by UNICEF in particular. As was pointed out on page 39 of the Executive Director's report (E/ICEF/182), the tuberculosis campaign undertaken by the Joint Enterprise ended on 30 June 1951, and he wished to thank UNICEF and the Scandinavian Governments for their great efforts which had had the best results. He suggested, therefore, that the Executive Board should ask the Chairman to send a letter of thanks to the directors of the Joint Enterprise.

Miss KERNOHAN (United States of America) considered the work accomplished by the Joint Enterprise to be one of the most remarkable contributions made so far by UNICEF. She therefore supported the Ecuadorean representative's proposal and hoped that, in future, other groups to which governments belonged, UNICEF, non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies, would undertake similar work.

The CHAIRMAN shared the opinion of the United States representative and assured members of the Board that if the Ecuadorean representative's proposal was adopted, she would be happy to send a letter of thanks to the directors of the Joint Enterprise.

The Ecuadorean proposal was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 of the Executive Director's report regarding the approval by UNICEF of emergency allocations, said it would certainly be useful if the Executive Board pointed out in its report that those allocations of funds had been approved by mail and not at meetings of the Executive Board.

Moreover, contrary to what had been thought, the reports of the two working groups referred to in paragraphs 123 and 124 of the Executive Director's report could not yet be circulated to members of the Executive Board. She hoped, however, that those reports would be submitted to the Board's next meeting.

Miss KERNOHAN (United States of America), referring to the documentation placed at the disposal of the Programme Committee and of the Executive Board, said that her delegation had noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Administration to circulate documents some time before the meetings in accordance with the new rules of procedure adopted in May. She thought, however, that further progress might be made in that field.

Referring to the compendium mentioned in paragraph 143 of the report, she hoped that that document would be published regularly, and asked whether the 1951 revised edition could be distributed to the members of the Executive Board.

She noted, finally, that the Executive Director intended to circulate the French text of the necessary documents to members of the Executive Board and the Programme Committee.

/The CHAIRMAN,



The CHAIRMAN, replying to the United States representative, said that copies of the revised compendium would be circulated to members of the Executive Board at the end of the meeting.

Mr. TSAO (China) said that his Government was studying the possibility of allocating funds to UNICEF in 1952, and he hoped to be in a position to give definite information on that question at the next meeting.

He congratulated the Administration on the work it had accomplished and especially on its studies on the spot carried out in various areas. He was happy to note that UNICEF had made considerable progress and that the Executive Director's report had emphasized the necessity of increasing the number and scope of programmes for Africa.

Lastly, he said that the Chinese Government was greatly concerned about the fate of refugee mothers and children at Cholon and Hong Kong, who were living under deplorable conditions. So far, the Hong Kong Government, acting with the United Kingdom representative, had made every effort to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees, and he hoped those efforts would be continued. He urged the Executive Board, however, to study the problem of those refugees and to assist them.

Mr. ANDERSON (United Kingdom) said he would comment on the Executive Director's report when item 3 of the agenda was discussed.

As regards the refugees at Cholon and Hong Kong, he said that the health services of those areas had already done excellent work but were being hampered by the lack of supplies and staff, which was being more and more acutely felt as the number of refugees increased. Accordingly, as he had already stated in the Programme Committee, he thought the Administration of UNICEF would be receiving a request for assistance from the Hong Kong Government, and he hoped that UNICEF would give favourable consideration to that request.

Mr. BARCR (Israel) recalled that in May last, when the Executive Director's report was discussed, his delegation had expressed some disappointment at the brevity of the part of the report relating to the Eastern Mediterranean countries. He wished to point out that his remarks had been borne in mind and that the part referring to those countries in the present report submitted to the Executive Board was entirely satisfactory to his delegation.

He also recalled that in May last it was suggested that the Administration should gather data on the local matching by governments. He wondered whether the Administration was collecting those figures and emphasized the importance of such statistics as they would enable a complete picture of the situation to be obtained.

Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Executive Director) said that the Administration had tried to include a survey of the value of the services and material supplied by governments in its recent plans of operation. It was more difficult, however, to collect figures for previous periods when the plans of operation did not include such information. Nevertheless, he assured the members of the Board that the Administration would do its best.

Mr. JAYASURIYA (Ceylon) said that if an attempt was made to assess local matching by governments, great tact would be needed, and the fact should be emphasized that UNICEF simply wished to have a more detailed outline of the situation. If it was understood that that procedure would be adopted, he would support the Israel representative's point of view on the need for collecting such statistics.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.