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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 8 September 1953, at 10.30 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LINDT	Switzerland
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. CARASALES	Argentina
	Mr. BRENNAN	Australia
	Mr. FENAUX	Belgium
	Mr. de PAIVA LEITE	Brazil
	Mr. TEPOV	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mrs. SINCLAIR	Canada
	Mr. TSAO	China
	Mr. RYBAR	Czechoslovakia
	Mr. CONCHA	Ecuador
	Mr. GORSE	France
	Mr. ROUSSOS	Greece
	Mr. BANERJEE	India
	Mr. KHALIDY	Iraq
	Mrs. HARMAN	Israel
	Mr. ROBERTI	Italy
	Mr. GUNDERSEN	Norway
	Mr. HAMDANI	Pakistan
	Mr. HOLGUIN	Peru
	Mr. DEVAKUL	Thailand
	Mr. SVIRIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. BARNES	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Miss ELIOT	United States of America
	Mr. KOS	Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. Van VEEN	)	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. WORK		
Mrs. SISMANIDIS		
Miss SCOTT		
Mr. ARNALDO	)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

PRESENT:(continued)

Representatives of specialized agencies:(continued)

Dr. COIGNY	)	World Health Organization (WHO)
Mr. GRANT	)	
Dr. SUTTER	)	
Dr. VERHOS	)	

United Nations Secretariat:

Mr. HAMMARSKJÖLD		Secretary-General
Miss Kahn	)	
Mr. LITERIA	)	

UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE	Executive Director
Mr. HEYWARD	Deputy Director
Dr. BORCIC	WHO Chief Medical Adviser to UNICEF
Dr. YUAN	WHO Assistant Medical Adviser to UNICEF
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

#### SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The SECRETARY-GENERAL recalled that, in the past, he had always been impressed by the achievements of the Fund working upon a relatively modest financial basis, and by the manner in which it conducted its work. He was convinced that the essential factor for the production of such successes was to be found in the personal dedication of those participating in its work. It was miraculous what could be achieved by a small means provided that they were used in the right spirit.

In its endeavours to eradicate poverty, ignorance and other impediments to the achievement of mutual ideals, UNICEF, in its activities, was fulfilling the fundamental aims of the United Nations and thus demonstrated the genuineness of its objective to build a better world by the removal of some of the basic difficulties of living.

Now, as the Secretary-General, he was still further confirmed in his appreciation of the performance of the Fund and in his admiration of those dedicated to it. His first personal meeting with the Executive Board was, therefore, both a privilege and a pleasure.

He wished the Fund unabated success in its work and pledged to it every assistance within his power.

#### QUESTION OF THE REPRESENTATION OF CHINA

Mr. SVIRIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that at the beginning of the previous session of the Executive Board, the USSR representative had called upon the members of the Board to adopt a draft resolution excluding the representative of the Kuomintang and inviting a representative appointed by the Central Government of the People's Republic of China to participate in the work of UNICEF. The representative of the Kuomintang was not qualified to represent the Chinese people.

He asked that the matter, discussion of which had been postponed at the preceding session, should be considered at the present session.

Mr. TSAO (China) regretted that the USSR representative had seen fit once again to raise the question of China's representation on the Executive Board. He did not intend to refute the USSR representative at length but wished to put forward a number of considerations to show that the USSR representative's proposal was out of order.

First, the Government which he had the honour to represent was the only government which had been freely elected by the Chinese people, in accordance with the Constitution; it was the only government recognized by the majority of the Members of the United Nations and supported by the majority of the Chinese people. On the other hand, the communist regime in Peiping was merely a creation of Soviet expansionism. The eagerness of the USSR Government to have the regime admitted into the United Nations was evidence that it served the interest of the USSR and not the interest of the Chinese people.

Secondly, under resolution 396 (V) of the General Assembly, any question of representation should be considered by the General Assembly or by the Interim Committee if the General Assembly was not in session. UNICEF was not an independent body outside the United Nations. Its terms of reference were provided in General Assembly resolution 417 (V); members of the Board were appointed by the Economic and Social Council and the policies of the Fund were formulated by the Board in accordance with principles laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission. The Board had therefore no competence to discuss the question of the representation of China.

Mr. RYBAR (Czechoslovakia) supported the USSR proposal. The representative of China, at present seated on the Executive Board, did not represent the Chinese people.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America) said that the United States was opposed to any proposal designed to unseat the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China or to seat representatives of the Chinese Communist regime and moved that the executive board adjourn debate on that proposal for the duration of its present session.

The CHAIRMAN said that under rule 35 of the rules of procedure, two speakers could speak, one in favour of the United States motion and one against.

Mr. TEPOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the Soviet proposal.

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) supported the United States representative's proposal and said that it would be inappropriate for a variety of reasons to discuss the substance of the Soviet proposal at the present time.

The motion to adjourn the debate was adopted by 16 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (E/ICEF/230/Rev.1)

The agenda was adopted.

#### SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (E/ICEF/230/Add.1)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Board to the tentative schedule of Executive Board and Committee meetings (E/ICEF/230/Add.1) and in particular to the meeting of the Programme Committee to be held on Saturday, 12 September.

Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Director) said that the Saturday meeting raised budgetary difficulties (payment of non-professional staff). He thought that it would be preferable to hold the meeting after 16 September and wondered what the view of the Board was on the question.

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), speaking as Chairman of the Programme Committee, said that the schedule had been adopted after unofficial consultation of a large number of delegations, most of which had stated that it would be difficult for them to attend a meeting on 14 September, the day before the General Assembly opened. A meeting on Tuesday, 15 September, would be equally inconvenient. It would therefore be necessary to postpone the meeting until Wednesday, 16 September, in which case the report of the Programme Committee could be considered only on Thursday or Friday.

He would consider any suggestion but pointed out that the tentative schedule of meetings had been adopted as being the most convenient possible.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that as he had stated at preceding sessions, meetings of the Executive Board of UNICEF immediately prior to sessions of the General Assembly always raised difficulties.

The tentative schedule of meetings, however, seemed reasonable. He proposed however that the meeting of the Executive Board scheduled for 16 September should be postponed to the 17th since the work of the General Assembly would really begin on 16 September.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America) supported the Iraq representative's proposal.

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE (Brazil) said he would prefer to keep to the tentative schedule prepared by the Executive Board.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) supported the Brazilian representative's opinion.

The CHAIRMAN thought that it would be advisable to leave the question open until the end of the week.

He would get in touch with the United Nations Secretariat to arrange for a meeting of the Programme Committee on the morning of Saturday, 12 September.

#### GENERAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (E/ICEF/236)

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) said he would introduce the part of the report dealing with general questions (paragraphs 1-48) and would leave it to the regional directors to describe the activities of UNICEF in their respective areas.

The report provided the representatives of governments with comprehensive documentation on the work of the Fund during the preceding three years and should enable the General Assembly to make a decision when it considered the Fund's future at its next session. The document also contained some suggestions relating to the principles governing methods and types of UNICEF aid. Those suggestions might serve as the basis for fruitful discussion between the Board and the Administration on the subject of the future programme.

The figures in paragraph 3 gave a clear illustration of the results obtained in the matter of child health projects. In that connexion, it should be pointed out that 40 per cent of the children examined in the course of the anti-tuberculosis campaign had been vaccinated with BCG. Only a few years previously, it had not seemed that it would be possible to achieve the aims that had been set; and it was thanks to the devotion of the medical officers and the training of an adequate auxiliary staff that those results, which were remarkable in respect both of the number of cases treated and of the quality of the treatment, had been obtained in the case of maternal and child welfare services (paragraph 4); consideration was being given to the possibility of establishing 80,000 centres in the future as

against the 5,300 existing ones. Those few facts showed that, though satisfactory results had been obtained, there still remained much to be done in the matter of child health.

In the belief that a good and balanced diet was absolutely necessary to child health, the Administration proposed to give still closer attention to child nutrition projects, and particularly milk conservation programmes. Since his visit to Korea, the Executive Director had come to the conclusion that UNICEF must work with the government during the emergency period so that the help given might later become of permanent value by the substitution of indigenous products.

He had been much impressed by the enthusiasm of the young people in most of the under-developed countries, and was of the opinion that the village school was the most effective instrument of progress. Remarkable results could be obtained by means of school services (paragraphs 13 and 14).

So far as Tropical Africa was concerned (paragraph 16), he would report to the next session of the Executive Board on the visit to that area which he was to make in autumn.

Referring to the principles on which the granting of UNICEF assistance was based, he said that it would be advantageous to prepare programmes for two, three, five or more years (paragraph 17): the work of UNICEF would gain thereby in effectiveness, continuity and economy.

Hitherto, a large number of countries, particularly the beneficiary countries, had been in favour of programmes providing for a matching contribution and national self-help. Although it was recognized that the principle was a good one, after studying what had been done by certain private foundations, particularly to assist scientific institutions and generally raise the level of scientific knowledge on health matters, the Administration had begun to consider whether the principle, in accordance with which UNICEF confined its activities to the distribution of supplies which had to be imported, had not been applied too rigidly. He was of the opinion that in certain cases UNICEF should be able to consider participation in the financing of certain programmes on the understanding that its contribution would be reduced each year while that of the State concerned would increase in proportion.

The information given in paragraph 29 showed how the assistance granted by UNICEF for the execution of certain programmes was related to the financing of the Technical Assistance Programme, and to the amount of the contributions to that programme provided by States. Where contributions were insufficient, some of the staffing expenses were borne by UNICEF, which in principle should pay only for the supplies.

Referring to paragraph 30, he said that the transfer of certain specialists from WHO to TAA would ensure better co-ordination between the organizations interested in the production of insecticides and antibiotics.

With regard to the financial situation (paragraphs 32 et seq.), it was encouraging to note that not only did UNICEF possess sufficient resources to apply the recommendations of the Administration, but also that it had considerable reserves for dealing with emergencies. The information given in paragraphs 38 and 39 showed that the total value of contributions had risen from 8 million dollars in 1950 to almost 14 million dollars in 1953 and that the number of participating governments, which had been 30 in 1950, would be 50 at the end of the year. The total resources (16.3 million dollars) and the total allocations (15.5 million dollars) justified the hope that UNICEF would soon attain the objective of 20 million dollars which it had set itself.

The CHAIRMAN said he was glad to be able to say that the financial situation of UNICEF had considerably improved in recent months, largely owing to the generosity of certain participating States. He asked whether the members of the Executive Board wished to make any observations on the general questions to which the Executive Director General had referred in his report, particularly the proposal relating to the establishment of a sub-committee (paragraph 21).

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) reserved the right to make observations when the Executive Board had heard the reports of the regional directors.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America), noting that the Administration of UNICEF was proposing to appoint a special sub-committee to determine the general policy to be followed, said she would like to suggest that the Executive Board should, if it decided to establish such a sub-committee, make sure that the sub-committee maintained close relations with the specialized agencies concerned and even held joint meetings with them. The determination of UNICEF policy was of very great importance, not only to the Fund itself, but also to the specialized agencies which co-operated in its work. Discussions between the secretariats might be very useful in elaborating that policy.

Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) observed that, from both the administrative and financial points of view, it would be desirable for the future of UNICEF to be decided by the General Assembly at the beginning of its session. Hence the relevant item, which would be dealt with by the Third Committee, should be placed high on that Committee's agenda. He asked those members of the Executive Board who were taking part in the work of the Third Committee to see that that was done.

He then read a telegram to the UNICEF Administration from its representative in Greece, who reported that in the Ionian Islands devastated by the recent earthquake ninety-five per cent of the buildings had been destroyed, forty thousand children, including five thousand infants, urgently required emergency care, and long term assistance would have to be provided. The Greek Government was most grateful to UNICEF for the invaluable assistance it had given and was giving to the victims in the Ionian Islands, and wished in particular to thank the UNICEF Administration, the UNICEF regional office in Paris and Messrs. Egger and Cooper. A recommendation had been made for a supplementary allocation of \$100,000, and in due course he would present to the Programme Committee the views of his Government as to the supplies required.

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE (Brazil) congratulated the Executive Director of UNICEF on the excellent report presented to the Executive Board, which brought out the value of the work done by UNICEF in the past three years. His delegation approved most of the conclusions embodied in the introduction to the report (paragraphs 1 to 48 inclusive) and the observations of Mr. Pate. He doubted, however, whether the ad hoc sub-committee which the Administration proposed should be established (paragraph 21) would be able to do really useful work if it could not count on the collaboration of certain very active members of the Executive Board such as Mr. Lindt, the Chairman and Mrs. Sinclair, the Canadian representative. He felt that their participation was more important than that of the specialized agencies just mentioned by the United States representative. Apart from the fact that UNICEF was somewhat different from the specialized agencies, which accounted for the special nature of its general policy, the specialized agencies had access to UNICEF documents and could always make suggestions to that body. He therefore thought that the machinery it was proposed to set up should not be complicated by providing for joint meetings with those agencies.

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) also praised the report prepared by the UNICEF Administration, which gave a very complete picture of UNICEF's past and future activities. When the members of the General Assembly came to make a decision regarding the future of UNICEF they would have that complete and concise document before them.

He wished, however, to be given some additional details about the control of trachoma which was mentioned briefly in paragraph 10 of the report. He also wished to know why governments did not appear to take sufficient interest in the assistance UNICEF could give them in the organization of school services. He wondered whether the reasons were administrative or budgetary in character.

As to the future policy of UNICEF, the Administration proposed first, to provide for more long-term projects and, secondly, to assume some of the financial burdens which the execution of such projects laid upon the beneficiary countries. Without wishing at that moment to give an opinion on matters of principle, his delegation nevertheless feared that the method advocated by the Administration might narrow the scope of UNICEF's activities

by immobilizing into a small number of projects the international funds intended in principle to enable varied projects to be put into operation in numerous countries. He also queried the wisdom of using those international funds, mainly available in convertible currencies, to meet local expenses which in most cases could be covered in non-convertible currency. The Board should consider those points before taking a decision.

In conclusion he had pleasure in informing the members of the Executive Board, and in particular the Brazilian representative who had expressed certain misgivings regarding the composition of the ad hoc sub-committee, that their Chairman, Mr. Lindt would in future be permanently stationed in New York and would thus be able to participate in the work of the proposed body.

Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Director) informed the Australian representative that the obstacles to the development of school services were mainly of a financial nature, and were rendered more serious by the lack of suitably qualified staff. UNICEF had accordingly decided to abandon the type of services originally envisaged in favour of a simpler and more comprehensive formula; it proposed to assist States to apply an elementary programme comprising school meals, school gardens, improvement of school hygiene through the supply of soap, first-aid kits, drinking water and the like. UNICEF also proposed to take a more active part through the school in the many projects directed, in their several ways, towards the community organization. The Administration was not yet in a position to submit a detailed plan on the subject, but he wished the Executive Board to know that the matter was being studied closely by the Administration.

Dr. BORCIC (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), replying to the Australian representative, said that the mass control of trachoma was still in the experimental stage. In accordance with the recommendation of the World Health Organization Committee of Experts, the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy had considered the matter in April 1952 and had recommended that assistance be given to projects of pilot nature, those to be closely watched and evaluated and the results to be brought to the Committee for their guidance in developing further policies regarding trachoma control. Four such projects had

been assisted and put into operation (Morocco, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Formosa). So far only the results of the least ambitious of those projects, the Formosa project, could be assessed. The WHO experts' first findings suggested that it would be difficult to use the trachoma control methods at present available for a mass campaign, and that those methods were more suitable for the treatment of organized groups - such as schools - in which the disease could more readily be diagnosed and cured. To a great extent the difficulties were due to the fact that present methods required a very large technical and auxiliary staff. The UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee was to consider at its next session a comprehensive report on the results of the four pilot projects and would make recommendations of principle on the basis of that report.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE FIELD OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE (E/ICEF/237)

Miss KAHN (Secretariat) outlined the work of the Department of Social Affairs in the field of family and child welfare and reported on the steps taken by the United Nations Secretariat to co-ordinate its work with that of UNICEF, the Specialized Agencies and the competent organizations (E/ICEF/237).

Mr. TSAO (China) said that he had listened with great interest to the statement made by the representative of the Department of Social Affairs.

Noting that 5,300 maternal and child welfare centres had been or shortly would be set up under UNICEF auspices, and recalling that the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council had recently studied the possibility of social welfare centres being set up to cover more than one field, he asked the Secretariat representative to tell the Executive Board what steps were planned by the United Nations Secretariat to co-ordinate the activities of the maternal and child welfare centres with those of the community welfare centres, the establishment of which was being fostered by the Department of Social Affairs.

Miss KAHN (Secretariat) pointed out that there were various types of community organizations: for instance, the FAO agricultural demonstration centres and UNESCO fundamental education centres. Generally speaking, States were inclined to ask the United Nations to help them to set up a multi-purpose centre where no single-purpose centre existed. Experience had shown that the most effective action was that carried out progressively on the basis of a definite plan corresponding to the region's special and urgent needs. At a recent session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, representatives of the Department of Social Affairs and the specialized agencies concerned, had expressed the opinion that although a single multi-purpose centre constituted the best form of community organization, it was not always either possible or desirable to set one up. She assured the Chinese representative that the Secretariat's principle was to warn governments of the risk of duplication of effort and futile rivalry and that it continually pressed for co-ordination of activities.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) said that the Executive Board had already recommended that the Maternal and Child Health Centre should serve as a nucleus for community organization.

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE NGO COMMITTEE ON UNICEF (E/ICEF/NGO.7)

The CHAIRMAN said that the very satisfactory financial results achieved during the current year should for the most part be attributed to the international and national non-governmental organizations concerned with child welfare, which had spared no effort to contribute to the success of UNICEF's work. The executive Board was most grateful to those organizations and was glad to welcome the Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF to the meeting.

Mr. ACTON (Chairman of the NGO Committee of UNICEF) submitted the report of the NGO Committee of UNICEF on recent developments in its work (E/ICEF/NGO.7).

He expressed the Committee's satisfaction that the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the International Union against the Venereal Diseases had become associated with the Committee. Like the other NGO's, those organizations would give the Committee and UNICEF the benefit of their experience and competence.

During the past year, the NGO Committee on UNICEF had regarded as priority projects the questions of the future status of UNICEF and its financial resources. There was good reason to believe that the activities of non-governmental bodies had been influential in achieving the results so far attained. The non-governmental organizations enthusiastically and unanimously supported UNICEF because they were convinced of the value of its work; it should not, however, be forgotten that the measures taken by the Board to make it possible for NGO's to relate themselves to UNICEF had bred confidence and a sense of participation which facilitated and encouraged co-operation between those organizations and UNICEF and enabled them to understand and further the latter's purposes.

Since the last meeting of the Executive Board many non-governmental organizations, both members of the NGO Committee and others, had held international conferences. Many of them had considered UNICEF's programme, its future and its resources. The NGO Committee, with the co-operation of the Administration, had been able to provide information which would be of use in those discussions. He was glad to inform the Board that in each instance the voluntary bodies had come to the conclusion that UNICEF's work was essential and should be maintained and adequately supported. The NGO Committee on UNICEF would circulate the resolutions adopted, which were of the greatest importance inasmuch as they demonstrated the will of the millions of members of those voluntary groups to ensure that that view was widely known and understood in their respective countries.

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) wished to add a personal remark to the general statement concerning the co-operation of non-governmental organizations with UNICEF: in the course of his travels during the previous year, he had had the opportunity to see for himself the great value of the help given to UNICEF by those organizations, and he would once more express the Board's gratitude to them.

The CHAIRMAN associated himself with the tribute paid by the Executive Director to the non-governmental organizations. In many countries public opinion had been enabled to grasp the magnitude of UNICEF's work thanks to the efforts of those organizations.

He read out the following resolution, recently adopted by the NGO Committee on UNICEF:

"The Committee recommends that necessary steps be taken to make it possible for interested and competent non-governmental organizations in categories A and B consultative relationship to the Economic and Social Council, and on the Secretary-General's Register, to participate equally in consultative activities with the Executive Board of UNICEF as formulated in the rules governing relationship with the NGO Committee on UNICEF."

That resolution would enable the NGO Committee on UNICEF to co-opt the organizations on the Register whose help it wished to enlist. The Secretariat had been consulted and had stated that that could be done, since precedents existed. He hoped that that action would receive the approval of the members of the Executive Board.

The members of the Executive Board expressed unanimous approval.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.