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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 17 December 1954, at 10.45 a.m.

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PRESENT:

Chairmen:

Mr. LINDT

Switzerland

Members:

Mr. CUTTS

Australia

Mr. FENAUX

Belgium

Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA

Brazil

Mr. ASTAPENKO

Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic

Mr. BEDSON

Canada

Mr. TSAO

China

Mr. RYBAR

Czechoslovakia

Mr. AMANRICH

France

Mrs. TSALDARIS

Greece

Mr. RAJAN

India

Mr. KHALIDY

Iraq

Mr. HARMAN

Israel

Mr. MACCHIA

Italy

Mr. MAEVDAL

Norway

Miss CABRERA

Philippines

Mr. KRIVITSKY

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics

Mr. BARNES

United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern
Ireland

Mr. KOTSCHNIG

United States of America

Mr. KOS

Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss BAÑOS

Food and Agriculture
Organization

Dr. COIGNY)
Dr. INGALLS)

World Health Organization

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:Category B:

Mr. ACTION	}	NGO Committee on UNICEF
Miss GUTHRIE		
Miss GUYER		International Alliance of Women
Mr. ACTION		International Society for the Welfare of Cripples

UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE	Executive Director
Dr. BORCIC	Deputy Executive Director

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (E/ICEF/L.698)

The provisional agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (E/ICEF/L.702)

The CHAIRMAN explained that it had been felt that, to save time, the Executive Board should take the opportunity afforded by its meeting on the report of the Committee on Administrative Budget to examine the three recommendations of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/L.693 and Corr.1, 694 and 695), the adoption of which had been recommended by the Programme Committee.

Mr. RAJAN (Chairman of the Programme Committee) said he would present the Programme Committee's observations, firstly on the three recommendations and secondly on the report of the Sub-Committee on Fund Raising.

With regard to the recommendation concerning China (Taiwan - E/ICEF/L.694), the Committee had been glad to note the acceleration of the trachoma control campaign and recommended an apportionment of 221,000 dollars.

The recommendation for an apportionment for continuation of the trachoma control campaign in Taiwan was adopted, the representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics abstaining.

Mr. RAJAN (Chairman of the Programme Committee) said that the Programme Committee had discussed at length the recommendation for an apportionment to Greece for an environmental sanitation programme (E/ICEF/L.693 and Corr.1). In particular, one member had expressed the view that environmental sanitation projects undertaken with UNICEF assistance should be purely pilot projects designed to stimulate governments and community efforts; the apportionments made were not intended to finance large-scale public works but should form an integral part of maternal and child welfare programmes. Other representatives pointed out that although the environmental sanitation project for Greece was not yet fully integrated with the MCW programme it nevertheless satisfied the stipulations

(Mr. Rajan, Chairman of the
Programme Committee)

of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy, would stimulate the beginnings of important new services and, by meeting the expectations of the villages and reinforcing the Government's efforts, would in fact be of demonstration value. The Executive Director had been requested to keep the Executive Board informed on developments in the project. The Programme Committee recommended the adoption of the Executive Director's recommendation.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) expressed satisfaction that the plan, which had been pending since February 1952, was now to be put into effect. The project, which had been studied at length by departments of the Greek Government and by UNICEF and WHO experts, was fairly general in scope and at the same time would be of particular value both to Government departments and to the Greek villages, which had endured exceptional hardships in recent years. The people were awaiting the implementation of the project with enthusiasm, and the Greek Government's sizeable matching contribution showed the interest it took in the matter.

Mr. MOISEWICZ (United States of America) referred to the reservations his delegation had made in the Programme Committee (E/ICEF/L.702, page 3). He was not certain that the contemplated environmental sanitation project fully conformed to the conditions established by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy; at all events, the criteria for the grant of UNICEF assistance should be defined more strictly. Furthermore he failed to understand why regional sanitary engineers should require special training in environmental sanitation, as paragraph 19 (b) (E/ICEF/L.693 and Corr.1) appeared to indicate.

Dr. FORCIC (Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF) explained that in practice such special training would apply only to the engineers of provincial technical services who were responsible for general public works.

Mr. MOTSCHNIG (United States of America) proposed that in that case the words "regional sanitary engineers" should be deleted from paragraph 19 (b) of document (E/ICEF/L.693).

The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretariat to take note of that amendment.

Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said his Government would support the recommendation for the implementation of an environmental sanitation project in Greece, because it considered that the project was useful, was technically practicable, and satisfied the criteria established by the Joint Committee on Health Policy. Some representatives had asked for a more strict definition of those criteria; Brazil, on the contrary, felt that environmental sanitation projects should have the widest possible scope. The implementation of such projects had no adverse effect on UNICEF's other activities and in the particular case of Greece limits to the project had already been set in the implementation plan appearing in document E/ICEF/L.693, as they would be set in practice by the common sense of the Administration.

Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia) said his Government approved the recommendation for the implementation of an environmental sanitation project in Greece and hoped to be kept informed of its results.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) thanked the Brazilian and Yugoslav delegations for their support and emphasized that the project would be of demonstration value to other countries. The training of provincial public works engineers in sanitation was as useful as the specialized training of public health medical officers and nurses had been in the maternal and child welfare programme prepared for Greece. Furthermore the plan which the Greek Government proposed set precise limits to the scope of the project.

The Executive Director's recommendation for an apportionment to Greece for the implementation of an environmental sanitation project was adopted.

Mr. RAJAN (Chairman of the Programme Committee) drew the Board's attention to the recommendation for an apportionment to the All India Institute of Hygiene at Calcutta for the training of non-Indian fellows (E/ICEF/L.695).

(Mr. Rajan, Chairman of the Programme Committee)

The Indian Government had already offered fellowships covering the registration fees for the equivalent of 250 man-years of study. That training centre would require assistance on a larger scale, however, to enable it to accept non-Indian post-graduate students. The Programme Committee had been glad to note that the instruction provided at that centre would be available to graduates from all parts of South East Asia, and it recommended an apportionment of \$25,000 for the purpose.

The Executive Director's recommendation for an apportionment to the All India Institute of Hygiene at Calcutta for the training of non-Indian fellows was adopted.

Mr. RAJAN (Chairman of the Programme Committee) presented the report of the Sub-Committee on Fund Raising (E/ICEF/L.700). The Programme Committee found the results of Mr. Santa Cruz's visit to Latin America encouraging. It also welcomed the steady increase in the number of countries contributing to the Fund and the increase in the size of contributions; UNICEF's activities would nevertheless call for even greater resources.

The Committee's attention had been drawn to the fact that in Europe the contributions of Governments did not appear commensurate with the number of National Committees. Lastly, the Programme Committee hoped that UNICEF would intensify its appeals for private contributions and extend the sale of greeting cards. It was with those observations that the Programme Committee had taken note of the report of the Sub-Committee on Fund Raising.

The Executive Board took note of the report of the Sub-Committee on Fund Raising by 14 votes to none, to 3 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had asked that their abstention should be noted in the official record of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET (E/ICEF/L.701)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Budget to present the Committee's report for 1954.

Mr. FENAUX (Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Budget) said that the report was self-explanatory. The Committee had supervised administrative expenditures and authorized the Fund's Secretariat to effect some transfers which the existence of deficits, offset by surpluses rendered it necessary and possible to make. The figures, which covered a nine month period, were only relative but they illustrated the efforts that had been made to reduce administrative costs. The ratio too, was only relative; it was the result of certain calculations and the Administration had rightly pointed out that it would obviously be different if such factors as variations in price, or transport facilities furnished by the United States, were taken into consideration.

It would be noted that for the first time a distinction had been made between administrative and operational expenditures, and that the Committee had approved the report unanimously; that was worth mentioning for there had been two abstentions at the previous session.

He had explained to the Committee the present state of affairs with respect to the reimbursement of 1954 taxes for which a supplementary allocation of \$30,000 had been requested. The present situation was a result of the Secretary-General's new proposals and the provisional undertakings given by the United States delegation to the Assembly. Following the example of the Advisory Committee of the General Assembly, the Committee had expressed the hope that the negotiations with Member States which had not yet acceded to the United Nations Convention on Privileges and Immunities would lead to its ratification or at least the adoption of provisions which would prevent the imposition of double taxation and at the same time achieve equality among international personnel with respect to taxation and equity among Member States of the United Nations.

(Mr. Fenaux, Chairman of the Committee
on Administrative Budget)

The last paragraph of the report drew the Administration's attention to the possibility of expanding the sale of Christmas cards, the proceeds of which could increase the income of the Fund considerably.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) wished to comment on two aspects of the report; paragraph 8 pointed out that the ratio of administrative costs to total expenditures had shown a reduction. That achievement could not be other than a matter of satisfaction and, contrary to what was stated in the report, that ratio of administrative cost to total expenditures was a sound indication of efficient operations irrespective of the organization to which it was applied. With respect to paragraph 14, the United States delegation felt that any reference to the question of privileges and immunities was out of place in a UNICEF document; that question was not within the competence of UNICEF but was a matter for consideration by the appropriate bodies.

Mr. FENAUX (Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Budget) recalled that he had outlined the scope of the problem before the Committee as objectively as possible in a detailed statement of which the United States representative could have a copy if he wished. With respect to the United States representative's second remark, he pointed out that the question was a general one. UNICEF was an important independent body and it too could try to contribute to the settlement of a problem whose solution was desired by all countries, including the United States, as was evident from its representative's statement in the Fifth Committee.

Mr. AMANRICH (France) agreed with the United States representative's view that the ratio of administrative costs to total expenditure was an important element in the appraisal of any organization's efficiency. He had, however, been struck by the fact that when the question of the Fund's administrative costs had been considered by the Fifth Committee, the discussion centred exclusively upon the

(Mr. Amanrich, France)

ratio of those costs; that could give a mistaken impression of UNICEF's efficiency. As the conditions under which it operated were different from those which governed the activities of other bodies, his delegation thought that a proper appraisal of its efficiency should take into account only the administrative costs. Accordingly, paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the report raised questions which should be re-examined later and which should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly when it went into the question of the administrative efficiency of UNICEF.

Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia) found the report very satisfactory. His delegation considered that the administrative costs were quite justified and were in keeping with the results achieved.

Mr. BARNES (United Kingdom) agreed with the remarks of the United States representative on paragraph 8. He questioned the necessity of paragraph 17, for he thought that the question it raised was more within the competence of the Sub-Committee on Fund Raising.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Committee on Administrative Budget considered that the general question of income was within its competence. The Committee had not considered the substance of the question raised in paragraph 17 but had simply brought it to the attention of the Sub-Committee on Fund Raising.

Mr. FENAUX (Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Budget) pointed out that the Committee on Administrative Budget had been unanimous in considering that administrative costs should be reduced as much as possible. That being so, he thought that the remarks of the United Kingdom and United States representatives might justifiably be interpreted as simple observations and not as reservations.

The Board decided unanimously to take note of the report of the Committee on Administrative Budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) New Contributions to UNICEF

Mr. TSAO (China) was happy to announce to the Board that the Chinese Government had decided, subject to legislative approval, to make a contribution of US \$10,000 to UNICEF for 1954. Modest as it was, that contribution represented a considerable effort for the Chinese Government owing to its financial difficulties.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) announced that Greece would make the same contribution to the Fund as it had made in previous years, namely 100 tons of raisins.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Chinese and Greek delegations cordially for the contributions of their countries.

(b) Conclusion of the work of the Executive Board for 1954

Mr. CUTTS (Australia) paid a tribute to the Chairman for his outstanding ability in directing the Board's work. The year 1954 would be a milestone in the history of UNICEF, which had for the first time operated as a permanent body of the United Nations. The General Assembly's unanimous decision in that connexion had been largely due to the wisdom, patience, devotion and tact of the Chairman of the Board.

He congratulated the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Budget for their excellent work.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq), Mrs. HARMAN (Israel), Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece), Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Mr. AMANRICH (France), Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia), Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America), Mr. BARNES (United Kingdom), Mr. BEDSON (Canada), Mr. KRIVITSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Miss CABRERA (Philippines), Mr. TSAO (China) and Mr. ACTON (Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF) associated themselves with the tributes paid to the Chairman, whose outstanding ability they had had occasion to appreciate.

Mr. RAJAN (India) and Mr. FENAUX (Belgium), speaking in their respective capacities as Chairman of the Programme Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Budget, associated themselves with the tributes paid to the Chairman and thanked the delegations for the kind words which they had addressed to them.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Board and the Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, who had all made such a valuable contribution to the work of the Fund, for their tributes to him. He emphasized that UNICEF was an organization which had profited from the devotion of all and that the praise expressed had been addressed to the body as a whole.

He announced that the Executive Board had concluded its work for 1954.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.