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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 25 March 1953, at 11.15 a.m.

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Report of the Executive Board to the Social Commission

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. LINDT Switzerland

Members:

Mr. MORALES Argentina

Mr. BRENNAN Australia

Mr. FENAUX Belgium

Mr. SOUTELLO ALVES Brazil

Mr. TEPLOV Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic

Mrs. SINCLAIR Canada

<u>Members:</u> (continued)	Mr. TSAO	China
	Mr. LUKES	Czechoslovakia
	Mr. DEBRE	France
	Mr. ROUSSOS	Greece
	Mr. RAJAN	India
	Mr. KHALIDY	Iraq
	Mrs. HARMAN	Israel
	Mr. GIRETTI	Italy
	Mr. HANCKE	Norway
	Mr. HAMDANI	Pakistan
	Mr. HOLGUIN de LAVALLE	Peru
	Mr. REYES	Philippines
	Mr. DEVAKUL	Thailand
	Mr. CHECHYOTKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mr. ANDERSON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Miss ELIOT	United States of America
	Mr. FABREGAT	Uruguay
	Mr. KOS	Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. MAHDAVI	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mrs. SISMANIDIS	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. ARNAIDO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. COIGNY) Mrs. MEAGHER)	World Health Organization (WHO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

<u>Category A:</u>	Mr. ARIAS-PEREZ	World Federation of United Nations Associations
<u>Category B:</u>	Mrs. HAMDANI	All Pakistan Women's Association
	Mr. CRUICKSHANK	Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production
	Mr. LONGARZO	International Conference of Catholic Charities
	Mrs. FREEMAN	International Council of Women
	Mr. ACTON	International Society for the Welfare of Cripples NGO Committee on UNICEF
	Miss DINGMAN	International Union for Child Welfare
	Mr. BARRATT-BROWN	Friends' World Committee

United Nations Secretariat:

Miss HENDERSON	Director, Division of Social Welfare
Miss KAHN	Division of Social Welfare
Mr. LITTERIA	Division of Social Welfare

UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE	Executive Director
Mr. HEYWARD	Deputy Executive Director
Mr. BORCIC Mr. YUAN	Medical Advisors UNICEF/WHO
Mr. SABIN	Milk Conservation Co-ordinator
Mr. DAVEE	Director, Latin America Regional Office
Mr. EGGER	Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
Mr. KEENEY	Director, Asia Regional Office
Mr. CHARNOW	Secretary of the Board

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO THE SOCIAL COMMISSION

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Board had decided to submit its report for the current session in two parts, the first containing the routine report and the second consisting of an evaluation by delegations of UNICEF's work in the past and of the part it should play in the future. He invited members to submit their comments for inclusion in the second part of the report.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that the time had come to inform the world of UNICEF's achievements. Since the Board had been founded on 11 December 1946, its work had been concerned totally with the saving and maintaining of life. Unlike other organs of the United Nations, the Board had remained relatively free of political prejudices and its debates had been short and productive. During the past six years, the Fund had developed from an emergency organization called upon to repair the ravages of war into a long-range policy making organization. The details of the Board's work were not perhaps widely enough known among the general public in a world where greater publicity was given to works of death and destruction than to healing and the saving of life.

He gave a few figures to illustrate the impressive achievements of UNICEF. During 1952, 13.5 million people had been tested for and nearly 5 million vaccinated against tuberculosis in 19 countries and territories; nearly 5.5 million had been examined in the campaigns against yaws, bejel and pre-natal venereal diseases and 1,300,000 people had been treated for those diseases in seven different countries; 8.5 million people had been protected against malaria and other insect-borne diseases in 15 countries in Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and Latin America; and some 126,000 children had received at least one injection against diphtheria in five different countries. During the single month of December 1952, 1.5 million children had benefitted from the feeding programmes organized by UNICEF.

In no other agency of the United Nations was co-operation so complete as in UNICEF. In a world divided by prejudices and politics, UNICEF was one enterprise in which all nations could join hands to feed the hungry and heal the sick. It was significant that the Fund had more members than the United Nations itself and that several members of the Executive Board were not as yet members of the United Nations. It should also be borne in mind that UNICEF was financed not from the United Nations budget but out of voluntary contributions from governments and individuals. Sixty countries had contributed to the Fund and seventy-two countries and territories throughout the world had received its assistance in one form or another.

UNICEF could well be proud of its achievements and of its plans for the future. Apart from dealing with emergency situations in various parts of the world, the Fund was now concentrating its activities on long-term projects designed to improve the health and the standard of living of the under-developed countries. The United Nations could not now turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor, the hungry and the sick, for if it did not give mankind a better world when it was able to do so, it would earn the hatred of the present generation and of generations to come.

It was true that the projects of UNICEF were costly but it was also impressive how much could be done at a relatively small cost. For only one dollar, it was possible to give nine children a glass of milk every day for a week, to provide enough vaccine to protect thirty-three children against diphtheria or twenty-four children against tuberculosis, to buy enough fish liver oil to protect thirteen infants against rickets every day for a month, to buy enough penicillin to treat eight children for yaws, or to safeguard thirteen people against malaria for a whole year. That was indeed impressive when compared with the amount which the world was spending on armaments.

The Fund was very grateful for the support it had received in the past from governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. To mention only the three highest contributors, he recalled that the United States contribution from government and private sources had thus far amounted to

88 1/4 million dollars, Australia had given a total of 13 3/4 million dollars and Canada a total of 9 3/4 million dollars. He paid a special tribute to the United States Government and people for their most generous support in the past. Recently it had been argued that UNICEF's activities were overlapping with those of other agencies, but that was not really the case. If UNICEF were terminated, there would be nothing to take its place and all its projects would have to stop. In the circumstances, he could not believe that the countries of the world, and particularly the United States, would allow UNICEF to come to an end through poverty. He hoped that the United States would change its attitude towards UNICEF, which might appropriately be regarded as a new Point Five programme.

Of all the agencies of the United Nations, UNICEF had achieved the most outstanding and promising results. It had earned the right to be maintained on a permanent basis so that it could continue to build up and repair what the cruelty of man continued to destroy.

Mr. RAJAN (India) mentioned some of the characteristic features of UNICEF which distinguished it from the other agencies of the United Nations. It was the only organization operating exclusively within the field of child welfare and could thus achieve more than other organizations by concentrating its resources. While other agencies could supply only the services of experts and training facilities, UNICEF could also provide supplies and equipment, without which governments would be unable to put the advice they received into practice. Thus UNICEF provided comprehensive and co-ordinated assistance within a limited area and was able to achieve substantial results by concentrating its resources. It avoided the dangers of dispersed efforts which accompanied some other programmes of assistance. UNICEF was able to concentrate its resources still further by restricting their application to certain basic programmes. While experimental work was not excluded, the emphasis was on programmes which experience had already justified. As a result of that policy, UNICEF was able to function with unusual efficiency and had built up an operating machinery and a fund of expert knowledge which it would be impossible to replace. Furthermore, the results of its programmes could be predicted with some accuracy, a feature which greatly facilitated co-operation between governments and the Fund. The excellent co-operation between UNICEF and the specialized agencies was of

great mutual advantage and it enabled the agencies to test out their ideas and conclusions in the field. Finally, the aid supplied by UNICEF was truly universal and represented one of the best and most direct ways of expressing the goodwill of the international community towards the countries which were not yet members of the United Nations.

All those features were in themselves a sufficient justification for the continuation of the Fund. In addition, the steady increase in the number of countries contributing to the Fund showed that governments were convinced of its value. The number of contributing countries had increased from thirty-one in 1950 to thirty-eight in 1952 and it was estimated that the figure would reach forty-three in 1953. The receiving countries contributed more proportionally to UNICEF than to any other extra-budgetary activity of the United Nations. In 1952, the under-developed countries had contributed 17.7 per cent of UNICEF's total resources as compared with 12.9 per cent of the total resources of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The benefitting countries also contributed more matching funds to UNICEF programmes than to any other programmes of United Nations assistance. Sometimes governments had contributed as much as five times the amount contributed by UNICEF to the programmes carried out in their countries. It was quite clear therefore that many governments regarded UNICEF as the most direct, effective and significant form of assistance which the United Nations could give to the under-developed countries.

Although UNICEF assistance was limited in its application, it was not correspondingly limited in its results. Its work led to the permanent strengthening of mother and child health services which automatically increased the productive power of the benefitting countries and their capacity for economic development. In India, for example, UNICEF assistance had been fully integrated in the government five-year development plan. UNICEF offered a type of assistance which was not given by any other agency or combination of agencies. The work could conceivably be performed by a combination of agencies, but that would be far less effective and no substitute could ever have the same emotional appeal. Those were still further valid reasons for the continuation of the Fund on a permanent basis.

However, he believed that the Fund's principal justification lay in its appeal for the common people throughout the world. It was the most successful means of implementing Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter and of conveying the meaning of the United Nations to the people of the world. UNICEF was the only

real evidence of the existence of the United Nations for millions of people who had never read the Charter. It reached into the villages where the vast majority of the world's population lived. Through the acts of goodwill performed by UNICEF, people in the most remote districts had come to know and support the United Nations. UNICEF was in fact putting the Organization's principles into practice more efficiently, comprehensively and dramatically than any other agency. That was the ultimate and most compelling reason why the Fund must continue its activities on a permanent basis.

Mr. TSAO (China) said that UNICEF represented one of the very few constructive achievements of the United Nations and had helped millions of mothers and children throughout the world. In the province of Taiman, nearly every child of school age had received BCG vaccination and the programme would now be extended to cover the children of pre-school age.

It was interesting to note the change of trends in the activities of the Fund from an emergency to a long-term approach and the shift of emphasis away from Europe to Asia, Latin America and most recently Africa. A great deal had already been done in the under-developed countries but there was still a vast amount remaining to be done. His Government was particularly concerned about the fate of the mothers and children on the mainland of China who were being deprived of the assistance of UNICEF owing to the lack of co-operation shown by the communist regime and he hoped that the situation could be remedied.

He paid a tribute to the three largest contributing countries as well as to the smaller countries which had also contributed to the extent of their powers. He also expressed appreciation for the excellent work of the Administration during the past six years, for the co-operation of the specialized agencies, particularly WHO and FAO, and for the invaluable assistance of the non-governmental organizations.

In conclusion, he emphasized that his delegation most strongly supported the continuation of the Fund and he hoped that a recommendation to that effect would be included in the Board's report to the Social Commission.

Mr. REYES (Philippines) said that his delegation had been most favourably impressed by the Executive Director's decision not to replace three of his ablest assistants in order to save the organization money. That was a token of the spirit in which UNICEF was administered. Since it was managed by exceptionally competent persons, it had been able to function smoothly, to decentralize efficiently and to merge its own work effectively with that of WHO, FAO and the United Nations Department of Social Affairs, thus complying with the General Assembly's desire for strict co-ordination of activities in the social field. The Administration was bold and resourceful, as its new projects to produce milk from soy-beans and to control leprosy in Nigeria showed, but, at the same time, it was willing to learn from experience. That was proved by the examples of flexibility given in paragraphs 99 and 121 of the Executive Director's progress report (E/ICEF/221).

UNICEF's regional officials in Asia were particularly to be commended. In the Philippines the response had been the widely popular UNAC campaign, which had been important not so much for the amount collected as for the participation of people in all walks of life.

The Administration was also to be commended for the way it had planned the shift of emphasis from emergency assistance to coping with the long-range needs of children and their continuing needs, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 417 (V). The balance it had been able to maintain between the furtherance of maternal and child welfare and mass disease control had been excellent. While continuing its campaigns against disease, it had devoted more than half its activities to basic maternal and child welfare and to the manufacture and distribution of vaccines, feeding programmes, the training of basic personnel and to child nutrition. Child malnutrition was still the most serious problem in Asia, and the new interest in substitutes for cow's milk would be most welcome in such countries as the Philippines. His delegation welcomed also the extension of such assistance to Africa and Latin America, which were as deserving of UNICEF's attention as was Asia. It wholeheartedly

supported the pilot project for the control of leprosy in Nigeria and hoped that means would be found to continue it. The International Children's Centre in Paris, which was doing admirable work, could always count upon his delegation's strong support; it was to be hoped that similar international institutions would eventually be established in the under-developed regions also.

His delegation had been encouraged by the efficient way in which the Administration had been able to integrate UNICEF programmes with those of the governments and local authorities and to stimulate those governments and local authorities to greater efforts. Encouraging too was the support of the non-governmental organizations, which were the vital link between the United Nations and the peoples; it was to be regretted that other United Nations agencies did not make so full a use of them as UNICEF did.

The Philippine delegation in the Social Commission, in the Economic and Social Council and in the General Assembly would support the continuation of UNICEF on a permanent basis. UNICEF was achieving remarkable results with slender means, but its work in the under-developed countries was far from completed. While other organs of the United Nations were frustrated by political rivalries and contentions, UNICEF had forged ahead in maintaining the moral solidarity among nations indispensable for the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations Charter.

His delegation would have to support the continuance of UNICEF; if it failed to do so, it would be unable to face the people of its country with an adequate explanation. They would not tolerate the ending of UNICEF, since to them it was the living evidence of the existence of the United Nations and of the fundamental rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Charter. Should UNICEF be discontinued, their faith in the United Nations, already sorely tried, would receive yet another severe blow; if UNICEF was maintained and expanded, they would come to regard the United Nations with growing respect and appreciation. If UNICEF were made permanent, the United Nations would acquire permanent friends. That alone was sufficient warrant for continuing UNICEF on a permanent basis.

Mr. FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that whatever criticism of details there might have been, the Administration's work was, on balance, so admirable as to make such criticism insignificant. Whenever UNICEF units arrived in a country, the United Nations, as the hope of the world, arrived with them. It had been a privilege to work on the Executive Board.

While other organs of the United Nations were the scene of political controversies and reflected the current international tensions, UNICEF was engaged in a crusade on behalf of children suffering from disease and want. UNICEF meant not only food and clothing - it also meant kindness. Children should of course receive education; but education was impossible if the children were starving. Relief of the needs of children was the prerequisite for the enjoyment of all the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.

UNICEF should, therefore, be continued. Each country cared for its own children within the limits of its budget; but it should also set aside whatever money it could to care for children in other countries as if they were children of its own. That should be the thought actuating each country's contribution to the Fund.

Some countries, such as the United States of America, had been immensely generous; but almost all countries had contributed what they could. They must continue to do so and to collect contributions while there remained any child that did not enjoy fully its basic rights as a human being. That aspect of UNICEF should be brought strongly to the attention of the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council when they came to consider UNICEF's future. The Uruguayan delegation would consistently support the continuation of the Fund.

Mr. MORALES (Argentina) said that UNICEF had very slender resources in comparison with other international organs but had obtained far greater comparable results. That was a conclusive argument for its continuation. While other organs of the United Nations had progressed relatively slowly, UNICEF had forged ahead. While other organs had talked, UNICEF had acted. The fact that several non-member States were members of UNICEF bestowed upon it a more universal character than had the United Nations itself.

Organizations were living bodies; they depended largely on the men working in them. The exceptionally competent Executive Director and the staff of the UNICEF Administration had built up a tradition of service which, if discontinued, could never be replaced. UNICEF was giving effect to a maxim upon which the Government of his country based its policy: in Argentina the only privileged persons were the children.

Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia) said that UNICEF had made people in the remotest areas acquainted with the United Nations through its social, medical and humanitarian activities. They would not understand the cessation of UNICEF's activities; they would believe that the United Nations itself had gone out of existence. It would be impossible to explain UNICEF's disappearance. The reason could not be political, since UNICEF was concerned solely with international humanitarian work. A financial reason would not be convincing, because UNICEF had spent only a small amount of money in comparison with other vast programmes which were not humanitarian in intent.

That reasoning might be called sentimental; but from a realistic point of view, too, it would be unwise for the United Nations to recall its best ambassador by curtailing the work of UNICEF. Millions of people who were deeply concerned about the fate of children had been attracted by UNICEF. Many governments, organizations and individuals were anxious to help it carry out its programmes. UNICEF assistance programmes had become part of national plans to help children. The methods by which the experienced workers of the UNICEF Administration approached emergency and long-range programmes had become

a factor of the national care of children. UNICEF had proved that collaboration with almost any country was possible and could yield good results. An expansion of its activities would gain new friends for the United Nations and thus improve the prospects for international peace.

One of the most important aspects from the point of view of a receiving country such as Yugoslavia was that of the matching commitments assumed by such countries. They were usually higher than the direct contributions to UNICEF and played an important part in the country's economy on a long-term basis. It was very hard to collect full data, because in many cases the commitments were merely described but not estimated in terms of cash: moreover, it would never be possible to obtain an exact total of the expenditures, since the contributions of local authorities and voluntary organizations could not be fully assessed. The very impossibility of obtaining exact totals for those reasons showed the way in which UNICEF's activities were everywhere so closely interwoven with local activities that no distinct line could be drawn between them. In some countries it had only been necessary to expand existing services; in others, completely new services had had to be created. In Yugoslavia, a milk production and conservation plant had been constructed where none had previously existed; the Government had matched UNICEF's \$929,000 with \$2,600,000. The disparity between the government commitments and the UNICEF expenditures was even more striking with regard to maternal and child welfare services. The figures for many receiving countries were a clear indication of the governments' interest in the UNICEF programmes. Often governments were willing to overcome budgetary and other difficulties in the knowledge that they were participating in a plan which would be of permanent benefit to the country. If there were no UNICEF programme, many countries would hesitate to embark on such a plan because they might be unable to complete it. Undertaking a UNICEF programme did not lead merely to the erection of plant; it went on to affect whole sections of the economy. The feeding programmes not only improved public health but aided the country's economy by acting as an

indirect subsidy to agriculture. Increased amounts of milk for milk production programmes were obtained by the improvement of pastures and breeds of cattle. Many governments were interested in UNICEF's continuation mainly because of such long-term benefits to their economy.

The governments made their commitments for matching the UNICEF programmes on the assumption that UNICEF would continue. Otherwise they would not be able to embark on long-range programmes and make large commitments. Some governments, such as that of Yugoslavia, made allocations for several years in advance. In Yugoslavia, UNICEF was no longer regarded as an emergency fund, but rather as a standing organization with an established reputation. It had gained added prestige from the recent establishment of a UNICEF National Committee which had taken over many of the activities previously in the hands of government officials.

UNICEF had undoubtedly been one of the United Nations' most successful creations, carrying, as it did, the purposes and principles of the Charter into practical effect. Its activities had contributed to better understanding among nations, to collaboration among them and to strengthening the United Nations. His delegation took it for granted that UNICEF would be continued and hoped that it would broaden its scope.

Mr. GIRETTI (Italy) said that UNICEF should be continued, since it had shown itself able to proceed with the work it had begun. Italy after the Second World War had been one of the Fund's largest beneficiaries; hundreds of thousands of children had received shoes, clothing and milk. Subsequently, several milk conservation centres, a pilot project, two centres for handicapped children, and many similar services had been established. After that, the Fund had diverted its main activities to the under-developed countries outside Europe. Nevertheless, the initial impetus given by UNICEF had left its mark. Not only was there in Italy a feeling of gratitude towards the United Nations but child welfare services had grown and improved. That was one more proof of the past and future value of the Fund. The same impetus was being given to such services in other countries.

Italy had had additional cause to thank UNICEF in 1951, when the Fund had come to the relief of children rendered destitute by floods. Similar emergency relief had been given to Turkey after a disastrous earthquake. The fact that such welcome assistance had been readily granted on the spontaneous proposal of a member of the Board was yet another reason for hoping that the Fund would be continued, with adequate means at its disposal.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

8/4 a.m.

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