

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

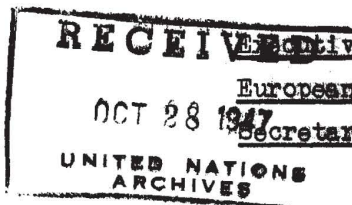
EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Thursday  
2 October 1947, at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Dr. Ludwik RAJCHMAN	(Poland)
	Hon. N.J.O. MAKIN	(Australia)
	Mr. R. de OLIVEIRA CAMPOS	(Brazil)
	Mr. L.I. KAMINCKY	(Byelorussian S.S.R.)
	Mrs. D.B. SINCLAIR	(Canada)
	Dr. H.C. CHANG	(China)
	Mr. R. CASTELLO	(Colombia)
	Mr. J. STOLZ	(Czechoslovakia)
	Mrs. N.M. WRIGHT	(Denmark)
	Dr. J. CORREA	(Ecuador)
	Dr. J. MABILEAU	(France)
	Mr. S. PESMAZOGLOU	(Greece)
	Dr. M. KLOMPE	(Netherlands)
	Mr. T.O.W. BREBNER	(New Zealand)
	Mrs. A. LIONAES	(Norway)
	Mr. J.A. ENCINAS	(Peru)
	Mr. R. BERGSTROM	(Sweden)
	Mr. H. ZOELLY	(Switzerland)
	Mr. L. KOZULYA	(Ukrainian S.S.R.)
	Mr. H. WOODWARD	(Union of South Africa)
	Mr. A.P. BORISOV	(U.S.S.R.)
	Mr. J. ALEXANDER	(United Kingdom)
	Miss K. LENROOT	(United States)
	Mr. S. KRASOVEC	(Yugoslavia)
<u>Executive Director:</u>	Mr. M. PATE	(ICEF)
<u>European Office:</u>	Mr. A. DAVIDSON	(ICEF)
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. C. LITTERIA	(Dept. of Social Affairs)



The meeting was convened by the CHAIRMAN at 3.00 p.m.

MR. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) stated that the question of shipping had been raised during the Paris meeting of the Programme Committee when the Greek Government had stated its willingness to pay shipping charges. Although his proposal had not been accepted then it was now recognized that such a measure would enable more food to be supplied to the children. Greece would have credited the Fund in local currency, which would have been used for further supplies. Not only ocean, but also railroad charges should be covered by some freight agreement.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that this matter came under paragraph (7) of Section 14, page 5 of document E/ICEF/23. Referring to paragraph 6 he said that no action had been taken with respect to the bulletin as a meeting of technical experts on another subject was to be held and it could also consider that matter. The report of FAO, WHO, and ICEF on child nutrition had received commendation from technicians and it would be published as mentioned in Section 12, he hoped, by FAO and WHO. There was no information as to the willingness of the specialized agencies to pay.

MR. PATE (Executive Director) said that the report could be published in French and English at a cost of \$200 for 10,000 copies in each language, or \$400 in all.

MR. CASTELLO (Colombia) requested that it should be published in Spanish also.

MISS LENROOT (United States) hoped that it might be possible to obtain the publication of this document in Spanish through certain organizations, without cost to the United Nations.

DR. MABILEAU (France) enquired if it would be possible to have the report printed in France.

In reply to DR. KLOMPE (Netherlands) the CHAIRMAN was strongly of the opinion that specialized agencies should be requested to do **the work mentioned** in the last sentence of paragraph (2) Section 14, page 5 of document E/ICEF/23. WHO was responsible for the health services and that would entail no expenditure by the Fund.

MR. PATE (Executive Director) thought that child feeding centres would encourage the social and health services mentioned in paragraph 2. The children would come to these centres and these services would be rendered there. For example, Mr. Glen Leet, the representative of the Department of Social Affairs, was in Greece and Mrs. Gates was in Czechoslovakia, and these officials would give their help.

THE CHAIRMAN explained the group feeding policy mentioned in paragraph 3 of Section 14 (E/ICEF/23) and the policy recommended by the Programme

Committee (E/ICEF/26, Section 10).

MR. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) stated that he had read the proposal carefully. Owing to the distance at which the children resided from the centres there might be some difficulty in organizing group feeding in certain regions in Greece.

MR. PATE (Executive Director) thought that it was unfortunate that owing to the limitation of resources only 340,000 children would be fed in Greece by the Fund. Judging by the information given by Mr. Pasmazoglou and Dr. Eliot these children would be reached through feeding centres.

In reply to the representative of Greece who asked for feeding facilities in respect of the age group of one to six years, MISS LENROOT said that she had urged the policy of group feeding, and that the plan before the Board represented as much as could be done for the time being. The needs of the age group in question could be met out of other sources.

MR. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) repeated that the greatest need existed in Northern Greece where it was impossible to organize school feeding.

MR. KRASOVEC (Yugoslavia) did not think it practical for any government to distribute supplies according to the stipulations proposed by the Programme Committee. It appeared to him an embarrassing request, since supervision would be difficult. He thought that such measures should be left to the discretion of the government which had undertaken to distribute supplies fairly, and without discrimination.

DR. ELIOT (ICEF) pointed out that the Fund was dealing with an abnormal situation. It was highly desirable for the children to have their milk at home. It was difficult for expectant and nursing mothers to come to a centre and the representative of Yugoslavia had perhaps misinterpreted this recommendation. A mother would be able to obtain a supply of dried milk, sufficient for a considerable period and thus would not be obliged to go to the centre every day. If the supply of milk and other foods sufficed, then the same plan would be applied to all children up to the age of six years. Supplies, however, being limited, the general policy of the Board to use food economically and safeguard the interests of the beneficiaries must be observed. It might take time to organize school lunches in Greece but this would be done, and moreover, children between the ages of three and six years could be fed in connection with such a plan.

MR. KRASOVEC (Yugoslavia) was in sympathy with group feeding but still not convinced that it was practical. This matter should be left to the discretion of the mission.

THE CHAIRMAN stated that there was an area in Poland, which had

contained an adult population of 2,000,000 and a child population of 400,000. It had been so devastated by the war that living conditions were most primitive and the government had not included this area under the Fund since it presented too many difficulties with respect to transport and even ordinary living conditions.

MR. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) pointed out that owing to circumstances the Greek government had to feed not those who were in the greatest need, but those to whom it was easiest to supply the food. The Greek government supported this principle which, under the conditions pertaining, was an ideal.

MR. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) repeated his proposal, namely: "While the basic principle of encouraging institutional feeding be maintained until further orders of the Executive Board, local representatives of the Children's Emergency Fund should use discretion with regard to the distribution of supplies, either direct to homes or any other suitable method".

DR. ELIOT (ICEF) observed that the staff had purchased less whole milk and more skim milk for reasons of economy. The matter of skim milk plus fats had been discussed at the meeting of the FAO and WHO experts. The experts had recommended that a large proportion of the milk ration should be in the form of skim milk, provided that supplementary fats were furnished. The Fund would provide whole milk for children under the age of one year.

DR. PAPANEK (Czechoslovakia) referred to the allocation to Czechoslovakia mentioned under 18 (b), page 6, document E/ICEF/23. The statistics which he had received that morning showed that the situation was very bad. Children between the ages of one and eighteen years would have to be fed for six months and the figure of 383,000 supplied was equivalent to only 50 per cent of the needy children. Compared with the allocation made by the Programme Committee this was one fifth of the needy children, and the margin was too big. He asked the Board for an increase, especially as UNRRA and certain voluntary relief bodies had stopped operations. Tuberculosis was wide spread as the country had been in distress for many years. He could not accept the recommendation of the Programme Committee as final and would like a definitive decision.

MR. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) explained that Czechoslovakia had received a small allocation in the absence of a higher request. The available surplus was limited. The Executive Board could refer the matter back to the Programme Committee, or leave the matter open pending consideration of other adjustments. Nevertheless, Czechoslovakia deserved an increase and he proposed 100,000 children.

The Board agreed to return to the Czechoslovakia allocation after considering other allocations.

Section 18 (c) (Finland) was adopted without objections.

Section 18 (d) (Hungary) was referred for re-adjustment.

MR. JOCKEL (Australia) asked concerning the alleged famine conditions in Rumania and Mr. Davidson reported on the description, recently made available by the ICEF representative in Rumania which revealed almost unbelievable conditions. A blade of green grass was a rarity. During the current year, out of 400,000 births the mortality had reached 25 per cent. First there had been a drought and then floods. Butter, of course, was non-existent and bread was a mixture of earth and straw. The family meal consisted of cucumber soup. There was no meat, no proteins, no fats. Out of 300,000 children under the age of one year 30,000 would receive assistance.

MISS LENROOT, returning to the Greek application, said that some difficulties might be solved if the Board agreed to a plan of dollar allocations. The Board was not necessarily passing final judgment as to the exact number of children, since under the formula arrived at, there would be variations in the exact number. The administration and the governments concerned might agree on such minor variations.

THE CHAIRMAN understood that plans of operation as approved at Paris were, for the time being, definite. If a receiving government expressed a desire to amend the plan of operation, then it would discuss the matter with the Fund representative and the Executive Director. The latter would have to decide whether he had authority to accept the modification or whether he should refer the matter back to the Programme Committee. As the plans of operation had been definitely communicated, no changes would be made without entering into negotiations with the government.

MR. PESMAZOGLOU (Greece) referring to Section 21 (E/ICEF/23) explained that the allocations for Greece had been made at a time when the situation in his country was quite different. Certain disorders had broken out near the borders, creating vast areas of destruction and leading to a great influx of both adults and children. The number of the latter was estimated to be 60,000 in August and 80,000 in September. The allocation was for 340,000 children; this latter figure was equivalent to one quarter of the total. Clearly, emergency measures were essential.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Board had to consider a proposal of the Programme Committee to allocate an additional 100,000 child food units to Rumania, and a proposal from the representative of the United Kingdom that this addition be held in abeyance pending further study.

The recommendation of the Programme Committee was adopted by the Board.

Turning to Section 20 of document E/ICEF/23, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that its adoption was equivalent to an approval of the plans of operation.

DR. KLOMPE (Netherlands) said that when reviewing the list of allocations to the countries, she saw that Germany had been omitted. She felt that she must speak for the German children. Her country belonged to those that had suffered most from the German occupation during which it had won its spurs in the resistance against the Nazis.

That gave her the right to put forward this question. She had before her Resolution No. 57 of the General Assembly which stated under paragraph 1, clause (c) that the Fund should be utilized for child health purposes generally, giving high priority to the children, victims of aggression. Furthermore, she read under No. 2 (b) (ii) the same Resolution that provision should be made for the equitable and efficient dispensation or distribution of all supplies or other assistance, on the basis of need, without discrimination because of race, creed, nationality status or political belief. There could be no doubt concerning the need of the German children, and when the Resolution said that the Fund should be utilized for child health purposes generally without discrimination because of political belief, she could see no argument to explain the omission of Germany. The suffering children could never be the subject of political discussion. That was a matter of simple humanity. Most of the children in Germany who needed help so badly were not even born when the war ended. The world could not make them responsible for the outrages and injustices perpetrated by their parents. To make them the object of revenge would be to descend to a very low level indeed. Fifty-five nations were gathered together to secure peace and promote mutual understanding between the nations of the world. Hatred was not a good basis for the realization of these ideals. Humanity must be the principle of the Fund. She fully agreed with the priority given to children of countries that had been victims of Nazi aggression. Nevertheless, if members refused to help the German children they would be guilty of the same injustices for which the Nazis had been condemned. In her opinion allocations should include 100,000 German children. She considered that although this by no means covered the need, and although the victims of aggression should receive priority, a question of principle was involved here. By agreeing to her proposal, the Board would better realize the Resolution of the Assembly and show the world that the Fund was based on principles of humanity.

/THE CHAIRMAN

THE CHAIRMAN stated that applications for German children must come from the German government which was vested in the Allied Control Council. If an application was made by that Council, then the Board would have to satisfy itself that the priority for the victims of aggression had been met.

MR. ALEXANDER agreed with the representative of the Netherlands and the Chairman. He reserved the right of the United Kingdom Delegation to make a formal application in due course for the benefit of German children in the British zone of Germany, since the responsibility for the welfare of the children was on a lower plane than the quadripartite Council at Berlin.

DR. MABILEAU (France) reserved the position of the French Delegation.

MR. BREBNER (New Zealand) supported in principle the statement of the Netherlands representative, Mr. Alexander and the Chairman.

In reply to the representative of Greece, the CHAIRMAN said that the Greek proposal should be submitted in a more detailed form for examination and report by the Programme Committee. He then referred to the paragraph on Italy on page 2 of document E/ICEF/26 which was adopted.

MR. BORISOV, referring to Section 23, page 8 of document E/ICEF/23, reserved his right, with a view to obtaining further information concerning the distribution in the war stricken countries, with particular reference to countries as China, where a civil war was in progress. He was interested in the equitable distribution of relief amongst the children in the territories under the control of both sides.

The meeting rose at 5:30 p.m.

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