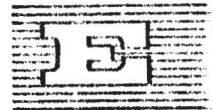


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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Wednesday, 25 March 1953, at 2.30 p.m.

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	Mr. FENAUX	Belgium
	Mr. SOUTELLO ALVES	Brazil
	Mr. TEPLOV	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mrs. SINCLAIR	Canada
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Mr. RAJAN	India
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Mr. CHECHETKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. ANDERSON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Miss ELIOT) Miss KERNOHAN)	United States of America
Mr. KOS	Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. MAHDAVI	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mrs. SISMANIDIS	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. COIGNY) Mrs. MEAGHER)	World Health Organization (WHO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Mr. ACTON	NGO Committee on UNICEF
<u>Category B:</u> Mr. FRIEDMAN	Agudas Israel World Organization
Mrs. HAMDANI	All Pakistan Women's Association
Miss GUTHRIE	International Alliance of Women
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United Nations Secretariat:

Miss KAHN)
Mr. LITTERIA)

Division of Social Welfare

UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE

Executive Director

Mr. HEYWARD

Deputy Executive Director

Mr. BORCIC)

Medical Advisers, UNICEF/WHO

Mr. YUAN)

Mr. SABIN

Milk Conservation Co-ordinator

Mr. DAVEE

Director, Latin America Regional Office

Mr. EGGER

Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern
Mediterranean Regional Office

Mr. KEENY

Director, Asia Regional Office

Mr. CHARNOW

Secretary of the Board

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO THE SOCIAL COMMISSION (continued)

Mr. SOUTELLO ALVES (Brazil) referred to the accomplishments of UNICEF in the under-developed countries and expressed his country's gratitude for UNICEF's emergency aid programmes, which had enabled the Brazilian authorities to cope with the seasonal droughts and to save a whole generation of children. The long-term programmes were just as important. In Brazil they had made it possible to expand the network of mother and child welfare centres to an extent which would never have been possible without UNICEF's assistance and they had helped to make the State conscious of its responsibilities. The Brazilian National Assembly had just appropriated \$500,000 for the expansion of mother and child welfare centres; the Ministry of Public Health would devote \$50,000 in 1953 to milk conservation programmes and it intended to ask for the appropriation of \$300,000 for 1954 and \$800,000 for 1955. In addition, UNICEF's activities had made it possible to increase the number of auxiliary nurses and to expand their training. His delegation was strongly in favour of the continuation of UNICEF on a permanent basis.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) said that the comments of members of the Board would be very useful as a background for the Social Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in providing some guidance for the decision regarding the future of UNICEF. The Canadian Government had not perhaps had the same direct experience of UNICEF's work as other countries, but it was at present studying some of the aspects of UNICEF's activities with a view to reaching a decision on the best way of continuing the work, and the comments of delegates would be most useful to it.

It was on the instructions of the General Assembly itself that UNICEF had changed its emphasis from emergency to long-term programmes. After giving the matter careful consideration, the Canadian Government had supported that decision at the time when it had been taken. UNICEF had achieved remarkable results in its campaign against children's diseases and in its efforts to establish mother and child welfare centres even in the most remote districts, in order to provide

direct assistance to the mothers and children. The Canadian Government was trying to assess the value to the United Nations of an organization specially devoted to children. Although it was true that community social services worked for the benefit of children, the fact remained that a special agency for child welfare had a moral and emotional appeal which other services devoted to the population at large might not perhaps command, and such an agency was therefore more certain of the support of Governments. In addition, although the Technical Assistance Programme was very useful, it was clear that supplies were sometimes needed to make it effective and UNICEF, which was organized to distribute supplies and equipment throughout the world, was in a position to supplement the services of the Technical Assistance Administration and of the specialized agencies. The Canadian Government was also interested in UNICEF's methods of carrying out its programmes, including the principle of the equal sharing of burdens between UNICEF and the Governments, and the preliminary study and subsequent supervision of programmes by UNICEF. The Canadian Government was glad to note that there were at present examples of projects undertaken with UNICEF aid that were being continued by the Governments concerned.

In order to decide whether UNICEF's work should be continued in its present form or be carried out by other agencies, the following points should be taken into account. In the first place, there was perhaps a certain danger of overlapping with other agencies. The Canadian Government, for its part, was convinced that UNICEF's administrative costs would be kept to a minimum and that the work was carried out with maximum efficiency. Furthermore, although there might at the beginning have been some confusion about the exact functions of UNICEF, WHO and FAO, the purposes of all three agencies were now clearly understood and overlapping had been practically eliminated. With regard to financing, UNICEF has thus far been able to operate entirely by voluntary contributions. More than 60 countries contributed to an ever-increasing extent and it was significant that a certain number of the receiving countries also contributed to the UNICEF budget. It had occasionally been argued that the administrative costs could be reduced if UNICEF were integrated into one of the larger agencies, but that might lead to a drop in the

contributions and the move would prove to be false economy. One final point to be considered was the role of UNICEF in the work of the United Nations as a whole. Other speakers had already emphasized that point and had shown that UNICEF represented the most tangible expression of international goodwill.

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) agreed with all that had been said about the scope and value of UNICEF's activities. The results had exceeded all expectations and a phenomenal number of mothers and children had been helped. The chronic ills of hunger, poverty and disease had the same devastating effect on children's lives as emergency disasters, such as war, drought or famine. Children in need, whatever the origin of their plight, required assistance. It was therefore logical that UNICEF's terms of reference should have been altered to take in long-term programmes.

Because of its purpose and its achievements, UNICEF was an essential part of the work for peace. It was surely not unjustified to ask that some \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 be invested annually in promoting life at a time when colossal sums were being expended on armaments. UNICEF had initiated programmes in seventy-two countries, stimulating government activity and encouraging the people themselves to demand better conditions. Those programmes would not otherwise have been put into operation because governments lacked the necessary foreign currency for purchasing medical supplies and scientific equipment. The supply Department of the Fund was able to make bulk purchases at opportune prices. The matching principle ensured a fair division of costs for programmes which subsequently became national enterprises. So long as endemic diseases threatened the children of the world, so long as ignorance prevailed, and so long as children were dying for lack of the necessary vaccines or antibiotics when the remedies existed and could be obtained quite cheaply, UNICEF must continue to operate and everything should be done to enable it to extend its activities still further. In the struggle against the scourges of nature, UNICEF must remain in the vanguard of the campaign for the happiness of mankind.

Mr. ANDERSON (United Kingdom) said that, while the final decision on UNICEF's future did not depend upon the Executive Board, it might nevertheless be useful to record some of UNICEF's essential features, for the information of those bodies with which the decision rested.

It had at one time been argued that the basic purpose of UNICEF had been to meet certain emergency situations, and that it was unnecessary to continue the Fund after those emergencies had ceased. But in 1950 the General Assembly had prolonged UNICEF for three years and had directed it to concentrate its activities on long-term programmes for the improvement of conditions in the under-developed countries, not as a matter of charity, but with the idea of helping those countries to help themselves. At the same time relief in emergency situations, which were after all a fact of life, also remained within the scope of the functions of the Fund. Thus, wherever prompt and effective aid had been required to meet sudden catastrophes, UNICEF had been able, through its central organizations, to co-ordinate the efforts of governments, individuals and voluntary organizations and to collect funds to mitigate the consequences of the disaster.

Some had wondered what was the exact status of UNICEF in relation to WHO, FAO and the United Nations as a whole. Perhaps the best reply was that, whatever its precise status, the organization worked well. In supplementing the activities of governments and specialized agencies with the necessary supplies and equipment for child welfare programmes it had evidently met a need.

Some might say that it was illogical to have an organization exclusively for child welfare. It might be noted that in fact UNICEF assistance was not confined to children, but to maternal and child welfare and to improvement of family life as such. It was quite logical that aid to children should be given priority because the results would progressively extend to the whole family, and so to the community as a whole.

Aid to children was a type of endeavour in which collective international effort was possible with a minimum of controversy and it was especially valuable for that reason. The popular appeal of that type of United Nations action had been demonstrated in the United Kingdom at the time of the UNAC appeal, and since then by references in the press and other expressions of public opinion. UNICEF

provided the opportunity for non-governmental organizations and private persons to support the United Nations in action, not only by financial contributions, but also by active collaboration.

The existence of a central point for the collection and distribution of medical supplies, laboratory equipment, foodstuffs and other supplies made it possible to avoid waste. As the representative of Canada had pointed out, the UNICEF administration was efficient and had succeeded in keeping incidental costs down to a strict minimum. This position could only be maintained if contributions continued to come in at an adequate level, since administrative costs could not be reduced beyond a certain point. Provided there was evidence that contributions would continue at a sufficient level his Government would support the continued existence of the Fund.

He was not sure that UNICEF should be continued on a permanent basis. It would be desirable to see that UNICEF retained as much flexibility and vitality as possible, and in any case, UNICEF might well conduct a critical self-examination at set intervals of time, as it was currently doing. It might be better therefore to recommend continuation for a set period of time, and subject to the availability of funds.

Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) said that he was convinced that no member of the Executive Board doubted the usefulness and efficiency of UNICEF, but that conviction must be brought home to the organs which would have to decide its future, and any doubts which still existed must be allayed. Those who believed that UNICEF should be absorbed by WHO and FAO should be shown, that although UNICEF's field of activities was very close to theirs, it was nevertheless entirely separate. The Executive Board's report should also stress UNICEF's unlimited confidence in its Executive Director, in the directors of the Regional Offices and in the experts sent on mission, as well as the successful endeavour to reduce administrative costs to a strict minimum. It should also be made clear that no trouble had ever been caused by the extension of UNICEF's activities since they were financed solely by voluntary contributions. Any technical

questions remaining should be approached frankly and realistically, so as to prepare the way for the continuation of UNICEF's activities, the success of which was desired by all who had the health and happiness of children at heart.

If any new evidence of the reason why UNICEF should exist was needed, there could be none better than the Executive Board's prompt response to the appeal by Turkey, devastated by a recent earthquake. The Government and people of Greece would wholeheartedly share in any efforts and financial sacrifices that might be afforded to the Turkish people in their distress.

Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) agreed with the representatives who had advocated the continuation and consolidation of admittedly successful activities. He did not believe, however, that it was for the Executive Board to pay a tribute to UNICEF; that would be preaching to the converted, since all the governments represented on the Board were perfectly acquainted with the tangible achievements of UNICEF, its good administration, the devotion of those who worked for it and the generous support upon which it had hitherto been able to count, in particular that of the United States. In any case, the previous speakers had already given a complete description of the extensive work carried out by UNICEF, both moral and material. It was outside the United Nations, therefore, that the members of the Board should project their conviction and their enthusiasm, through their governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations which UNICEF had so rightly attracted to its work, the more so since they were the factors that formed public opinion. It was in their relations with their governments, their daily social contacts and their conversations with all those who had positions of responsibility in the political and social life of their countries that the members of the Board should in a manner of speaking vouch for UNICEF's reputation, explain the importance of the work that it had to do and show how effective its activities were for the benefit of all mankind. Each should be diligent in spreading that benignant infection in order to achieve the aim of the United Nations, which was to check malignant infection.

That task was in fact easier now than it had been. Earlier hesitations due to scepticism and bias had been overcome; UNICEF had gained recognition, it was universally respected and there was no further question of the principles

on which its activities were based. Some certainly wondered whether UNICEF should retain its autonomy or be merged in a broader organization for social welfare. Although he had not yet received any instructions on that question, he was nevertheless inclined to express his personal conviction that UNICEF should retain its autonomy. He felt that the world of children was a world in itself and the problems that arose there were special problems. The requisite co-ordination with the agencies concerned with related problems had been perfected and UNICEF was in fact a success which should not be jeopardized.

The lasting foe to be defeated was selfishness, the indifference of those who were well off, of those who were not suffering themselves and of those who thought in narrow nationalistic terms and could not see the destitution beyond their own frontiers. Such indifferent people must be constantly reminded that their own good fortune was fragile and that a common endeavour on behalf of children was in the long run the surest safeguard of the well-being of each. It should be stressed that in a world in which countries were as dependent upon one another as they were in the modern world, the health of nations had become as indivisible as peace. Realistic arguments rather than considerations of sentiment should be invoked in combatting such selfishness and indifference. Evidence should be laid before the governments and, in particular, the departments administering the public moneys, that UNICEF was a good investment for all. In that respect the observations of the Canadian and United Kingdom representatives on the relatively low cost of administration, the small sums needed, the matching required from the receiving governments, the giving of emergency assistance and the concentration of work were particularly well taken. Only thus could the voluntary contributions be found to ensure the optimum budget, without which all statements of principle would be powerless to maintain a single child.

In times so disturbed as those of today, when the most firmly based values were challenged and when doubt and indifference prevailed, the universal success of an institution such as UNICEF gave ground for consolation and hope. Even apart from its purpose, UNICEF was the finest tangible achievement of the United Nations. The Member States were well aware of that, and, accordingly, it was possible to view its future with confidence, for the United Nations would certainly not make the mistake of sacrificing or neglecting its finest achievement.

Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) said that the splendid achievements to the credit of UNICEF had deeply impressed his delegation. Pakistan thought very highly of UNICEF and believed that its work for children was one of the basic aspects of United Nations social activities. His delegation was accordingly convinced that UNICEF should be continued and believed that it was for the appropriate bodies to decide on the structure that would eventually be given to it.

There had formerly been some talk that UNICEF had been established only to meet an emergency situation. The Pakistan delegation believed that emergency situations lasted as long as mothers and children suffered from destitution and disease, and that was why all men of goodwill should unite in an endeavour to alleviate their sufferings and, finally, to solve the problem. It therefore welcomed the development of UNICEF's activities, particularly with regard to milk conservation programmes, BCG vaccination campaigns and the vocational training of welfare workers. More than in any other field the activities of the United Nations for children had enabled close co-operation to come into being and positive achievements to be attained.

With regard to the financial problems arising from the existence of UNICEF, the generous assistance granted by the United States, Australia and Canada, among others, showed that many countries were prepared to participate financially in such humanitarian work. The financial problem should be considered from the point of view both of the voluntary contributions and of the matching. It would be a mistake to anticipate a reduction in the voluntary contributions. The volume of contributions had fallen off in the past only because the future of UNICEF had been uncertain and because some governments had believed that UNICEF would disappear with the disappearance of the emergency situation which had dictated its establishment. It should further be stressed that the humanitarian nature of UNICEF's activities was likely to attract large contributions, as had been shown by the success of the United Nations Appeal for Children. In Pakistan the Appeal had produced \$45,000, an earnest of the gratitude and understanding of peoples which had been able directly to appreciate the benefits conferred upon them.

Finally, too much emphasis could not be laid on the fact that contributions to UNICEF produced not only tangible results directly connected with the wellbeing of children, but also promoted international co-operation and furthered the cause of peace.

In conclusion, he wished to join in the tribute paid to the Executive Director and his collaborators and to appeal urgently to the governments to continue UNICEF on a permanent basis.

Mr. DEBRE (France) reminded the Board that the French Government had been one of the first to respond to the United Nations appeal and to associate itself with UNICEF's work. The French Government had decided that it would pay to UNICEF as large a contribution as its means permitted as long as it lasted. At the present time, it advocated the continuation of UNICEF. The reasons for that decision had already been given. No one was unaware of the enormous services rendered by UNICEF nor of the fact that its appreciable achievements were only a beginning and that much remained to be done.

Going over UNICEF's background, he recalled that it had been instructed immediately after the war to help feed children in war-devastated countries, who were under-nourished in consequence of the serious privations they had suffered for several years. The facts showed that that effort had been completely successful. While the height and weight of children in the devastated countries after the war had been less than those of children of the same generation who had not suffered similar hardships, their development had begun again and they had now reached the normal standard. UNICEF's aid had therefore made it possible not only to save a generation of children, but to make them strong men and women able to accomplish the tasks which life held for them.

UNICEF had then attacked the problem of the great social scourges caused by contagious diseases. On the morrow of the war it had been clear that the ravages caused by such diseases would be much greater in the case of under-nourished peoples, and especially of children. At that time, when WHO had scarcely been established, the Scandinavian Red Cross Societies had begun a generous work.

UNICEF had taken up the work with some apprehension. It was a question of using a scientific discovery, BCG vaccine, which had caused doctors and laymen to make certain reservations. The reports on the first programme had been awaited with anxiety. There might have been unfortunate coincidences, accidents and mistakes, which would have caused outcries in the press and thus hampered the work undertaken. The result had, however, been exceptionally successful. Millions of children had been vaccinated without the slightest incident. The work done by UNICEF in that connexion could not have been so extensive without the help of modern scientific discoveries, and that was also true of the campaigns against venereal diseases, against the malaria which had ravaged some countries for centuries, and against yaws. Nevertheless, it was undeniable that the extensive campaigns undertaken by UNICEF had changed the life of man in many ways and that by protecting children UNICEF had worked to create a generation of healthy adults.

Such health and welfare work was far from being completed. Thanks to medical progress, the possibility of attacking very serious problems such as those of blind children and of leprosy, could now be contemplated. UNICEF's work on infectious diseases had also had great results. UNICEF had distributed antibiotics and sulfonamides to help combat those diseases and had encouraged the manufacture of vaccines. Many infectious diseases, such as meningitis, had been conquered. However, the extent of the work which remained to be done could be gauged by recalling the magnificent results obtained by New York City, where only one death from scarlet fever had been reported in three years and where the number of deaths from whooping cough and diphtheria had been nil and five, respectively, in one year. Children all over the world had the right to hope that UNICEF would bring to them all the knowledge and medicines it possessed in order that they might enjoy such ideal health conditions as those which prevailed in New York City.

UNICEF had also entered another field - that of education, where its task had been to train the maternal instinct, one of the most powerful instincts in the world. The programmes organized for the training of nurses, welfare workers and doctors, and for teaching mothers how to care for their children in a rational way, were of the greatest importance because the lack of skilled staff was still serious and without it there could not be efficient health services. The educational effort had also been directed towards nutrition and UNICEF, which had first aimed at providing only emergency relief, had progressively enlarged its programme in order to encourage the rational production and distribution of foods essential to children.

The efficient way in which UNICEF was administered, the flexibility with which it adapted its programmes to the special conditions it encountered, the importance of voluntary contributions, and the feeling of human solidarity created by UNICEF's work, enabled it to carry out a mission which no other organization could fulfil so well. They proved that, if UNICEF ceased to exist, the contributions which it alone could attract would also cease and a humanitarian and international movement of exceptional value to the United Nations would disappear.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Switzerland, said that his Government hoped that UNICEF's terms of reference would be extended for many reasons, of which he would describe only the most important. In the first place, the Swiss Government was glad to see that programmes could not go into operation before being approved by the Board. Government control was therefore assured from the beginning. Secondly, the Swiss Government was keenly aware of the splendid qualities of UNICEF's Administration, of its great energy and devotion. That Administration had never allowed itself to become bureaucratic, a very rare occurrence in international organizations which might be partly due to the uncertainty as to UNICEF's future. Furthermore, the Executive Board had laid down certain very sound and constructive principles. He merely wished to mention two only - the principle of the matching contribution and

the principle that UNICEF never undertook any work unless it had the necessary funds not merely to launch programmes but also to carry them out. Agreements entered into by UNICEF were therefore always respected. Such a method had assured it of the unreserved confidence of beneficiary countries, as had been shown by the statements which the Executive Board had heard during the course of the present meeting.

In order to appreciate the work accomplished by UNICEF it was sufficient to recall that the beneficiary countries, which were the best informed in that connexion, had shown that they were completely satisfied. From all those factors it could be concluded that the conditions surrounding the problem of the continuance of UNICEF were not the same in 1953 as they had been in 1950. In 1950 UNICEF had just begun its new work in under-developed areas and there had been no indication of how far-reaching the results of that work would be. It had been necessary to take a step in the dark, relying on the available record of the Administration's work. At the present time, it would be easier to reach a decision. UNICEF's work was certainly far from being finished, and in certain areas had hardly begun. Nevertheless, results were very encouraging. UNICEF had not only protected the life and health of millions of living children but of millions of unborn children. Considered from all those points of view UNICEF's work was a very complete form of technical assistance. Thanks to the supplies distributed by it, UNICEF had assisted Governments to translate into a living reality the technical advice supplied by the specialized agencies. For all those reasons, the Swiss Government warmly supported the extension of UNICEF's terms of reference for a long enough period to enable it to complete the long-term programmes which it had undertaken.

As Switzerland was not a member of the United Nations and would not have an opportunity of making its views known before other bodies, he pointed out that his Government did not support the idea of changing the structure and organization of UNICEF. As organized at present UNICEF had been able to carry out the task assigned to it. A change of structure might cause difficulties

which would hamper its efficiency. Swiss circles for whom he spoke had expressed great surprise that UNICEF's existence had even been questioned and hoped that the extension of its terms of reference would not meet with any opposition.

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) said that his Government was unable at present to make its views known on the future of UNICEF. The General Assembly would not have to take a decision until its eighth session and his Government therefore wished to make a more thorough study of the whole problem and to know the views of the Social Commission and of the Economic and Social Council. That did not, of course, mean that his Government's attitude was dictated by an unfavourable opinion of UNICEF's work. But it did not follow that, because UNICEF had been successful in the past, it should necessarily be continued in the future as an independent organization with its existing terms of reference. The representatives of Canada and the United Kingdom had raised several considerations, all of which would require careful examination. First, the Assembly would have to consider whether a special organization for the welfare of children was necessary or whether the needs of children could be looked after through the medium of other agencies. Second, if an organization for the welfare of children were to be maintained, was its assistance to take exactly the same form as in the past? Governments would have to decide whether the method so far followed had been the best or whether work on behalf of children might not take some other form by closer integration with the work of other agencies, for example, through the expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

As regards the financing of UNICEF programmes, the Governments must examine whether the voluntary system of contributions should be maintained or whether some other arrangement might not be better. One proposal that had been put forward was that the United Nations take over the administrative expenses, leaving operational expenses to be financed under a separate budget. The probable future level of contributions should also be borne in mind. It would not be advisable to keep a separate organization going if contributions were so low that administrative expenses would absorb too high a proportion of the total of contributions.

All delegations which had spoken had taken the opportunity to commend aspects of UNICEF's work which appealed to their governments. He felt sure that, leaving aside the question of the future of the Fund, his government would not wish the occasion to pass without commending certain of the achievements of the Fund. He commended the devotion and energy of the Executive Director and the staff of the administration and the smoothness with which they carried out their work.

He felt sure his Government would wish to pay a tribute to countries which had so generously contributed to UNICEF. The United States of America headed the list, having contributed \$87,000,000 out of a total of \$130,000,000. UNICEF could not have carried out all its projects without such a contribution. The list of countries which had contributed to UNICEF was too lengthy for him to mention every one. He wished, however, to mention certain countries which, in spite of a difficult economic position, had made generous contributions to UNICEF: Indonesia had contributed \$100,000 a year for four years and Thailand more than \$450,000 a year; India had considerably increased the amount of its contribution; the Dominican Republic had contributed \$50,000 a year; Peru had contributed \$100,000 a year and Uruguay had also made a very generous contribution. Those were only a few examples among many others, and the Australian Government fully appreciated the efforts made by all other countries to contribute to the joint task.

Mr. Lindt had spoken of UNICEF's working methods. The Australian delegation shared his views on that subject and would give due weight to that consideration at the appropriate time.

Several delegations had referred to the "matching principle". He thought that the expression was liable to be misunderstood. When a country decided to undertake a campaign against some disease, it drew up plans, often with the help of WHO and UNICEF specialists, organized the necessary services and supplied the staff, buildings and so on. It was the governments' commitments which were described as "matching funds". In a sense the expression created the wrong impression. The programmes were essentially national - not international - although they could not be carried on without international assistance. The national programmes required great sacrifices on the part of local governments, as could be seen from some of the recommendations before the current session of the Board.

The Executive Director had stated that 60 million persons had been "helped" by UNICEF. By that he meant that they had been cured of or protected against some crippling or perhaps fatal disease. The number of persons who had received help from UNICEF was actually much larger, as could be seen from Annex 1 to the Executive Director's Progress Report.

He quoted examples to illustrate the extent to which international aid like that supplied by UNICEF made it possible to wage an effective campaign against certain diseases. There had been numerous campaigns against yaws: the results which even modest precautions could achieve could be judged by the fact that a single dose of penicillin costing the equivalent of \$0.15, was enough to protect a child against that terrible disease. On the subject of malaria, the Director of the Asia Regional Office and the WHO representative had stated, at the previous session of the Board, that, if the programmes initiated by the Indian Government with United States aid were carried out, they would lead to the elimination of malaria as a major menace to public health in India. UNICEF and WHO had supplied the necessary aid for operating a pilot project, the success of which he understood had been instrumental in persuading the Indian Government to extend the experiment to the whole country. In Africa, kwashiorkor could be cured by giving a child a glass of skimmed milk a day for a few weeks.

He wished to repeat, in conclusion, that he was not in a position to indicate his Government's attitude on the future of the Fund. There was little doubt that UNICEF had some remarkable achievements to its credit; but governments would have to think seriously before deciding at the eighth session of the Assembly whether to continue doing the same things in the same way or whether it might not be better to do the same or different things in a different way.

Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) thanked Mr. Brennan for his tribute to Peru, which had from the very first been keenly interested in UNICEF: it was sufficient to recall that it had assisted in setting up the Latin America Regional Office at Lima three years ago. Peru had greatly benefited from the work of UNICEF and Mr. Encinas wished to pay tribute, in particular, to the Executive Director and the staff of the Latin America Regional Office.

Other members had already spoken of the humanitarian nature of UNICEF's work; he would therefore confine himself to drawing attention to another aspect, namely, the influence of its work on the economic development of the recipient countries. Economic development should have its counterpart in an improvement in the standard of living of the people. In Peru children under 15 years of age represented 40 per cent of the total population so that the share of the budgetary funds devoted to social work - which represented half the budget - were mainly for aid to children. But the population was continually increasing, which imposed a constant burden on the budget. The direct aid supplied by UNICEF to some extent reduced that burden and indirectly contributed to economic development. The Peruvian Government was therefore very anxious that UNICEF should continue its work and sincerely hoped that its existence would be prolonged.

As the United Kingdom representative had pointed out, that question involved financial problems, but, whatever administrative changes might be necessary, UNICEF must continue to exist as a separate body. Social work never brought in immediate profits, but that was not a reason for discontinuing it. He was convinced that the financial difficulties would be overcome because where there was a common will there was always a way.

Mr. DEVAKUL (Thailand) wished, first of all, to express his thanks to the Australian delegate for his reference to Thailand. It was obvious that the relatively large contribution of Thailand to the UNICEF budget was, in itself, an expression of that country's view of the real benefits derived from the Fund's technical help and assistance. He was not able, as yet, to say what the attitude of his Government concerning the future of UNICEF would be, but Thailand's past and present financial support eloquently expressed its evaluation of the work of the Fund.

Mr. HANCKE (Norway) could not yet say what the Norwegian Government's attitude would be concerning the future of UNICEF. It would largely depend on decisions taken at the forthcoming sessions of the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council. He nevertheless wished to state that the Norwegian delegation had been greatly impressed by the information given by the Executive Director and his staff, and the various delegations, on the work of UNICEF.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America) stated as an explanation of her silence that she had not been in a position to participate in the debate regarding the future of UNICEF because her Government had not formulated its position.

In saying this she would like to state that it was without prejudice to the statements which her delegation had made on a number of occasions, since the passage of resolution 417 at the fifth session of the General Assembly in December 1950, as to its satisfaction with the progress made by UNICEF on behalf of the children in economically under-developed countries. In June 1952 the United States Congress had authorized for contributions to UNICEF through 31 December 1953 an amount not to exceed \$16,481,000. Of that total the Congress had appropriated \$6,666,667, which had been paid to UNICEF on 19 December 1952.

The Executive Branch was currently examining the question of a further United States contribution to UNICEF and it was not known what the outcome of that examination would be.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that a number of delegations had indicated that the prestige of UNICEF was largely due to its good relations with the non-governmental organizations. He therefore invited the Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF to speak.

Mr. ACTON (Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF) said that the organizations represented on the NGO Committee on UNICEF were keenly interested in the question of UNICEF's future. He was not yet in a position to state the Committee's attitude in the matter but he wished to point out that since the creation of UNICEF, more than fifty non-governmental organizations concerned with questions relating to children had exchanged views on the subject of UNICEF programmes and had approved them. In addition, on 10 March 1953 the NGO Committee on UNICEF had unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing the importance to the health and welfare of the world's children of the UNICEF programmes and the fact that the continuation and expansion of UNICEF activities depended upon increased financial contributions from governments; the Committee had expressed its conviction that by drawing the attention of governments to the value and usefulness of expanding UNICEF programmes, the national organizations associated with the member organizations of the Committee could stimulate the

appropriation of increased financial contributions to UNICEF and it therefore recommended member organizations of the Committee to urge such national organizations to ask their governments to grant adequate financial support to UNICEF.

That resolution clearly expressed the views of the non-governmental organizations on the future of UNICEF.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that a drafting committee should be set up to prepare a statement, to be added to the Executive Board's report, containing the statements made by various delegations. He proposed that the committee should consist of the representatives of Canada and India.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN asked members of the Board to express their views on the procedure to be adopted if the Social Commission wished to consult with the Board.

Mr. DEBRE (France), supported by Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), suggested that the Board should authorize its Chairman to inform the Social Commission of the views expressed in the Board's discussion and the impression they provided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Board for the confidence they had placed in him. If he were called upon to do so he would give a detailed report of the debate which had just taken place. The discussion had been very fruitful, for it had served to show up the many aspects of the problem and thus to complete the information possessed by each delegation. He was glad to note the harmony which the discussion had revealed.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.