

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
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ET SOCIAL**E/ICEF/SR.8
9 July 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday, 17 June 1947, at 2:30 p.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Dr. Rajchman	(Poland)
	Mr. Jockel	(Australia)
	Mr. Pessoa	(Brazil)
	Mrs. Sinclair	(Canada)
	Mr. Tsao	(China)
	Mr. Castello	(Colombia)
	Mr. Taborsky	(Czechoslovakia)
	Mr. Borberg	(Denmark)
	Mr. Correa	(Ecuador)
	Prof. Debré	(France)
	Mr. Beinoglu	(Greece)
	Mr. Bakr	(Iraq)
	Miss Witteveen	(Netherlands)
	Miss Hampton	(New Zealand)
	Mr. Seyersted	(Norway)
	Mr. Encinas	(Peru)
	Mr. Webster	(South Africa)
	Mr. Hagglof	(Sweden)
	H. E. Mr. Bruggmann	(Switzerland)
	Mr. Kozulia	(Ukraine)
	Mr. Kobushko	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Alexander	(United Kingdom)
	Miss Lenroot	(United States of America)
	Mr. Krasovec	(Yugoslavia)
	Mr. Marris	(United Kingdom Consultant)
	Mr. Pate	(Executive Director)
	Dr. Martha Eliot	(Chief Technical Consultant)
	Dr. Niblack	(Technical Officer for Europe)

Secretariat: Mr. Litteria

Professor DEBRE (France) desired to associate himself with the unanimous praise conferred on the report so ably presented by

Dr. Martha Eliot (Chief Technical Consultant). He would like to thank

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her in particular for her kind words in connection with Dr. Aujaleu, and would draw the attention of the Board to the fact that this journey of investigation had not only contributed essential facts to the discussion, but had also given the Board every right to hope that its work would be beneficial. It perhaps was not necessary to remind members of the present physiognomy of the countries of Europe which had been ravaged by a most terrible war and subjected to an invasion so inhuman that it surpassed the fiercest tragedies of the history of mankind.

The Nazis had not only pursued a policy which was intended to enslave the populations of the conquered regions, but also to make those populations suffer in the most ruthless and brutal manner. They desired to see them vilified and exhausted. They were subjected to revolting conditions of hygiene, under-nutrition, and aggravations of every kind. Mothers and children died of starvation and cold. Mothers saw their children die before their very eyes, of hunger and cruelty. He would not recapitulate the millions and millions of men, women and children who had died during the war of liberation in all the stricken countries, but in France alone, two hundred thousand had died in the Resistance and in concentration camps, and eighty thousand had been shot. Now these populations made an urgent appeal for assistance. Dr. Eliot had said that wherever she went, the demand was for milk and ever more milk for the children. This was a hunger appeal, increased by anxiety on account of the cessation of UNRRA supplies.

Europe, that old continent, desired to live, and was still full of hope. In those countries where the birth-rate was formerly on the decline, more births than ever were taking place, and this was a sign of hope. There were more children than could be fed and cared for. The first task of the world was to feed these children and supply them with milk. In particular, assistance should be given to the children in China.

This report was not only a cause for hope; it emphasized also the need for collaboration with the authorities responsible for the care and

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welfare of the children and the need for hospital and medical equipment, as also for the necessary plants to supply the children with adequate supplies of milk.

Another thing which was stressed in Dr. Eliot's report was the increase in tuberculosis. He urged that there should be no delay in dealing with this terrible scourge. Measures should be taken as soon as possible to stop its further progress. He referred in particular to the campaign in favour of BCG. This had been practiced on a large scale in such countries as Scandinavia and the results had been very successful. Vaccination with BCG could now be considered as offering the best possible chance, and he hoped that the Board would seriously contemplate encouraging the vaccination of the younger portion of the population on a large scale.

He had noted that his colleague from the United States had insisted on the need for training instructors in child welfare, and measures for preventing infant mortality.

He wished now to communicate the following offer made by the French Government. His Government was prepared to set up in Paris a child welfare centre which would be subordinate to the Fund; an international organization directed by the Fund and by an international commission of the Fund. It would include skilled personnel comprising both doctors and nurses, and conduct research into child welfare problems of every nature. He trusted that the Board would accept this principle at this meeting.

He had another suggestion to make, namely, the establishment of an executive office of the Fund, subordinate to the Executive Board, and responsible for applying measures for the administration of the Fund.

His country would consider it a great honour to receive these two administrations.

Furthermore, he had just received a telegram from Paris, stating that the French Government had decided to contribute to the Fund a sum equal to six percent of the American contribution, but payable in French francs.

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He was happy and proud to represent a country which was prepared to make a contribution in spite of the very difficult situation in which France found herself at the present moment.

The CHAIRMAN desired to offer the thanks of the Executive Board for the very generous character of the French offer, which comprised three parts:

1. if the Executive Board decided to establish an office in Paris, then the French Government was prepared to offer its hospitality;
2. the French Government was prepared to establish, under the auspices of the International Children's Emergency Fund, an international child welfare centre in Paris for the training of child welfare officers, the expenses to be borne by the French Government;
3. the French Government would contribute a sum equal to six percent of the American grant.

This was a very generous offer, and he begged Professor Debré to convey the thanks of the Board to his Government.

Members would no doubt like to give this three-fold gift a very careful examination.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) said that the members could not but be interested in the French donation, and very kind offer of hospitality to two organizations. She thought that the setting up of a child welfare organization in Paris was quite beyond the scope of the Fund, as the question had been put before the Social Commission and was still in abeyance. If the Board thought it desirable, it could recommend this offer to the Social Commission. Nevertheless, the matter needed thought before members could commit themselves, since it lay outside their terms of reference. Moreover, it would imply certain financial considerations.

Miss LENROOT (United States of America) said that the action of the

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French Government was, as always, most generous. Certainly members could not be surprised that the implications of a child feeding programme were broad, and led easily to the consideration of like matters, and even to such different problems as the training of personnel. She agreed with the Canadian Delegate that the matter must be considered carefully with other United Nations bodies such as WHO and the Social Commission. At present the Temporary Social Welfare Committee was under mandate to consider the establishment of a Sub-Commission on Child Welfare, and other experts were thinking in terms similar to this splendid French offer, from other parts of the world, for example, South America. She suggested that this matter should be referred back to the Programme Committee, with instructions to consider it very carefully, conduct the necessary consultations with the United Nations bodies concerned, and report back to the Board.

The CHAIRMAN asked if any member would second the proposal made by Miss Lenroot to refer the question to the Programme Committee.

The Canadian Delegate seconded the proposal.

DECISION: It was agreed to refer the French offer of a child welfare centre in Paris to the Programme Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said in reply to the Canadian Delegate that it was very clearly indispensable to engage in a series of consultations, and the Programme Committee was best fitted to do this preliminary work.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) said he was most anxious to have the views of his colleagues. This very kind offer should be considered in relation to other United Nations bodies, in particular the Temporary Social Welfare Committee of the Social Commission. This Committee must report on measures dealing with child welfare. He welcomed the French offer with grateful emotion, but wondered if the International Children's Emergency Fund was competent to make any recommendations on this point. The Board was here to collect and administer funds for the emergency needs of children. This body was not competent, and he proposed asking the French Delegate to

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request the Delegate of his country to the Temporary Social Welfare Committee to put the matter before that Committee for report to the Social Commission. The French Government had made a wonderful offer which was undoubtedly most useful.

Mr. KRASOVEC (Yugoslavia) emphasized the feeling of all the members in welcoming the proposal of the French Delegate. The Fund was faced with the tasks of first priority and others of lesser urgency. The matter should be considered carefully so that other and more urgent things should not be delayed.

He was not familiar with the Social Commission, but he knew many objections would be raised to the creation of further bodies, and to yet another child welfare body. He thought it enough to have the ICEF, which would have other tasks in connection with child welfare. He thought that only two bodies, either the ICEF or WHO could be charged to take over the French offer. Nevertheless, he agreed with the United States Delegate that the offer should be referred to the Programme Committee.

He thanked Dr. Eliot for her report, in which milk was so clearly put as first priority. Everyone would remember the difficulties experienced by UNRRA in starting, whereas the ICEF could begin in all countries in the same way, for all countries had the same need.

Mr. KOEUSEKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that members had not been prepared for the French offer, and felt that the Board would lose time if it considered matters brought up unexpectedly. He would support the United States proposal.

Mr. DEBRE (France) would like to dispel a certain misunderstanding in the matter. It would appear that attention had been drawn in particular to the last part of his proposal. He recognized that every effort should be concentrated on the feeding of the children. The offer of an administrative office he thought a simple matter, and connected with the work of the Board. The suggestion for a child welfare centre in Paris should only

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be considered as a question of principle. He was quite aware that it could not be studied on the spot, but should be referred back to the Programme Committee.

The CHAIRMAN replied in the affirmative to Mr. JOEFEL (Australia) who asked if the forty fellowships mentioned previously were to include experts, and furthermore, if the offer of hospitality of an office in Paris was to include the office installation.

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) presented his report and draft Agreement. He desired to explain that the Fund had every intention of working in a spirit of the highest confidence and co-operation with the Governments concerned. The administration had carried on its work with a very small planning staff, and the Chairman, with the aid of certain delegates, had been steadily at work building up a financial foundation for the Fund. Now that the Fund was sure of receiving the United States grant, it could go forward with complete confidence in the hope that it would receive substantial contributions from a number of other Governments. During the past few weeks, he had been building up a staff for the necessary key responsibilities, nevertheless, he was attempting to effect savings in every possible way, as he quite realized the emergency nature of the organization. Certain mechanics had still to be gone through before the Fund could receive the first part of the grant from the United States Government, and it would be early fall before supplies arrived in the field, and were received by the child consumer.

Thanks to Dr. Eliot's journey, and subsequent contacts, the Fund had now established a chain of representatives abroad. With regard to Albania, Finland and Hungary, the administration would make arrangements for an early visit to these countries. Until such time as the food actually arrived in the countries visited by Dr. Eliot the representatives were members of the United Nations or other international organs, who were serving on a voluntary basis. Similar plans were under study for China. Following the approval of the Programme Committee given yesterday, he now proposed to

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put immediately into food, the sum of \$560,000 at present in the treasury, representing the sum total of voluntary gifts, including a cheque of \$550,000 received from Mr. La Guardia last year.

As soon as the fifteen million dollar grant from the United States became available, it would be used for the purchase of supplies with an appropriate reserve for transport. He hoped that various countries, members of the United Nations, would make a contribution in the shape of transport, which would be of the greatest use to the Fund. The transport money thus saved could be used for the purchase of further food products. The Programme Committee firmly hoped that recipient countries having available ships would carry the food and thus help the fund to reserve moneys for further supplies. He would again point out, with the exception of the first \$560,000, it would be several weeks before the Fund would be able to embark on a large procurement policy as, according to U.S. Congress machinery, this grant must go through the Appropriations Committee. Nevertheless, he had no doubt that the money would be authorized. During this early period, he was very thankful for the co-operation which he had received from various sections of the Secretariat, and United Nations members in the field. The United States grant could be built up to seventy million dollars if the contributing countries would make the necessary effort, and he would make yet one more appeal to the members of the Board to do their best on behalf of the millions of famished children.

The CHAIRMAN then asked the members if their Governments could see their way to helping the Fund.

Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) said that the Australian Government had agreed to set aside four million Australian pounds for relief purposes. Three million dollars had been earmarked for the IRO, and a certain amount for the UNESCO rehabilitation scheme. The exact amount to be granted to the ICEF was still under discussion, and would depend upon the types of supplies available.

/In reply

In reply to the CHAIRMAN, who said that the Board heard this news with the very greatest satisfaction, and would be interested to know what kind of supplies were contemplated, the member for Australia stated that a special committee was at present giving careful consideration to this matter.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) stated that her Government would make a contribution, the exact amount of which was not yet decided.

Mr. CASTELLO (Colombia) said that he had no official instructions from his Government, and that practically all the South American countries were suffering from a depression. His Government was undoubtedly deeply concerned concerning the plight of the children in Europe, but he regretted that, in present circumstances, any tangible offer was impossible. The child population in his country was suffering from malaria, and a great lack of clothing, and his Government was still unable to solve its own problems. The children in the jungles of the Amazon and Putumayo were in great distress. Nevertheless, the Colombian Government would be very happy to raise funds under the One Day's Pay plan. He would repeat, however, that this was a personal opinion, since he had no official instructions.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had had conversations with the Governments of France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and was in correspondence with the Governments of Sweden and Poland. As to the Governments of the Netherlands and Belgium, he understood that it would be difficult to obtain financial contributions, but perhaps they might be willing to give some supplies in kind. The Board might perhaps take the matter up with the Delegates of these Governments. He was also in correspondence with the Danish Government, and he had been informed by the Norwegian Delegate that his Government would apply to the Norwegian Parliament for credits for a shipment of cod liver oil. The precise figures were not yet available, but he hoped to be able to lay them before the Board very shortly.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand had made a very generous statement to the Economic and Social Council, and there was every hope that a decision

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would be forthcoming very soon.

Mr. TSAO (China) said that it was inspiring to know that the Fund had so many contributing countries. He would like to lay before the Board two points with regard to China. He believed that the field surveys carried out by Dr. Meiklejohn and Dr. Eliot were very useful for the future operations of the Fund, nevertheless, those countries which had not yet been visited must not be left out of the picture. European children had been very fortunate to receive the visit of Dr. Eliot.

His Government estimated that there were in China sixty-four million undernourished children. This figure included twenty million in a serious state of under-nutrition, and ten million who were practically starving. Therefore, he urged that top priority should be given to China, first of all for milk, second again for milk, and third for milk and other foods.

In China, diapers and shoes were considered unattainable luxuries.

The Fund had now a certain sum of money in hand, although by no means adequate. All available sums should be distributed strictly according to need. He pleaded that China should have her share, since need had been accepted as the sole criterion. He urged to the Board that China had not been visited by the United Nations or Fund representatives, and her need was just as urgent as that of other countries, if not more so. He hoped that China would receive a share of food on a percentage basis.

Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) regretted that she was not yet able to make any definite statement on behalf of her Government, but hoped that definite news would be shortly forthcoming.

H.E. Mr. BRUGGMANN (Switzerland) expressed the appreciation of his Government for the invitation to Switzerland to join the Executive Board of the International Children's Emergency Fund. It had ever been among the sacred traditions of Switzerland to give relief to the unfortunate and distressed. All Swiss help was derived from private initiative, and Switzerland would continue to follow the tradition laid down by her citizens.

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This did perhaps create certain difficulties with respect to the help to be given by her Government which, however, would do its utmost to give help. The matter was under the most sympathetic consideration, and he intended to remain in close contact with the Fund. He was certain that his country would finally discover ways and means.

The CHAIRMAN then asked the Committee if there were any observations to the various points raised in the report of the Executive Director.

Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) said that his Government would be gratified to know that the Fund was using the United Nations staff in Europe and intended to develop its relations with certain specialized agencies.

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) stated that this was the established policy of the Executive Board and that the Fund was receiving services in many ways which he hoped would increase in the future. All suitable bodies, whether within the United Nations framework or not, were to be considered partners in this work.

Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) asked whether the rules of procedure with respect to budget and finance were provisional, for he believed that the Board should ask for a financial statement, to which Mr. PATE (Executive Director) replied that a statement would be forthcoming at the very earliest opportunity.

The CHAIRMAN then drew attention to the draft Agreement between the International Children's Emergency Fund and the Government, and the amendment to ARTICLE IX.

DECISION: This was approved.

Mr. KRASOVEC (Yugoslavia) said he had seen the draft for the first time that morning. He would raise no objection, but it was possible that certain Governments would be unable to agree on all the points. Nevertheless, he understood that every agreement should conform to the General Assembly Resolution, although the agreements with the Governments need not necessarily conform to the text for the members. He would consider this draft Agreement

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rather as an aide memoire.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the draft constituted a model agreement along the lines of the general principles adopted by the Programme Committee which had conformed to the General Assembly Resolution.

The plan of operation for the immediate future was based on the principle that every Government, entitled to make an application under the General Assembly Resolution, had an inherent right to apply, and if it applied, was entitled to receive aid. There was, of course, the question of percentage, and the category of aid required. The Programme Committee had made proposals as to the type of assistance which could be given. If need was the principal element, there was also the question of the relativity of needs, but he would state emphatically as a policy of the Fund, that aid could not be given to a country that did not make a very great effort on behalf of its children.

To ascertain this essential factor, a survey and investigation were indispensable. There was, however, a limit to this, and the greatest occupation of the Executive Director was to ensure that food should move as soon as possible. The Director should be authorized to make arrangements in proportion as the funds were made available. The Programme Committee had felt that no more than approximately 60 percent of the available moneys should be used for shipments, and had suggested that the Executive Board should give authority to the Programme Committee to determine in consultation with the Executive Director what should be the amounts of the first shipments to all countries that had applied, and to report on these shipments to the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee would then make recommendations to the next Board with respect to allocations. It would be unfortunate if allocations were made before the Administration knew the specific proposals of the Governments and had some more information as to how soon other governments would be prepared to assist. He proposed that the Administration be given six weeks to prepare work for shipments,

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and that the Programme Committee should meet on 18 August and the Board on 19 August. He had been informed that it was practically impossible for members of the Board not living in New York to come here for two or three days only, and he had been asked to hold a session in Europe. The distance from China to the United States and to Europe was about the same. The Programme Committee suggested that the next meetings of the Committee and of the Board should be held in Paris.

Mr. TSAO (China) asked if the first shipments would be made to the various countries after the application to the Programme Committee and the Board, and the CHAIRMAN replied that the first shipment would be made right away in accordance with the limitations laid down by the Programme Committee.

Mr. CORREA (Ecuador) asked if the Board could accept the report made by the Chairman and the report of the Programme Committee, since, according to the rules, the report should be in writing.

The CHAIRMAN replied that a request of this nature could not be refused. He raised the question of the length of the session, as it should finish on that day.

Miss LENROOT (United States) suggested that a statement of not more than ten minutes might be made instead by the Chairman.

Mr. CORREA (Ecuador) said that he had not entered a formal request for a written report.

Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) asked if these early shipments would go forward without the Board knowing what the programme was.

The CHAIRMAN replied that a certain latitude must be left to the Executive Director. Nevertheless, the Director could be instructed to keep about 40 percent available and procure and ship the balance. Even the arrangements made that morning would be subject to change.

Miss LENROOT (United States) stated that she had understood that a report would be made to the Board, in particular since the generous offer made by the French Government had changed matters.

/Miss HAMPTON

Miss HAMPTON (New Zealand) supported the views expressed by the members for Ecuador and the United States, and suggested that the Programme Committee should meet on the following morning and the Board in the afternoon.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) stated that he was not happy about the present procedure. He drew the attention of the Board to the fact that they were trustees of considerable sums of money. As a member of the Programme Committee and of the Board, he would like to suggest a considerable change in the procedure. It seemed to him inadvisable that the Programme Committee should meet just before the Board, which was thus presented with sketchy and oral decisions. The Programme Committee should meet at a considerable interval before the Board and submit a written report. The Board should be taken into the confidence of the Programme Committee. Certain shipments would have been made before 18 August, and the Board would then be faced with a fait accompli. He trusted that members would find a method by which the Executive Board would be able to consider carefully the decisions arrived at by the Programme Committee.

The CHAIRMAN regretted if he had acted under a misunderstanding. He thought he had been complying with the wishes of the Programme Committee. He was ready to consider the suggestion of the Delegate of New Zealand that the Programme Committee should meet the following day and submit a report to the Board in the afternoon, and if the Board desired a lengthier discussion, then the session could continue.

Mr. SEYERSTED (Norway) seconded the suggestion made by Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) that the Programme Committee should, in future, meet at a reasonable interval before the Executive Board.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) was of the opinion that the Board should receive a more specific report.

Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) supported the motion made by Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) and thought it wiser to avoid holding meetings of the Programme Committee immediately before the Executive Board. The Programme

/Committee

Committee was only an interim body, and the lack of breathing space did not give the members of the Executive Board time to formulate lines of approach. He thought also that the time given to the Programme Committee was insufficient.

Mr. BEINOGIU (Greece) was also in favour of the proposal made by the Delegate of the United Kingdom. His Government had requested him to report on the suggestions made by the Programme Committee and the Executive Board, and owing to the lack of time he had been unable to receive instructions. He thought that matters should be carefully considered before the Board could delegate its powers to the Programme Committee.

Mr. CASTELLO (Colombia) regretted that he would be unable to attend on the following day. He had not had sufficient time to study the documents, and asked if the Committee could meet during the following week. The Board should be informed at least every fortnight of the work of the Programme Committee. Meetings should be held more often.

Mr. TSAO (China) asked if one morning would be sufficient to produce the report.

The CHAIRMAN said that some delegates required a few days' notice of the meetings. He drew the attention of the Board to the difficulties experienced by those members who had come from far in order to meet here. He thought that there was room for compromise, and asked Mr. Alexander to suggest when the Programme Committee should meet and report to the Board.

Mr. ALEXANDER replied that it was manifestly impossible to satisfy everybody, and as a compromise he suggested that the Programme Committee should meet during the afternoon of the following day and the Executive Board on the day after that.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the meeting should be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, 18 June, and the Executive Board on Thursday morning.

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At the request of Miss LENROOF (United States) it was agreed to hold the meeting of the Programme Committee in Manhattan.

The meeting rose at 6:30 p.m.
