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*President:* Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).

*Present:*

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Iran.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 19

**United Nations Children's Fund (E/2662, E/2676, E/2717, E/L.673)**

1. The CHAIRMAN called on Mr. Khalidy, First Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, to address the Council.
2. Mr. KHALIDY (First Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF) drew the attention of members of the Council to the reports of the Executive Board of UNICEF. There were 254 UNICEF-assisted programmes in operation at the current time and UNICEF was aiding ninety-one countries and territories. In 1955, 32 million children and expectant and nursing mothers would benefit from the principal UNICEF-aided mass health and feeding programmes as against 28 million in 1954.
3. The Executive Board had given particular attention to the question of increased UNICEF aid for malaria eradication (E/2717, paras. 41 to 67).
4. At the current time malaria was one of the most widespread diseases and adversely affected the economic development of many countries. It impaired the profit-earning capacity of large undertakings, such as plantations, mines and factories in the small agricultural centres from which the under-developed countries derived most of their national income, malaria reduced production and increased indebtedness. In the social field it hampered the development of education as children suffering from malaria were unable to attend school regularly. The incidence of malaria among children hampered the development of maternal and child rural welfare services. In some regions malaria control had made it possible to reduce infant mortality by one-third.

5. There had been a radical change in malaria control methods after the Second World War. Residual spraying with insecticides, particularly DDT, had been used. With the introduction of that technique, it had been possible to extend malaria control programmes to rural areas. At the current time about 300 million persons were protected by such programmes, some permanently, and about 300 million others had yet to be protected.

6. United Nations bodies had played an important part in that work. The World Health Organization provided technical advice and UNICEF had supplied insecticides, transport and sprayers. In 1955, equipment supplied by UNICEF was being used to protect 17 million people in twenty countries. That figure, impressive in itself, was all the more significant because it represented assistance to regions which, without such help, would have been financially unable to undertake malaria control campaigns.

7. The United Nations Children's Fund was going to take a great step forward. It would no longer confine itself to the control of malaria, but would attempt to eradicate the disease. It was possible to speak of eradication because that goal had been achieved in some regions. To eradicate malaria completely all houses were first sprayed with insecticides for a period of about four years. During a further period of four years specialized national services exercised close supervision, after which the regular health services could deal with cases of malaria coming from abroad.

8. That method had great advantages. In the first place it made savings possible. A few years before it had been thought necessary to carry out spraying each year for an indefinite number of years. It had since been found that by intensifying the work for some years malaria could be completely eradicated. The current method involved a certain danger because mosquitoes developed resistance to insecticides in areas where annual spraying had been carried out for more than six years. It was therefore necessary to act rapidly, before the resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides became widespread.

9. Because of the ease with which malaria could be reintroduced into regions where it had been eradicated, by persons coming from unprotected areas, the question had to be examined on the international level, and large-scale regional programmes were most desirable. That point had been brought out in the conferences held at Santiago, Chile, and at Baguio, in the Philippines, in which WHO experts had participated. The two conferences had recommended the adoption of eradication programmes. A similar conference was to meet in the Eastern Mediterranean area in 1956.

10. The eradication campaign was developing on a world-wide scale. According to WHO estimates, drawn up on the basis of national projects and proposed projects, the campaign would have to cover the 300 million persons already protected as well as an additional 186

million persons. If that target was to be achieved, the annual cost of malaria control campaigns, which was currently \$14 million, would have to be increased to \$65 million. That figure represented the total cost that Governments and international bodies would have to bear. In fact, although some countries could meet the cost of malaria eradication campaigns, the cost of large-scale regional programmes was too high to be borne by the Governments concerned or by United Nations bodies. The bilateral assistance offered by the United States of America was therefore invaluable.

11. Of the 300 million persons who had yet to be protected, UNICEF estimated that 135 million lived in countries that might request its aid. In each of the next few years UNICEF would probably have to protect 40 million persons. Thus UNICEF allocations for malaria control would have to be increased from \$2 million to \$5 million annually and remain at that level for many years. The 40 million people to be protected lived in the countries of North and South America, which needed international assistance, and in some countries of Asia and Asia Minor.

12. Five million dollars represented a substantial proportion of the total annual allocations of \$20 million. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that in 1954 UNICEF had been able to allocate only \$17 million and not \$20 million as planned. Accordingly, the Executive Board had wondered whether it was advisable to increase its assistance for malaria eradication programmes. However, in view of the importance of long-term child welfare programmes, the Executive Board had decided to increase UNICEF aid to enable Governments to intensify their control programme in order to achieve malaria eradication.

13. The UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy had met in May 1955 and had unanimously recommended that malaria eradication programmes should be given first priority by UNICEF. It had also recommended that UNICEF and WHO should use their influence to transform malaria control campaigns currently under way into eradication programmes as soon as possible. United States bilateral assistance would be used in accordance with principles similar to those recommended by United Nations bodies.

14. He expressed the conviction that in years to come the United Nations would be proud of the help given by UNICEF, WHO and the Technical Assistance Administration. All of the agencies had co-operated in the eradication of malaria and would deserve the gratitude of future generations.

15. Mr. RAJAN (India) thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board for the encouraging picture he had given of the Fund's activities. The Executive Board's reports (E/2662, E/2676 and E/2717), too, contained interesting information on the number of beneficiaries and the costs of assistance. The assistance given by UNICEF, which was particularly spectacular in large-scale campaigns, was characterized by mass action and low costs.

16. He recalled the hesitation with which the first efforts of UNICEF had been greeted only a few years before. The United Nations Children's Fund had proved that it could produce results and, with its new policy, it could look to the future with confidence. In the campaign against malaria, which would be a joint campaign of Governments and international agencies, the

activity of UNICEF would be useful in the economic and social field, not only to individuals but to the whole community of nations, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The peoples of under-developed countries might be unable to read or understand the Charter, but if, through the help of agencies like UNICEF, they were protected from disease, they would come to understand the real meaning of the United Nations, which had adopted as one of its objectives the promotion of the welfare of all peoples.

17. The Executive Board's report (E/2717) mentioned Universal Children's Day, which was to be observed for the first time in 1956. He regretted that the Executive Board had not been able to take a decision on the matter because there had not been a sufficient number of replies from Governments. It was to be hoped that additional replies would soon be forthcoming.

18. There had been a considerable change in the situation since the General Assembly had laid down the composition of the Executive Board of UNICEF in resolution 417 (V). The United Nations Children's Fund had become a permanent body. There had been a considerable increase in the number of its beneficiaries and it was currently active in ninety-one countries and territories. The interests of those countries, some of which were not members of the United Nations, had to be represented on the Executive Board. The situation should therefore be re-examined and the Council should deal with the question.

19. He congratulated all those working with UNICEF and indicated that he would support the joint draft resolution (E/L.673) taking note with satisfaction of the Executive Board's reports.

20. Mr. AMANRICH (France) said that the Executive Board's three reports (E/2662, E/2676 and E/2717) once again furnished evidence of the effective operations of UNICEF in various parts of the world. The Executive Board's work was becoming increasingly practical in character and, on the basis of past experience, UNICEF was implementing large-scale long-term programmes, including BCG vaccination, leprosy control and child-feeding programmes. At its March session, UNICEF had agreed in principle to the implementation, in co-operation with WHO, of campaigns to eradicate malaria in large areas of the world. That was a new kind of undertaking on a very broad scale, involving the mobilization of vast resources, and UNICEF should be congratulated: in general programming it demonstrated flexibility, imagination and great adaptability while undertaking, in collaboration with very well qualified experts, careful studies of the action to be taken. The co-operation of UNICEF with the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and with the specialized agencies had had excellent results and it was to be hoped that that co-operation would continue.

21. In that connexion, as his delegation had stated at Geneva the year before,<sup>1</sup> the division of responsibilities between UNICEF and the specialized agencies should be accompanied by a corresponding division of the financial burdens so that UNICEF would not be placed in the unhappy position of having to finance

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, 794th meeting.*

operations other than its own out of funds that were still unfortunately inadequate. The French delegation approved the procedures adopted by UNICEF and described in paragraph 125 of the March report (E/2717) as well as the resolution adopted a few days previously by the World Health Assembly.

22. The French delegation was concerned about the system of electing the UNICEF Executive Board; at the current time the members of the Board were the eighteen States elected to the Social Commission and eight States elected directly. In his delegation's opinion the disadvantages of that system outweighed the advantages. The small number of seats filled by direct election prevented the election of a number of States which, while desirous of becoming members of the Executive Board of UNICEF, did not have an equal desire to be represented on the Social Commission. Moreover, non-member States could become members of the Executive Board only by direct election and the competition between Member and non-member States and among non-members themselves was very strong. Yet, the non-member States could make a valuable contribution to UNICEF: it was enough to recall that the membership of Switzerland on the Executive Board had furnished the Board with an outstanding Chairman for a number of years. Admittedly, there had to be co-ordination between UNICEF and the Social Commission but, in fact, the great majority of countries were represented on the Commission and the Executive Board by different experts. So far as the United Nations Secretariat was concerned, the relations between the Administration of UNICEF and the Bureau of Social Affairs were, and would continue to be, very close regardless of the system of election.

23. The French delegation would not present a formal proposal at the current stage but it felt that the problem might be taken up at an early session of the Council or by the General Assembly, since it was a question of revising some of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 417 (V).

24. The French Government felt great satisfaction at the development of the activities of UNICEF and it had clearly expressed that satisfaction by raising its contribution for 1955 to 275 million francs, an increase of approximately 60 per cent over its 1954 contribution.

25. Finally, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution (E/L.673), of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, would be unanimously adopted by the Council.

26. Mr. OZGUREL (Turkey) congratulated the Executive Board of UNICEF and its First Vice-Chairman, who had just made a notable statement.

27. He noted with satisfaction that the three types of programmes that had received the highest allocations at the last session of the Executive Board were maternal and child welfare, malaria control and milk conservation, and that ninety-one countries and territories were receiving assistance from UNICEF.

28. Turkey was deeply grateful to UNICEF for the help it had received, in particular in connexion with the big long-term programmes currently under way in his country. As evidence of its interest and gratitude, the Turkish Government had raised its contribution to UNICEF from 50,000 to 75,000 Turkish pounds.

29. Mr. HOTCHKIS (United States of America) congratulated Mr. Khalidy on his excellent statement, which had brought out the remarkable progress made by UNICEF, and stressed the need for malaria eradication. He agreed with Mr. Khalidy that the eradication programme should be undertaken.

30. His Government still thought, however, that local currency costs (stipends for trainees, remuneration of local teaching staff, travel and subsistence for local supervisory staff) should be charged, not to UNICEF, but to the recipient countries, as an indication of the importance they attached to the work of UNICEF.

31. As regards environmental sanitation, his Government recognized the serious effects of bad hygiene upon children's health but it still felt that UNICEF should confine its action in that regard to pilot projects, instead of undertaking public works projects involving heavy capital expenditure, which UNICEF would find it hard to meet in view of its limited resources and restricted scope.

32. His delegation noted with satisfaction the size of the commitments by Governments to programmes approved in 1954, which had amounted to almost double the sums allocated by UNICEF. At the previous Executive Board session, Governments had been asked to assume an even higher ratio. It also commended the reduction in the ratio of administrative costs.

33. In conclusion, he congratulated the Executive Director of UNICEF and his staff. His delegation would vote for the joint draft resolution (E/L.673).

34. Mr. BARNES (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had already expressed its views in the Executive Board on the work of UNICEF during the period under review. It too would vote for the joint draft resolution.

35. His delegation was very much interested in the new activities of UNICEF, particularly in regard to malaria eradication, to which the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board had referred in detail in his eloquent statement. The appropriate departments of the United Kingdom Government were giving detailed consideration to the report on the subject recently issued by the WHO-UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy (E/ICEF/263).

36. The work of UNICEF enjoyed the warm support of the Government and the people of the United Kingdom. The financial contribution of the United Kingdom Government for 1955 amounted to £200,000. In addition, the United Nations Association had recently conducted a fund-raising campaign in the United Kingdom by which it had collected £150,000, 80 per cent of which would be turned over to UNICEF.

37. In conclusion, he congratulated UNICEF on the success it had achieved in territories dependent upon the United Kingdom, in co-operation with the authorities of those territories.

38. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) congratulated UNICEF on its achievements, which were a credit to the United Nations as a whole and were all the more noteworthy since the financial resources of UNICEF were limited. Its success was due in large measure to the enthusiasm and co-operation of the recipient States, whose commitments far exceeded the sums allocated by UNICEF. It was satisfactory that increasing emphasis was still

being placed on long-range programmes, as opposed to emergency aid, a trend particularly to be observed in the maternal and child welfare, milk conservation, long-range feeding and intensive environmental sanitation programmes.

39. The Council should note with satisfaction the work undertaken by UNICEF in the new field of malaria eradication. His delegation was gratified that the Executive Board had decided to increase the allocations for child nutrition and feeding programmes in Central America and hoped that the experience gained in that region would subsequently be used in other regions, with a view to remedying the nutritional deficiencies of children. With regard to leprosy control, the Council should note with satisfaction the new discoveries which were making it possible to treat patients without segregation.

40. During its most recent sessions, the Executive Board had examined in detail the question of the financial relations of UNICEF with the specialized agencies, in particular with WHO (E/2717, paras. 119 to 135). His delegation had always felt that the reimbursement to WHO of expenditure for international staff assigned to certain UNICEF programmes had raised an important matter of principle. The voluntary contributions of States should be used to defray expenditures actually chargeable to UNICEF. Accordingly, it was not advisable to devote part of its funds to other purposes. In his delegation's view, expenditure for technical staff assigned to UNICEF-assisted projects should be charged against technical assistance funds. But, under the new procedure for the allocation of funds for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (E/2717, para. 121), recipient Governments would be responsible for deciding on the priorities to be assigned to their various technical assistance projects. The financing of the cost of technical staff assigned to UNICEF programmes would thus depend, to a large extent, on the order of priority established by those States.

41. Certain decisions had been taken by the Executive Board on the matter (E/2717, paras. 125 to 131) and it was currently being considered by the World Health Assembly. His delegation therefore proposed that the Technical Assistance Committee should also study the matter during the Council's twentieth session, basing its examination on a documentary report, which the Secretariat might prepare. The report should embody detailed information on the projects in question, the dates set for carrying them out and the steps actually taken by the recipient Governments to include the staff costs in the budget of their technical assistance programme for 1956. It should also embody the World Health Assembly's decisions on the subject which, his delegation hoped, would help to provide a satisfactory solution to the problem. If, however, the TAC report showed that the problem remained unsolved, the Council should support the position taken by the Executive Board. The financial responsibilities of WHO, UNICEF and TAA should correspond to the functional tasks of each organization. With that reservation, his delegation supported the joint draft resolution (E/L.673).

42. With regard to the constitution of the Executive Board, his Government also thought that the existing system should be changed so that all members of the Executive Board would be elected.

43. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) congratulated the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board on his statement and was glad to note the very great progress made by UNICEF since 1952. The United Nations Children's Fund had always been concerned with the needs of the Asian nations, in which it had attempted, in carrying out its fine programmes, to foster personal initiative and thus to reach all levels of society. It was not surprising, therefore, that the people of Pakistan should have attempted in turn to take an active part in carrying out the five UNICEF programmes currently being conducted in that country in maternal and child welfare training, children's hospitals, BCG vaccination, malaria control and antibiotics production. The main purpose of UNICEF was to help children, but its work also assisted adults, who were encouraged by its activities and could thus hope for a better life for future generations. The Government of Pakistan had therefore decided to increase its contribution to UNICEF by 25 per cent.

44. In stating that it was ready, in principle, to participate in the proposed malaria eradication programme in Mexico (E/2717, paras. 63 to 66), the Executive Board had taken a bold and courageous step, on which it should be congratulated. His delegation also paid a tribute to the Mexican Government, which had undertaken to play an important part in the financing of the programme. The whole world would watch the execution of that ambitious plan, from which, it was to be hoped, other regions might one day benefit.

45. The reports of UNICEF (E/2662, E/2676 and E/2717) deserved commendation by the Council. His delegation had therefore joined with three other delegations in submitting the draft resolution (E/L.673) before the Council.

46. He thanked the Director-General and his co-workers and the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF.

47. Mr. TSAO (China) thought that the action taken by UNICEF, particularly as regards malaria eradication and child nutrition and feeding, would have salutary effects both on the health of the children and on the economic development of the recipient countries.

48. While it supported that action, his delegation wished to point out that the proposed allocation of \$5 million annually for malaria eradication would represent a quarter of the funds of UNICEF and would undoubtedly impair other types of programmes. For that reason, his delegation endorsed the Executive Board's remarks in paragraph 61 of its last report (E/2717) regarding the temporary nature of the disproportion.

49. There was every cause for satisfaction at the close co-operation between UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in child feeding and nutrition and at the budgetary measures proposed by the Director-General of FAO (E/2717, para. 71). His delegation felt that UNICEF and FAO should take account, in their work, of the particular requirements of different regions and should consider the use of nutrition foodstuffs other than milk.

50. He paid a tribute to the United States Government, which, by supplying dried skim milk free of charge, had enabled the Executive Board to report a saving of \$631,800 at its last session.

51. The United Nations Children's Fund was one of the most solid achievements of the United Nations. By helping countries to help themselves it had promoted economic and social development, both national and regional, and therefore deserved the support of all nations. For that reason, the Chinese Government despite its extremely difficult financial position, had paid its contribution to UNICEF.
52. He would vote for the joint draft resolution (E/L.673).
53. Mr. BRILEJ (Yugoslavia) welcomed the General Assembly decision (resolution 802 (VIII)) which had made UNICEF a permanent institution, enabling it to apply broad long-term programmes methodically. It would be understood that certain changes were required in the composition of the Executive Board in order to increase the independence of UNICEF, as the Indian and Australian representatives had pointed out.
54. Between 1950 and 1954, UNICEF had doubled the number of its contributing members but it still had a tremendous task to perform throughout the world, particularly in regions where millions of children had still not received its assistance or received it only inadequately. It was reassuring to note that UNICEF had worked in the countries where its aid was most required, particularly in Africa and Asia, and that it had undertaken new programmes, such as the Central American food and nutrition programme and the Latin American malaria eradication programme.
55. He hoped that the implementation of new programmes would not effect the completion of the others. He deeply appreciated the efforts made by UNICEF in all fields, particularly in those of health and maternal and child welfare, and in that connexion, welcomed the Executive Board's decision to extend those services.
56. The Executive Board's reports showed that the programme of UNICEF was extremely ambitious and that great difficulties were being encountered in carrying it out, so that it was progressing extremely slowly and it was impossible to point to any tangible results. Moreover, in many countries the obstacles were such that certain village programmes necessitated a far greater expenditure than the country could meet. Maternal and child welfare programmes were being carried out relatively slowly, because the problem was not so much the establishment of maternal and child welfare centres as the much more complicated problem of training skilled workers, a task which required much time and effort, as the countries which had undertaken to establish such centres could testify. The conditions which recipient Governments were required to fulfil should not therefore be too stringent.
57. Similar difficulties were encountered in the food and nutrition and the milk distribution programmes. The proposals of the UNICEF and FAO consultants regarding food and nutrition in Central America were of prime importance, and he therefore hoped that the work of UNICEF would be extended in that field.
58. In conclusion, he congratulated the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board on his brilliant statement and the Executive Chairman and his staff on their zeal; he stressed the importance of the Council's part in the work.
59. Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Egypt), associating himself with the tributes which other delegations had paid to the work of UNICEF, said that it was an excellent example of international co-operation for peaceful and humanitarian ends; he was particularly gratified at the success achieved in health, hygiene and feeding and hoped that UNICEF would continue to carry out its programmes in co-operation with the specialized agencies. He congratulated Mr. Khalidy on his clear and concise statement.
60. Egypt, which had received UNICEF assistance, had paid \$200,000 over the last two years to show its gratitude for the aid received.
61. His delegation thanked the Council for the confidence in Egypt which it had shown by electing it to the Social Commission, where it would be able to take an active part on the UNICEF Executive Board and co-operate closely with the work of UNICEF.
62. He would vote for the draft resolution (E/L.673).
63. Mr. GALLEGOS (Ecuador) paid a tribute to the Vice-Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board. Since its establishment in 1946, the Board had always done magnificent work, with which its Executive Director's name must be associated. Ecuador had received UNICEF assistance in many fields and special assistance when much of its territory had been stricken by disaster. The United Nations Children's Fund supplemented the work of other United Nations agencies which were combating war, since its aim and purpose were to save lives. He would therefore vote for the draft resolution.
64. Mr. SCHIFF (Netherlands) commended the work of UNICEF and thanked Mr. Khalidy for his statement. He emphasized the importance of the co-operation of WHO.
65. He said his delegation would vote for the draft resolution.
66. Mr. DONS (Norway) associated himself with the tributes paid by other delegations. Constant progress in promoting the well-being of mothers and children proved that hope had been crowned by achievement, and his country had accordingly increased its contribution year by year. He congratulated UNICEF and WHO on the way in which they had solved the problem of their financial relations.
67. He would vote for the draft resolution.
68. Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ (Dominican Republic) also commended UNICEF for its work and the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board for his statement.
69. He would vote for the draft resolution.
70. Mr. PEREZ PEROZO (Venezuela) said that his delegation had carefully studied the reports (E/2662, E/2676 and E/2717) and had listened with interest to the excellent statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF, an organization which had translated into action one of the most promising ventures undertaken by the United Nations.
71. His delegation, which had voted against the General Assembly resolution establishing the composition of the Executive Board (resolution 417 (V)), hoped that countries which had never been represented on

UNICEF would be consulted on all question which concerned them.

72. His delegation thanked all who had contributed to the success of the work of UNICEF. He would vote for the draft resolution (E/L.673).

73. Mr. MIRANDE (Argentina) commended UNICEF for its work; its success was attested to by the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board and the members of the Economic and Social Council. His Government whole-heartedly supported UNICEF and was certain that circumstances would enable it to give favourable consideration to contributing to its work. His delegation would therefore vote for the draft resolution.

74. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by France, India, Pakistan and Yugoslavia (E/L.673).

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

75. Mr. KHALIDY (First Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF) thanked the members of the Council for their commendation of UNICEF and their kind remarks addressed to himself personally.

76. The discussion showed the part which the Economic and Social Council could play in improving living conditions.

77. The PRESIDENT said that he felt that the Council should take note of the Australian proposal that the Technical Assistance Committee should be requested to study, at the twentieth session of the Economic and Social Council, the relations between WHO and UNICEF, and that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a report on the practical aspects of those relations.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.