

United Nations
ECONOMIC
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SOCIAL COUNCIL

Nations Unies
CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
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UNRESTRICTED

E/ICEF/1
27 December 1946

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE BOARD

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, 19 December 1946, at 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Sola	(Argentina)
Mr. Body	(Australia)
Mr. Bittencourt	(Brazil)
Mr. Smolliyar	(Byelorussia S.S.R.)
Miss Burwash	(Canada)
Mr. Yang	(China)
Mr. Papanek	(Czechoslovakia)
Mr. Hammershaimb	(Denmark)
Mr. Correa	(Ecuador)
Mr. Argod	(France)
Mr. Pesmazoglou	(Greece)
Miss Witteveen	(Netherlands)
Mr. Brebner	(New Zealand)
Mr. Moe	(Norway)
Mr. Rajchman	(Poland)
Mr. Rydbeck	(Sweden)
Mr. Webster	(Union of South Africa)
Mr. Phillips	(United Kingdom)
Mrs. Roosevelt	(United States)
Mr. Kobushko	(U.S.S.R.)
Mr. Krasovec	(Yugoslavia)
Secretariat: Mr. Trygve Lie	(Secretary-General)
Mr. Langier	(Assistant Secretary-General)
UNRRA: Mr. Davidson	(Representative of Director-General)

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1. Opening of the Meeting by the Secretary-General

The meeting was convened by the Secretary-General, Mr. Lie. Referring to Article 3 (d) of the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly Mr. Lie noted that "The first meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the earliest date feasible, after the adoption of this Resolution". Mr. Lie felt that it was essential to hold the first meeting of the Executive Board before the Christmas holidays

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even though all the member countries had not yet designated their permanent representatives to the Board, because the Board was faced with the great and urgent task of raising funds, assessing needs, and recommending programmes.

Mr. Lie informed the Board that he had received a cheque for \$550,000 from Mr. LaGuardia, Director-General of UNRRA representing a contribution by voluntary agencies and private individuals in the United States. He stated that he had also received a cheque for \$2.19 which was raised by school children in the Carson Grade School in the State of Washington. These two checks, he felt were symbolic of the sentiments of the American people. He hoped that the same spirit will prevail in all countries.

Mr. Lie, then, proposed that the Board should consider as its first item of business the election of a Chairman.

2. Election of the Chairman

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) said that many Members present at the meeting had also served on Sub-Committee of the Third Committee, and were fully conscious of the urgency of the task before them and grateful to the Secretary-General for having called an early meeting. Since there was not as yet a quorum of accredited representatives, it would prove difficult to elect permanent officers, for this reason he could nominate Dr. RAJCHMAN (POLAND) only as temporary Chairman, especially in view of the fact that all those representatives who had worked with Dr. Rajchman previously were deeply impressed with his interest in the establishment of the Fund as Chairman of the UNRRA Standing Committee and as Rapporteur of Sub-Committee 1 of the Third Committee.

Mrs. ROOSEVELT (UNITED STATES) seconded the nomination stating that she felt no better temporary chairman could be elected and expressed her gratitude for the contribution which Dr. Rajchman had made as Rapporteur. She also added that she could not be able to be an accredited representative of the Board. Moreover, she pledged her unofficial support of the Fund to the greatest possible extent.

/Mr. KOBUSHKO (U.S.S.R.)

Mr. KOBUSHKO (UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS) said that although it was unusual that a motion should be seconded by more than one person he wished to associate himself very warmly with the views of the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States.

Mr. YANG (CHINA) and Mr. PERMAZOGLU (GREECE) also warmly supported Dr. Rajchman's nomination.

The Board elected Dr. Rajchman by acclamation.

Dr. Rajchman then took the chair.

The CHAIRMAN expressed his gratification at the action of the Board and his gratitude to the Secretary-General. The present meeting he said was to establish the basis for future work of the International Children's Emergency Fund.

3. Presentation of the Report and Resolution of the General Assembly

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. LAUGIER to present the report and resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. LAUGIER felt there was no need for lengthy statements at this time. The members of the Board were familiar with the discussion which had taken place in the Sub-Committee, in the Third Committee and finally in the General Assembly. The Resolution as passed by the General Assembly with the report of the Rapporteur were to be found in document A/230 which was at present before the members of the Board.

Mr. WEBSTER (UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA) stated that perhaps other members were in the same position as he was since he had not participated in previous discussions leading to the establishment of the Fund, and since he had not seen the report until that morning he would need a little time to study it.

The CHAIRMAN said the document before the Committee was the Constitution of the International Children's Emergency Fund, the result of long deliberations on the part of the Standing Committee of UNRRA, the Economic and Social Council, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General had subsequently prepared a draft resolution which had been

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discussed at great length in Sub-Committee 1 of the Third Committee, the Full Committee and the General Assembly itself where it had been finally adopted.

Under this Constitution the Executive Board after consultation with the Economic and Social Council determined policy and programmes of the Fund. The Fund would be administered by an Executive Director appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Executive Board. (Document A/230, page 9, paragraph 3 (a)).

4. Discussion of Procedure under Article 3 (b) of the Resolution, the Appointment of an Executive Director

The Secretary-General wished to make a short statement concerning this point.

Mr. LIE stated that it was most important to get the best qualified man or woman for the job of Executive Director of the Fund. He indicated that he did not have the name of any person in mind and he asked the members of the Board to suggest names of qualified persons either directly to him or to Mr. Laugier. He also suggested that after the names of candidates were submitted he and the Executive Board in a closed meeting could reach a decision on the appointment of the Executive Director. He stated that he was at the disposition of the Board until 10 January 1947, however he urged that the meeting should be held as quickly as possible.

After some discussion regarding the time limit for the submission of names as candidates for the Executive Director, and a date for the closed meeting, the Board agreed that the time limit for the submission of names should be set for 5 January 1947, that the closed meeting be held 7 January 1947, and that the list of proposed names submitted for Executive Director should be circulated as a confidential document, to members of the Executive Board on 6 January 1947.

5. Questions of Policies, Organization and Administration of the Fund

The CHAIRMAN stated that now the International Children's Emergency Fund was a legal entity, and it was therefore essential to take action immediately.

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The most important point was to insure contributions to the Fund. The Board at present consists of almost half the membership of United Nations. As Mrs. Roosevelt had pointed out in a previous discussion, it was hard to believe that any Government would refuse to support the Fund, but it was most essential that the Member nations represented on the Board should themselves take effective action. Since financial support on the part of any Government would, in most cases, require legislative action, it was necessary to begin consultations with Governments at once. With the permission of the Board, the CHAIRMAN said he would consult with the Secretary-General to decide what action might be taken.

The second task is something that the Board must do, Article 8 of the Constitution of the Fund directs that "A report shall be submitted to the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council containing a recommended programme and estimate of expenses incurred and to be incurred for the Fund for 1947, which shall be subject to the approval of the Council." This report will have to be prepared by 28 February 1947, since the Economic and Social Council will be meeting shortly thereafter.

The report to the Economic and Social Council calls for an appraisal of programmes and the Fund's financial needs. Since the programme would depend on proposals by Governments eligible under the Fund, it would be necessary to contact these Governments for their opinion on programmes. Two of the Governments have already made proposals which can now be formally submitted to the Board. Contact with Governments could be facilitated through UNRRA since UNRRA would remain in existence during the first few months of 1947. UNRRA files and UNRRA staff could be utilized. The Chairman called upon the representative of the Director-General of UNRRA, Mr. Davidson, to make a statement regarding this matter.

Mr. DAVIDSON (UNRRA) said that the resolution passed at the UNRRA Council meeting at Geneva provided for the transfer of residual UNRRA assets to the International Children's Emergency Fund. He had hoped that it would have

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been possible to ascertain the extent of funds at this time, but for a number of reasons this was not possible. The UNRRA Central Committee was still reviewing UNRRA's financial position. Some information might be available by mid-January and although no definite prediction could now be made it is possible that the funds to be transferred would be substantial.

Mr. Davidson added that UNRRA was prepared to assist the fund by providing fifteen to twenty members of its staff to work with the Board until 30 June 1947. UNRRA was also prepared to provide other services and facilities, as well as space in any of the UNRRA offices in the United States and abroad. In short UNRRA was ready to lend assistance and co-operation in every possible way which would promote the work of the International Children's Emergency Fund.

Mrs. ROOSEVELT (UNITED STATES) stated that since this UNRRA offer implied that the Fund might operate out of Washington, the Secretariat should be asked what they thought of the offer.

Mr. LAUGIER on behalf of the Secretariat expressed his pleasure at UNRRA's offer of assistance. The United Nations, he added, was planning to provide space to accommodate fifty persons. He felt, that the headquarters of the Fund should be established at Lake Success. In reply to a question by the Chairman, Mr. Laugier said that the personnel provided by the United Nations would be part-time, and that if it becomes necessary to have a full-time staff the Fund itself would have to pay for such services.

The CHAIRMAN then quoted a paragraph from a Memorandum sent to the Secretary-General by the Director of the Bureau of Administrative Management and Budget bearing on the question of services to be supplied to the International Children's Emergency Fund by the United Nations:

"It is clear that the Fund would have an autonomous financial status so far as programme is concerned but these articles are construed as implying the provision by the United Nations of general staff services, space, furniture and equipment, and other general

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facilities within the framework of the United Nations Secretariat. It is also clear that direct services such as full-time staff (including the Executive Director), travel and other direct expenses would be charged directly to the Fund. Assuming that the Bureau of the Comptroller will have custody of the Fund and make payments on behalf of the Fund, the costs for these direct services will be charged to this special account".

The Chairman then added that the Board might have difficulties in paying the Director's salary or any other expenses at first, since the Fund had no capital.

none of these funds were to be used for administrative expenses. The Board would therefore have to make arrangements with the Secretary-General for an advance of funds.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) felt that since the International Children's Emergency Fund was part of the United Nations its headquarters should be at Lake Success, and asked whether the staff which would be made available by UNRRA could not be transferred to Lake Success. He added that one of the problems of winding up UNRRA operations was how to place qualified international personnel elsewhere, and he felt that any UNRRA staff thus transferred might eventually become part of the United Nations Secretariat, depending necessarily on the final decision of the Secretary-General.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that headquarters should be at Lake Success while Field Officers should be wherever operations called for them. He asked that decision on this matter should be postponed until after the appointment of the Executive Director, and that such decisions should then be taken in consultation with the Secretary-General. He asked furthermore that the question of personnel should also be postponed until such a time.

Paragraph 4 (a) of document A/230 stated the case in principle. He also added that any services or personnel made available by UNRRA would be free of charge.

/Mr. PESMAZOGLU (GREECE)

Mr. PESMAZOGLU (GREECE) regarding the establishment of a programme of work said that his Government had already submitted a report, and that all other Governments should be urged to do so. He felt that it was essential to define a plan of work for the next forty-five days, and suggested that after the formal meeting on 7 January at which the Director would be appointed, the new Director should participate with the Chairman in the preparatory work which would be required before the next full Board meeting which he thought might be convened around 1 February. This would give the representatives an opportunity to consult with their own Governments and to submit proposals which the Board would then consider in February. He also suggested that it might be advisable for the Board to send representatives abroad or to appoint on-the-spot observers in countries eligible under the Fund. These representatives or observers should be qualified in their fields and of a different nationality than the country they were sent to. Such procedure would enable the Fund to obtain full and accurate information of conditions in the country.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the observations of the Greek delegate were very important, and since the dead-line for the report of the Board to the Economic and Social Council was 28 February the full session of the Board would have to be held about the middle of February and would probably last several days. At that time the Board would have to discuss programmes and estimates. The Officers of the Board would have to work between now and the February meeting, and it was therefore necessary to elect all Officers during the 7 January session as well as appoint the Executive Director. In the meantime he wished to appoint a smaller group which would examine the matters to be covered by the report, as well as any proposal submitted before the February meeting of the Board so that such proposals would come before the Board with some recommendations. He suggested the following representatives as Members of the Programme Committee: China, United States of America, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, France, Canada, Brazil, Norway, Poland and a representative of the

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Secretary-General.

In reply to Mr. PAPANEK (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) the CHAIRMAN suggested that the full Board meeting would be held on 17 January unless the date were changed at the 7 January meeting.

Mrs. ROOSEVELT (UNITED STATES) asked whether it would be possible for the Board to have a preliminary report for the Social Commission when it meets.

The CHAIRMAN thought it would be possible to have a general statement and perhaps the result of preliminary inquiries but not a full report.

Regarding the election of permanent Officers on 7 January the Chairman asked for comment on the number of Vice-Chairmen to be elected. After suggestions by representatives of Czechoslovakia and China, the Board agreed that six Vice-Chairmen should be elected.

Regarding the mobilization of financial resources, the Chairman recalled that representatives of several Latin-American countries had shown a generous interest in this matter during the deliberations of Sub-Committee 1 of the Third Committee. He asked that the Board appoint a Sub-Committee of its Latin-American Members which would study the problem of resources and report to the Board at its February session. After Mr. SOLA (ARGENTINA) expressed his and his colleagues agreement to such a procedure the Chairman asked the representatives from Latin-American countries to arrange for a meeting and elect their own Chairman. He himself would convene the Programme Committee meeting next week.

Mr. PESMAZOGLU (GREECE) repeated his request for on-the-spot observations and asked whether this was a matter which the Board had to decide or whether it could be left to the Secretary-General and the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN said that it was necessary to begin inquiries immediately but he would wish to consult the Secretary-General regarding on-the-spot observations, and he asked the representative from Greece whether he would

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leave this matter to the Secretary-General, the Programme Committee and himself. The Chairman also thought that certain arrangements might be made with UNRRA should on-the-spot inquiries become necessary.

Mr. PESMAZOGLU (GREECE) agreed to this course of procedure.

The meeting rose at 1:10 p.m.
