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*President:* Mr. Jerzy MICHALOWSKI (Poland).

*Present:*

Representatives of the following States: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Poland, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sudan, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The observer for the following non-member State: Republic of Korea.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; International Civil Aviation Organization; World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 11

United Nations Children's Fund  
(E/3568 and Corr.1, E/3591 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. Miguel BUSTAMANTE (Chairman, Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund), introducing the reports of the Executive Board of UNICEF (E/3568 and Corr.1) and of its Executive Director (E/3591 and Corr.1), said that the children of the world were potentially its greatest resource and could be either the greatest force for progress or the greatest obstacle to it. Their needs were therefore paramount. UNICEF was co-operating with all countries in the formulation of their national development programmes by helping them to assess the needs of children and to draw up programmes to meet those needs as an integral part of a broader economic, social and cultural development. In that regard, UNICEF was working in particularly close co-operation with WHO and FAO and hoped to expand the scope of its collaboration with UNESCO.

2. It must not be forgotten that the children of today would become the adults of the world of tomorrow and would continue the work of the present generation; the nutrition and the health of children therefore constituted the two most important problems facing UNICEF. It was unfortunate that national development plans did not always take due account of the needs of children. His own country, Mexico, had emphasized the community approach to development planning and had concentrated on programmes for the eradication of disease, especially malaria, the expansion of the amount of cultivable land and the development of housing. The creation of better housing not only had an important and immediate economic effect but also brought about a long-range improvement in social conditions, particularly by reducing promiscuity and the transmission of animal-borne diseases. While the primary emphasis was on rural development, and in particular on solving the problems of an inadequate or contaminated water supply, Mexico had also worked out programmes for assistance to children living on the periphery of urban settlements, who were often worse off than rural children. It had, in particular, drafted programmes for the development of educational facilities for such children and for the construction of workshops to train them in crafts. In view of the paucity of previous experience in the field, the appraisal of the results of such projects would require considerable effort.

3. As the report indicated, the greater part of UNICEF assistance, totalling some \$37 million, went to the 80 per cent of the world's children who lived in rural areas. In that regard, UNICEF was co-operating with WHO in establishing a network of maternal and child welfare services and with FAO in a programme for milk conservation. One of its chief concerns was to bring the new techniques being worked out in the developed countries to the under-developed countries, where they could achieve impressive results at a comparatively modest cost. One such technique, upon which UNICEF placed great emphasis, was that of immunization against disease; a child could be immunized against poliomyelitis, for example, at a cost of not more than \$2, whereas it might cost as much as \$50,000 to treat a child suffering from the disease, and even then the treatment might not be fully successful.

4. The report emphasized the importance of fitting the needs of children into national development plans in the fields of education, health and agriculture and it was a source of satisfaction that contributions to UNICEF by both Governments and private individuals had increased 8 1/2 per cent in 1961.

5. In conclusion, he stressed that the world's most

precious asset was its human resources. By its programmes for improving the nutrition and health of children, combating disease and providing education, UNICEF was endeavouring to prepare the children of today to assume their responsibilities in the world of tomorrow.

6. Mr. WALKER (Australia) said that UNICEF's record of achievement over its fifteen years of existence illustrated the success which the United Nations could achieve in its economic and social activities. UNICEF had not only achieved impressive tangible results but had effectively carried its message to millions of individuals throughout the world. Those results were all the more remarkable since UNICEF had been put on a permanent footing less than ten years ago. Yet in 1961 it had approved commitments totalling \$37 million and last December the Executive Board had approved 134 projects.

7. Australia had followed the work of UNICEF with close attention not only as member of its Executive Board but also as one of its largest contributors, both through governmental sources and through the support given in Australia to voluntary activities under UNICEF auspices.

8. The Executive Director's report (E/3591 and Corr.1) had drawn attention to the importance of providing for the needs of children within the context of the great intensification of international efforts for economic and social development which was to take place during the decade of the 1960s. Some 500 million children lived in under-developed countries and an answer had to be found to the question of how much attention should be devoted to investment in children's needs in national development plans. As the report indicated, UNICEF was ready to respond to the challenge of making the 1960s a decade of development.

9. Australia appreciated the need for a gradual move towards a more direct orientation of UNICEF aid to national policies of economic and social development and the desire to widen the range of UNICEF assistance. Those aims were reflected in the Executive Board's decision in June 1961. It was important that UNICEF's assistance should be integrated within general development plans and individual efforts to the countries concerned. At the same time, it was equally important to bear in mind the world-wide extent of UNICEF's responsibilities and the necessity for a unified approach to the international planning of UNICEF aid. The success of UNICEF in the past had been mainly due to its concentration on the basic needs of children and he was glad that those basic needs would continue to receive major emphasis. National needs must be taken into account but they must be assessed and measured against world-wide needs and the resources available to meet them. He was confident that the traditional fields of UNICEF's efforts would continue to be an effective framework for the major part of those efforts. He endorsed the threefold role for UNICEF in the Executive Director's report — assistance to countries in their planning to ensure that adequate attention was paid to the needs of children, the training of staff, and encourag-

ing projects which would make the greatest possible contribution to the growth of child and youth services. He was glad to note that UNICEF was giving increased attention to training and that the allocations for training projects had grown from 5 per cent of the total in 1959 to 17 per cent in 1961.

10. The achievement of UNICEF's aims would require close co-ordination with other agencies. Many UNICEF projects required the technical approval of more than one specialized agency. UNICEF enjoyed close relations with some of those agencies, particularly with WHO and FAO. He was also glad that the specialized agencies recognized the need for a simplification of the processes of inter-agency co-ordination. The matter had been discussed in August 1961 and some useful arrangements had been worked out. He hoped that those arrangements would prevent procedural delays.

11. The fact that governmental contributions to UNICEF had grown from \$21 million in 1960 to \$23 million in 1961 and that private contributions had risen from \$2 million in 1960 to \$2,670,000 in 1961 was indicative of the wide response that had been made to UNICEF's humanitarian objectives by human beings everywhere.

12. In conclusion, he thanked the Executive Chairman of UNICEF for his interesting statement and expressed his Government's appreciation of the admirable work of that body as reflected in the two reports (E/3568 and Corr.1, and E/3591 and Corr.1). The report of the Executive Board gave a most encouraging picture of those activities; particularly striking was the expansion of UNICEF assistance to African and Asian countries, areas where the need for such assistance was very pressing. More than any other United Nations body, UNICEF had fired the public imagination. Its success reflected the hard work of its officers, who had combined sound management with a dramatic appeal to humanitarian sentiments and objectives. On behalf of his Government, he paid a warm tribute to the Executive Director and his colleagues for their excellent work.

13. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that the two reports before the Council reflected the new approach which had been the most remarkable result of the Executive Board's deliberations in June 1961, when it had established certain principles for the granting of UNICEF aid; namely, that assistance should be designed to promote not only the economic but also the social development of the recipient countries, that it should not be of a spasmodic nature but should be planned over a long period, and that the funds allocated for such assistance should be used judiciously. The reports before the Council showed that the Executive Board had not failed to observe those principles.

14. The Economic and Social Council, which had repeatedly stressed the importance of balanced economic and social development, was the most appropriate United Nations body to encourage and support the new policy of UNICEF. That new policy related to three kinds of aid: aid in the preparation of national child welfare programmes in the framework of a country's economic and social development plans; aid in the training of

child welfare personnel; and aid for projects based on a multilateral approach to children's needs.

15. The various child welfare programmes being carried out in the southern provinces of Italy could serve as an interesting example for the less developed countries; all those activities had been developed hand in hand with the general economic development of the country and had helped to obviate certain social problems which the present intensive development of southern Italy would otherwise have rendered more acute. The new general programme recently announced by the Italian Government, with its emphasis on development programming, would no doubt help to co-ordinate the economic and social activities already under way.

16. He went on to express his delegation's approval of the co-operation between UNICEF and the other specialized agencies referred to in the reports and of the instructions by the Executive Director to UNICEF officers to work in close co-ordination with the TAB-Special Fund resident representatives. Such co-operation was becoming ever more necessary as the number of UNICEF projects involving other specialized agencies increased.

17. His delegation noted, however, that no mention was made of possible collaboration between UNICEF and the new administrative unit which was to be established with FAO to carry out the World Food Programme. Three types of activities were envisaged under that programme: to deal with emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition; to assist in pre-school and school feeding; and to implement pilot projects with the multilateral use of food as an aid to economic and social development. UNICEF had long experience with the first two types of assistance. His delegation had no proposal to make at the present stage, but before the Council started to consider the report of the United Nations/FAO Inter-Governmental Committee (E/3594), it would like to draw the Council's attention to the possibility of making use of UNICEF's experience in carrying out the World Food Programme. Moreover, UNICEF already appeared in the list of international organizations with which the \$100 million surplus food fund was to co-operate.

18. With regard to the development of UNICEF programmes in the various areas of the world, his delegation welcomed the increase in the funds allocated to Africa. It was also glad that the objectives for Asia had been achieved for 1961 and that in Latin America, for the first time since 1956, the value of assistance devoted to basic health projects had been greater than for malaria eradication campaigns. With regard to new fields of UNICEF assistance, his delegation welcomed the urban project in Mexico.

19. In conclusion, he explained that the absence of his country from the list of contributors in document E/3591 was to be explained by the fact that the question of Italy's contribution to UNICEF was the subject of draft legislation at present before the Italian Parliament.

20. Mr. OKAZAKI (Japan) thanked the Executive Chairman of UNICEF for his impressive statement. Recalling that the Executive Board had made an impor-

tant policy decision at its session in June 1961 after considering the "Survey of the needs of children",<sup>1</sup> he observed that the Survey had proved to be very valuable in formulating effective government programmes regarding children and had also prompted UNICEF itself to adopt a new approach to meeting those needs.

21. UNICEF had completed fifteen years of work and its assistance was now reaching some 57 million children. That was a substantial achievement but it still fell far short of satisfying the elementary requirements of 600 million children who needed UNICEF assistance.

22. His delegation had a number of suggestions to make on how best to contribute to the welfare of children throughout the world, especially in the developing countries. In the first place, it happened all too often that child welfare programmes were looked upon as something apart from economic and social development plans. Yet the children of today were the adults of tomorrow and, apart from all moral and humanitarian considerations, full account must be taken now of the necessity to integrate present planning for the welfare of children with economic and social planning generally if the whole future welfare of the countries concerned was not to suffer severely. The place of children in economic and social development tended to be neglected because investment in children did not produce immediate returns, but real and well-balanced economic development could not possibly be realized if the total investment in human resources was not taken fully into account. Children, for instance, were the chief sufferers when the traditional patterns of family life were disrupted during migration from rural to urban areas as a consequence of industrialization.

23. Secondly, UNICEF normally gave its assistance at the request of individual countries, although it might help a country in planning its projects. That being the case, UNICEF assistance was traditionally dispensed on a project-by-project basis. There seemed, however, to be a definite trend in the developing countries to give priority to industrial or economic development at the expense of the vitally important investment in children. That tendency should be corrected so that adequate account might be taken of child needs as an essential part, and not as a mere by-product, of national development plans. That would mean integrating UNICEF assistance with general national development programmes, which would entail abandoning the project-by-project approach for a programme-by-programme approach. That in turn would entail more concerted and co-ordinated action at the national level in recipient countries.

24. Thirdly, in order to match such co-ordination at the national level, international co-ordination would become more and more important. The number of projects aided by UNICEF which concerned more than one United Nations agency was already increasing; his delegation welcomed that trend and greatly appreciated

<sup>1</sup> Report by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/410 and Add.1) and supplementary reports by the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the ILO, FAO, WHO and UNESCO (E/ICEF/411-415 and 415/Add.1).

the close co-operation now going on between UNICEF and other members of the United Nations family.

25. Thus, with so many proposals for the intensification of action in the field of economic and social development, the investment in human resources, and in particular in children, must be given the importance it demanded and be recognized as an integral part of such development. If the developing countries could be encouraged to plan accordingly, the impact of UNICEF assistance would not only be intensified but would give a lasting impetus to balanced economic and social growth. His delegation hoped that the UNICEF Executive Board would elaborate further on that matter at its forthcoming session and that the Economic and Social Council would give it careful consideration at future sessions.

26. Mr. ACOGNY (Senegal), speaking on behalf of the African and Malagasy Union, thanked the Executive Chairman of UNICEF for his brilliant statement.

27. The countries for whom he was speaking had greatly benefited from United Nations action, particularly that of UNICEF, to help their development. Turning to the particular problems of his country, which were largely representative of those of the West African States, he endorsed the observation by the Executive Director of UNICEF concerning the need for each country to have a central planning body to determine the needs of children; his Government understood that very well and had indeed adopted such an approach in its first four-year development plan.

28. He went on to read out an extract from the Development Plan concerning the provision of basic health services in Senegal, giving details of various prophylactic, educational, research and training activities and describing how they were organized. The specialized agencies, and UNICEF in particular, could play a great part in such activities; indeed, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and with the help of the Senegalese Government, UNICEF had already helped to run a successful training course for nutritionists at Dakar, and at the request of the UNICEF office at Dakar his Government had drawn up a detailed plan for a health and social programme which could serve as a useful tool for UNICEF. He hoped that, with a greater knowledge of their needs, UNICEF and the other agencies would continue their aid to the countries for which he spoke. Meanwhile, those countries were doing all they could to prepare the ground in order to make help from outside truly effective; they were, for example, adapting themselves to the economic and social realities of Africa and educating the mass of the population. Much of that work had been voluntarily undertaken by youth organizations.

29. In conclusion, he thanked the officers of UNICEF and all those who, in the framework of bilateral or multilateral agreements, were helping to bring the countries for which he spoke into the community of nations.

30. Mr. KLUTZNICK (United States of America) said that his Government was proud of its support for the splendid work being done by UNICEF. Its disproport-

tionately high contribution reflected not only its firm belief in UNICEF programmes but also its conviction that such programmes should be collectively supported. He was glad to see that the number of contributing Governments had increased from ninety-eight in 1960 to 100 in 1961. Nearly 10 per cent of the 1961 income had come from private contributions, a fact which reflected the world-wide interest in UNICEF. The citizens of the United States had been active supporters. When viewed in the light of actual needs, however, the funds available to UNICEF were woefully short. The measures adopted by UNICEF to eke out its resources were to be commended, but he hoped that the new financial procedures initiated in 1961 would lead to greater use of UNICEF's accumulated resources.

31. It was encouraging to note that UNICEF's programmes during the 1960's would be fully geared to the United Nations Development Decade. UNICEF had rightly stressed the importance of country planning. It would be tragic if the needs of children were ignored in the economic and social programmes now being drawn up in the developing countries.

32. He was also glad to see that UNICEF had increased its allocations for training from 5 to 17 per cent. All were agreed about the importance of training in economic and social development so as to ensure that the programmes launched by United Nations bodies could be carried on effectively by nationals of the recipient countries.

33. The fact that UNICEF was turning towards more comprehensive programmes was also encouraging. Indeed, from all indications, UNICEF was assured of a bright future. Nobody deluded himself that economic plans could mature overnight. Only by a proper emphasis on the needs of children could the Council be certain that the plans of today would be executed tomorrow.

34. Mr. NATORF (Poland) congratulated UNICEF on its excellent work. He was pleased to note that, while UNICEF would continue to lay major emphasis on health and nutrition, it also planned to meet other needs in such fields as education, vocational guidance and family welfare. In other words, UNICEF would not be concerned solely with the physical development of children but would also encourage them to develop those skills which were so closely linked to the economic and social advancement of their countries. As was clear from paragraph 7 of the Executive Director's report (E/3591 and Corr.1), UNICEF was well aware that the leaders of tomorrow would be drawn from the ranks of today's children.

35. The activities of UNICEF found their rightful place in the broad series of programmes undertaken by the United Nations on behalf of the developing countries. It was therefore a matter for satisfaction that UNICEF was giving greater recognition to the needs of children in individual countries and was helping Governments to plan child welfare programmes as an integral part of broader economic and social development. The report rightly stressed the need for close co-operation between the various bodies, both Government and private, concerned with maternal and child welfare.



36. He hoped that the next meeting of the Executive Board would result in an active campaign to help young people and in an all-round improvement in the activities of UNICEF. One essential aim was to cut administrative costs. Projects must also be related to the actual needs of children and the closest possible co-ordination maintained with the other interested specialized agencies. It was encouraging to note that UNICEF aid to Africa and Asia had been increased.

37. Poland had sponsored Council resolution 827 (XXXII) welcoming UNICEF's new emphasis on the needs of the less developed countries. It would continue to support UNICEF, and particularly any changes that were put forward to make it a more effective instrument for meeting the needs of children within the general context of economic and social progress.

38. Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHI (India) observed that the role of children as custodians of the future was often overlooked. Industrial development was perhaps a more dramatic phase of economic progress but child welfare was no less important.

39. UNICEF had completed a year of outstanding achievement and the most recent session of the Executive Board had been particularly successful. It had stressed the need for increased resources and for integrated programmes which would avoid the dissipation of funds on small, unrelated projects. The Board had also decided to increase the flexibility of UNICEF aid by giving greater recognition to the needs of children in individual countries. At the same time, the traditional emphasis on health and nutrition would be maintained. The needs of children must be fully recognized in the United Nations Development Decade and proposals for that purpose would be considered at the Board's next session. It was encouraging to note that the importance of training people in child-welfare duties was becoming increasingly realized. Under the stimulus of UNICEF's crusading spirit and action by Governments themselves, considerable resources were now being devoted to child welfare. Any judgement on whether those resources were adequate would depend on what standards were set. He hoped that the Executive Board might give some thought to that question at its next session.

40. Recipient Governments must obviously play the principal role in initiating child-welfare programmes. UNICEF could only help those who wanted to help themselves. Many developing countries were, however, so involved in their own problems that they often overlooked developments taking place in other areas grappling with similar problems. The Executive Board might consider whether UNICEF could inform and advise Governments regarding general or specific developments in the field of child welfare.

41. Mr. PAVICEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the important decisions reached by the Executive Board at its most recent session had resulted in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1678 (XVI) encouraging the new trends in UNICEF policy. His delegation attached

special importance to the formulation of long-term projects integrated with national programmes.

42. The implementation of the Board's recent decisions would help Governments in their efforts to appraise their children's needs and to establish priorities. The UNICEF survey of the needs of children was particularly important and UNICEF should assist those countries which were unable to make their national surveys with their own resources. He hoped that at the next session of the Executive Board the Executive Director of UNICEF would submit a detailed report on the progress of the survey of children's needs and on the proposals to broaden UNICEF's field of activity.

43. His delegation was glad to note the increase in the allocation to Africa, and particularly to the newly independent States. That trend should continue. He hoped, too, that the Executive Director would be able to submit, at the latest by the 1963 session of the Executive Board, specific proposals concerning the participation of UNICEF in the malaria eradication campaign. The progressive reduction in the costs of malaria control would release funds for maternal and child welfare, which was UNICEF's main concern.

44. At the moment UNICEF was paying more than half a million dollars to FAO to reimburse the costs of FAO experts participating in the execution of food projects. Since such projects were in any case within the field of competence of FAO, his delegation felt that the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Director-General of FAO should try to work out a solution to that problem.

45. The Executive Director was to be congratulated on his efforts to reduce administrative expenditure but more should be done to decentralize administrative services. The resulting savings could be used to finance the execution of actual projects within the present budget and with existing staff. UNICEF was to be congratulated on a splendid year's work.

46. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that his country was intensely interested in the excellent work being done by UNICEF. The area to be covered was vast but UNICEF's efforts on behalf of children could only be admired. His delegation was impressed by the new projects being undertaken by UNICEF and agreed that in the next ten years its plans should be fully integrated within the United Nations Development Decade. His Government welcomed the emphasis which UNICEF was now placing on integrated planning in order to ensure that the needs of the child were fully related to general, economic and social development. It was also gratifying to note the degree of co-ordination in UNICEF activities that had been achieved by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Fuller use was being made of the resident representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and co-operation between the specialized agencies concerned with child problems was increasing.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.