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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(Twenty-second Meeting of The Fourth Session)

Lake Success, New York
Monday, 18 March 1947 at 11:00 am

PRESENT:

The PRESIDENT: SIR RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR

Mr. Kaminsky	Byelorussian SSR
Mr. Davidson	Canada
Mr. Fausto Soto	Chile
Dr. Chang	China
Mr. Perez-Cisneros	Cuba
Mr. Papanek	Czechoslovakia
Mr. Borissav	France
Mr. Kirpalani	India
Mr. Hakim	Lebanon
Mr. van Roijen	Netherlands
Mr. Nash	New Zealand
Mr. Lunde	Norway
Mr. Area Parro	Peru
Mr. Turhan	Turkey
Mr. Morozov	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. Mayhew	United Kingdom
Mr. Stinebower	United States of America
Mr. Stolk	Venezuela

The PRESIDENT: The Council is in session.

DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA

The PRESIDENT: I promised the representative of China that we would spare half an hour at the most to any suggestions regarding the Agenda Items which might be taken up and disposed of in this Session, and any items that may

be postponed for consideration to the next Session.

DR. CHANG (China): I beg to ask for a few moments to consider this matter of the timetable for conferences, not only in 1947 but also in 1948. We should look ahead.

Concerning conferences in 1947, I think all of us have this document E/280, Character of Conferences in 1947, which is a memorandum submitted by the Secretary-General. Before we proceed to suggest any concrete timetable, we should naturally have in mind the great responsibility of this Council, the Economic and Social Council, in the United Nations.

It seems to me, Mr. President, that the main problem before the Security Council of our great Organization is conflict; and the main problem before the Economic and Social Council is confusion. We all mean to do well but we have so many irons in the fire. We have nine Commissions under our direct supervision. We are also interested in the co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. Under several of our Commissions we have or shall have one or more sub-commissions. Then, under all these Commissions there will have to be technical committees of an ad hoc nature. Furthermore, there will be at least two or three international conferences which will be called under one or another of the Specialized Agencies or one or another of the Commissions under the Council. So we can easily see that without a definite timetable long, long ahead, we shall have confusion with us.

We also realize that this Council, the Economic and Social Council, which has been in operation for the last year and three months, has a great function to perform, especially in the direction of constructive efforts toward international understanding, co-operation, and peace.

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Now, with such a heavy program of work and with such an important objective, we should keep our minds clear. Otherwise, we are apt to have a crowded agenda, as we are having at this Session. At the same time, people will leave with the feeling that we have not given as much time and concentration to the various problems brought before us as we would like to give to them. And I am afraid that in time, Mr. President, the prestige of the Council will be affected if insufficient care is given to problems brought before the Council.

For 1947 we have here a suggested programme with several considerations presented by the Secretary-General. On page 1, considerations one and two, I think, are wholly realistic--namely, the fact that the General Assembly last year at the Second Part of the First Session took a little longer time and did not end until the end of the year. Furthermore, due to the limitations in the Budget, we are not able to have as many meetings as some people would like to have.

In regard to the third consideration, I think there are--as a matter of fact, I have counted altogether--somewhere between five and six delegations, say, which have permanent representatives here, and then seven or eight others who have representatives, if not residing in New York, residing in Washington. So you have a total of twelve to fourteen, all within call either in New York, in Washington, or in another great capital of the world, Ottawa, which is a great capital but still within a night's ride on the train to New York. Consequently, I think there are altogether about twelve to thirteen^{delegations}/definitely with representatives in New York or within a short distance of New York; also, there are, I am sure, two or three or more valuable contributions, representatives who come here from other parts of the world, especially for the meetings of the Council.

Nevertheless, I think the third consideration should not be a consideration influencing the Council as a whole, because the so-called distinguished personnel mentioned under the third consideration do not compose more than, at most, one-third of the whole body of the Council. However, I shall not go into details concerning that. We must come to the practical problem of the programme of meetings for 1947.

In regard to this programme suggested by the Secretary-General, I think it is, on the whole, acceptable that in the five months after the closing of this Session of the Council and the beginning of the General Assembly we should, perhaps preferably, have only one ordinary session, perhaps a little longer-- instead of three weeks, we could have, say, four weeks. At the same time, I think it is necessary to have a short session at about the same time as the General Assembly, because I am sure there will be problems after the next session which will need to be gone over by the Council as a whole before presentation to the General Assembly. There may be such problems, that is, regarding commission meetings, like the Human Rights Commission. They will have a series of drafting committee jobs between now and the next session of the Council. But I am sure that after the next session of the Council there will still be other work to be done by the Commission on Human Rights, and that report will have to be presented to the Council as a whole before being presented to the General Assembly.

Therefore, the programme as submitted by the Secretary-General seems to me to be acceptable in this sense: that the Council will have a little longer^{than}/ordinary session sometime in July, and a short session about the same time as the General Assembly. I think that, as a matter of convenience, the time should be arranged by the Secretariat, as to whether they would like to have it, say, two or three days or three or four days before the General Assembly begins, or just about the same time as the General Assembly. We shall leave that to the wisdom and the practical circumstances of the situation as seen by the Secretary-General.

I said that we ought also to pay attention at this time, though it may seem early, to the possibility of arranging a timetable for 1948. I think we must look ahead, because other specialized agencies look to this Council for final,

let us say, coordination of their programmes. If we have, as we have been having for the last twelve months or so, a sort of tentative arrangement from week to week or from month to month, it is very difficult for other bodies having relations with us to arrange their own meetings. So we should have, also, a provisional 1948 timetable to be presented to our next session of the Council in July, so that we can present it to the General Assembly. This provisional timetable for 1948 may have some connection--and I am sure it will have--with the Budget as a whole. Therefore, we should have a programme planned out for 1948, with these various things in view: First, the financial implications; we should have that before the meeting of the General Assembly. Secondly, how the different commissions, now that they have all had their initial meetings--by our next session all of them will have had one meeting and some of them will have had two meetings--should be correlated in regard to their meetings with the meetings of the Council. Thirdly, how to coordinate with the specialized agencies.

In view of that fact, I should like very much, Mr. President, to have the President perhaps appoint an ad hoc committee of the Council to cooperate with the Secretary-General in planning a provisional timetable for 1948, to be presented to our next session in July. That is my humble suggestion.

In regard to the place of the meeting, the Secretary-General suggested in this paper, E/280, that the meetings this year, 1947, mostly should be held at the Headquarters. We also agree with this, especially in as much as it is a matter limited by the Budget. But I think, as time goes on, there is a problem to be considered, a problem that is not quite clear as yet--namely, if we are going to have meetings away from Headquarters, should those meetings be of the Council as well as of the commissions, or should those meetings be only of the commissions? It seems to me that this problem is worth considering, because it

is much easier for the commissions to meet outside of Headquarters, as they will have a limited part of the Secretariat assisting them and the travel expenses and all other expenses will be much less. But if you have the Council meeting in places other than Headquarters, you will have a much larger staff to travel with you, and more files and materials to go along. Therefore, should it not be a general principle that the Council should meet in the Headquarters, while the commissions may meet in places other than Headquarters? That is just my humble suggestion.

Of course, in conclusion, if we should decide on this programme suggested by the Secretary-General, it may have some influence on the rest of the agenda before this Council, because the reports of commissions that are not going to meet before the next session of the Council may be, either in whole or in part, postponed until our next session. Thank you.

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The PRESIDENT: I was under a misapprehension as to the actual question which the representative of China has raised, but although it is not on the Agenda, I take it that he has virtually raised the subject under 31(d), Calendar of the Economic and Social Meetings for 1947. I had a solution to make when the subject was taken up, and I venture to make the suggestion now.

I suggest that we take this as having been opened in full Council and that we remit it at once to a committee of the whole Council. This requires a formal discussion, and I suggest that it will be more convenient to the Council if this Calendar were to be discussed in a committee of the whole house. If that is agreeable, it is my ruling that we remit it to a committee of the whole house and have an early discussion on it, probably on Thursday morning.

It is my firm desire and earnest hope, and I should like to announce it to the Council now, that we close our Session on Monday the 24th, at the very latest. We may have to meet at odd hours and on odd days too -- I do not want to say it more definitely -- to enable me to do that.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

The Council will now resume discussion on the International Children's Emergency Fund.

MR. DAVIDSON (Canada): Mr. President, I think the Members of the Council need no words from me this morning to indicate to them the extent of Canada's interest in not only the work of the International Children's Emergency Fund, but the needs of children in all parts of the world, whether those parts of the world be war-torn countries, or under-developed areas, or even countries where our own bombs were dropping not so long ago. Canada's record in support of UNRRA during the period of its existence, its support of international relief activities, the contributions it has made through voluntary war relief agencies, amounting in the last six years to well over 80 million dollars and penetrating, I think it is fair to say, all countries of Europe to a greater or lesser extent--all these contributions show that the Canadian people are not slow or lacking in generosity when it comes to meeting the needs of suffering humanity.

That work that we have carried on during the war years has gone on, and is still going on. We have been raising in Canada during these last years, and we are raising at the present time, voluntary subscriptions for war relief purposes at the rate of one million dollars a month through the existing/war relief societies. Twelve million dollars a year for twelve million people indicates the extent to which this is going on at the present time, altogether apart from the subject under discussion. We have had an appeal in our country already this year in support of the Aid to China Fund. We are having in the very near future nation-wide appeals for Greek and Polish war relief societies. We have these appeals going on throughout the year, and I mention this fact for the purpose of pointing out the very real necessity of keeping this in mind in the development of this programme of the International Children's Fund,

particularly so far as money raising activities, and also so far as its operational activities, are concerned. We must dovetail this programme into existing programmes in such a way as to avoid interference with the activities that are now being carried on on a very extensive scale in the field of voluntary relief. To do otherwise, to allow the International Children's Fund in any way to interfere with or upset the schedule of voluntary war relief programmes presently being carried on in countries such as mine would, I think Members of the Council will agree, lessen rather than increase the effectiveness of the help which countries like my own are able to give to peoples of other lands.

Having made that point, Mr. President, may I now come more specifically to the questions which are before this Council in the Report of the Social Commission, in the Report of the Executive Board of the Children's Fund, and in the other special documents on one day's pay, and on the resolution to admit Switzerland to the membership of the Children's Fund. On the first point I would say merely that we concur in the view expressed by the United States representative on Saturday that without in any way creating a precedent--in fact, perhaps, for the most part with the purpose in mind of avoiding the creation of a precedent--we should on the merits of this particular case alone certainly invite Switzerland to join the International Children's Emergency Fund. That decision is amply justified on the basis of Switzerland's long record of International Relief activity, and our country would clearly be in favour of admitting Switzerland to membership.

On the question of voluntary contributions based on the memorandum presented in respect to the so-called Ordning plan of one day's pay from all the people of the world, I would like to say again that my Canadian delegation shares in a very large measure the viewpoint expressed by the United States

representative on this matter. We feel very strongly that there is need to avoid too great a measure of inflexibility or rigidity in the application of this formula to the voluntary fund-raising activities carried on for the Children's Fund in many countries. I think the great strength of the one day's pay proposal is, if I may say so in respect to my country, psychological rather than financial. I think there is a very important psychological consideration in the idea of one day being set aside, and one day's pay being set aside, by all the peoples of the world in one common cause. I think that is important psychologically, because it removes, for the time at least, the distinction, the barrier between those countries which are giving countries and those countries which are receiving countries, and I think that barrier can well be removed in the interests of our common concern for suffering children.

Psychologically, therefore, I think there is much of significance in this formula. Financially--and I am speaking here of the money-raising experience in my own country--I am not quite so sure that this is the most effective way of raising the maximum amount of money in countries like my own. I will not embarrass the President of the Executive Board by asking him whether he is more interested in psychological or in financial results. I will merely say that the Community Chest^{and} in the Red Cross and the other voluntary fund-raising activities in the United States, to my knowledge, and also in Canada, have set a very clear, typical and effective pattern in terms of fund-raising experience in these countries. Speaking for my own country I feel that we have evolved through this machinery which we have used, an effective mechanism for raising the maximum funds possible from our Canadian people. Had the one day's pay formula been strictly applicable and been the only means of raising voluntary funds in our country, I think, Mr. President, we should have applied it to a

greater extent than we did in the past. In saying that, I am in no way saying we should abandon that formula which has, no doubt, applicability for many countries -- all I am saying is that we should agree upon a very wide measure of flexibility in the application of that formula so far as various countries are concerned. Consideration might be given to the establishment of quotas based on the day's pay formula, and then turn over to the national committees set up in each country the problem of raising as much as they can of that quota, using their own discretion and judgment and their own local practices so far as the techniques of money-raising are concerned.

I would also suggest that consideration be given to the establishment of national committees for the purpose of heading-up these fund-raising activities, national committees based to some extent at least on non-governmental participation, and consideration should also be given to the strengthening of these national committees by individual national leaders in each country and other organizations which do not have non-governmental status, but who have, certainly for my country, considerably more actual money-raising experience than have the non-governmental organizations presently in Class A.

I want to just make one more remark with respect to this question of the relationship between the Ordning Plan and the International Children's Emergency Fund. We are asked, in this Report, to pass upon the question as to whether or not all the monies to be raised by the one day's pay formula should go to the International Children's Emergency Fund. If the question had been put in the reverse, I think we could have given the answer clearly "yes", because we feel that the International Children's Emergency Fund should draw its voluntary contributions exclusively from the results of the Ordning Plan. But I think we should suspend our final decision, for the time, Mr. President, as to whether or not all the funds raised by the Ordning Plan should go to the International Children's Emergency Fund.

And for this reason, if you will look at the Report, you will find at the present time that while consideration -- and fairly intensive consideration -- has been given to the needs of the children in Europe, the development of plans, so far as the Far East is concerned, has not yet been equally advanced. I think, therefore, that we need to be sure that there is going to be an evenly balanced and evenly developed programme with respect to the needs of children in all of the countries of the world, in the Far East as well as in Europe. I think we need to be assured of that because before we can fairly take the stand that all the monies we have raised through the Ordning Plan, from all the peoples of the world, from the Far East, Europe and North American and South American Continents as well, I think we need to see evidence of a balanced plan of action applied equally to all the areas of the world that are in need, before we commit ourselves finally to the proposition that all the funds raised by the Ordning Plan should go to the Fund.

We would be, I think, in a sorry and humiliating position, Mr. President, if we were to commit ourselves finally to this point at this stage and appeal to the peoples of China and the other countries of the Far East

to make their contribution to the world-wide International Children's Emergency Fund, and then find, because of circumstances beyond our control, because of the fact that the results of the campaign or the response of Governments, or for some other reasons, the funds were not sufficient to provide for the budgetary needs that we have already more clearly established for the European area, I think we would be in a sorry and humiliating position if we were to find ourselves committed to the degree that this Report suggests we should commit ourselves at the moment.

I think there is also one other wise caution to keep in mind at this particular point, and that is that until we know more clearly how much money is likely to be raised by the Ordning Plan, we should not make any final decision on this particular point.

Having said that, I would like to say a word, Mr. President, about the question of governmental contributions. Late in January, a letter was sent from the Secretary-General, as a result of the Assembly Resolution, to Governments, asking them to consider making a generous contribution to the International Children's Emergency Fund. My Government received that letter, as well as a good many other Governments. And while I quite appreciate Dr. Rajchman's problem, as he expressed it the other day, that he cannot give any real information as to detailed plans until he gets some money and knows what he has to work with, I would like to point out that my Government's problem is just the reverse. It cannot come really to any sane or wise decision as to what it should do, until it knows what is expected of it, until it knows, in some detail, what it is hoped to accomplish, until it knows what its obligation should be, both in relation to the absolute need as assessed by the Children's Fund Executive Board, and in relationship also to what other countries are doing. Now I present this dilemma to the Members

of the Council, not as a stalemate at all but as a means of emphasizing again, as I have on previous occasions, the vital importance of making available to Governments as detailed information as possible, in order that Governments can come to a decision, as soon as possible, on the degree of their contribution to this important Fund.

Now we have been following up that initial letter from the Secretary-General and we have been in touch with the Children's Fund and have asked for additional information, and are hopeful of getting sufficient information which would justify our Governments in making a democratic decision which would ^{involve} a substantial contribution to the work of this Organization. But there are specific questions which I think come to the minds of all of us as we endeavor to assess this picture on behalf of our various Governments, and I am just going to mention two of them, Mr. President. I mentioned these at the time the Social Commission met and I mention them again for illustrative purposes. Dr. Rajckman touched upon one of them the other morning and gave, in part at least, some of the answer which I think my Government will require.

The Fund operates, so far as I can see, on the basis that it is a continuation really of the children's welfare work that was carried on by UNRRA. It is a projection, to that extent, of UNRRA's interest in the welfare of children and adolescents in the areas of Europe and the Far East, and the operational budget is based on the assumption that the Fund will endeavor to feed twenty million children one hot meal a day in Europe in the first year of operation. That figure, Mr. President, compares with the figure of five million children fed by UNRRA in seven countries, in the last year of its operation in 1946, and at first blush, it would seem as though

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the contemplated programme of the Children's Fund is going to be, not a continuation of UNRRA's child welfare programme, but an increase, four-fold, in the operation of UNRRA's programme, in the final year of its operation.

Now, I mention that because it is the first impression that one gets from looking at that picture. / I am not suggesting for a moment that that is the case. I am satisfied that there are answers to that question, but I am equally satisfied that governments will ask that question and will go on asking that question in trying to arrive at a decision as to how much they should give to the Children's Fund until there is something fairly firm and fairly definite established as to the basis upon which this figure of 20 million children is founded.

The second point I want to mention by way of illustration, which I think does require some elucidation, is the balance or relationship between the amount of money that is to be required for the International Children's Fund and the figures arrived at by the Technical Committee on Post-UNRRA Relief. / There, / If you will recall, the requirements of various countries were assessed by this Technical Committee on Post-UNRRA Relief Needs and the resources of the various countries were assessed. The budgetary needs were assessed on the basis of a 2300-calory meal for all the peoples of those countries, and the deficit position of those countries was established in total at 583 million dollars. That figure, I think, as compared with the figure of 450 million/ or 250 million/net, outside the country's own ability to supply part of the requirements -- those two figures, it seems to me, Mr. President, need to be brought / into relationship one with the other, particularly because 250 million dollars, the deficit requirements of the Children's Fund, is designed to provide . . . one hot meal a day on a 700-calory basis, a supplemental meal to the child population of those countries and of other countries as well. I mention again the necessity of elucidating the relationship between those two assessments of need in order that governments may have a reliable basis upon which to decide just

what we should do.

Now, I come to one final point, Mr. President. That is the point raised by the United States representative the other day. The United States representative was good enough to say he agreed with practically everything in the resolution of the Social Commission, except the one sentence which was put in at my suggestion when I was a Member of the Social Commission. Since the United States representative and I so often agree on so many things, I thought that perhaps I should explain to the Council the reason why I felt, and the Social Commission agreed with me without a dissenting vote, I may say, that this sentence should be in this resolution. The sentence I am referring to is found at the bottom of page 11 and the top of page 12. After referring to the vital importance of governmental and non-governmental contributions for the early establishment of the Fund, the Commission goes on to suggest to the Executive Board of the International Children's Emergency Fund "that it should make an urgent appeal to UNRRA asking it to advance as soon as possible a part of the funds which it eventually expects to be able to place at the disposal of the International Children's Emergency Fund. This latter sum should be sufficient to enable the Fund to begin operations immediately, pending receipt of the replies of the Governments to the Secretary-General's letter of January 1947 making an appeal to them on this subject."

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Now, why was this particular/sentences included in this resolution?

Well, I think the reason is one which certainly the President of the Executive Board of the Children's Fund will appreciate, Mr. President. The establishment of this Fund was first suggested in August 1946 at a meeting of the UNRPA Council. It was brought into the world by UNRRA. It was

brought into the world on the understanding that UNRRA would have some funds and hoped to have some substantial funds to turn over to the Fund as and when UNRRA came to an end of its operations. The proposition, as I recall it, was put to the Economic and Social Council last September, that here was a fund which should carry on to some extent the work of UNRRA in the child welfare field and utilize certain remaining funds of UNRRA to carry on this work, that this fund should be added to by voluntary and by governmental contributions. But the stress and emphasis, if I may say so, at that time was very clearly on the fact that UNRRA would provide the nest-egg for this operation. Some Members of this Council will recall the report that was given by the Director General of UNRRA to the Council, in which I think the clear inference was that UNRRA would be making a substantial and major contribution in due course to the operation of this Fund.

Now, we find, Mr. President, that the date when any decision can be given by UNRRA -- we have been told this in the Social Commission -- may be delayed as long as the end of 1947. At the same time, we are told that funds, voluntary contributions, cannot be raised or organized until the end of 1947 and that the Fund in effect for 1947 must stand or fall on the question of governmental contributions. Had that been the basis upon which this proposition was put to the Economic and Social Council, Mr. President, in September 1946, I would not have had a word to say about it. I think the Council could clearly have decided that issue on its merits then and could have come to a decision as to whether or not it wanted to take the responsibility for maintaining the Children's Emergency Fund as an inter-governmental agency or not. But the fact is that the Council accepted the idea of this Fund being established, to quite an extent at least, on the

understanding that early support would be forthcoming from UNRRA and that the question of governmental contribution was one which the Governments could decide on an optional basis instead of the basis which presently exists that Governments would have to come to the rescue of this Fund or the Fund will disappear from existence.

That is why, feeling as I did, and as the Social Commission did, that UNRRA had taken upon itself a very real measure of ^{responsibility} / for the origination of this Fund, we felt that we should point out to UNRRA their responsibility in this connection, their responsibility for providing some sort of interim assistance that would enable this Fund to get into operation at an early date, to continue the UNRRA activities which were going out of operation at the end of January until such time as the other help ^{might} which / be expected from Governments and from voluntary sources would be forthcoming.

I say again, Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation, that we should urgently request UNRRA to advise this Council as to the earliest possible date when it will be in a position to make the contribution which I think may be expected from it in the light of the understanding which was certainly in the minds of many Members of this Council at the time this Children's Emergency Fund was brought into existence.

MR. MOROZOV (USSR) (Interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, in connection with the information which has been submitted to the Economic and Social Council concerning the requirements of children in devastated areas, it simply underlines the fact, which is generally known, that in spite of all the energetic efforts of UNRRA, the problem is not resolved in so far as aid to the children is concerned, and it is one of the main problems before the United Nations. The main problem concerning this question is to determine the source for the means to finance the aid. It is quite obvious that the aid can be provided by those countries which have not suffered in the second war. It is difficult to expect the same aid from countries which have suffered during the war and which have suffered because of the occupation. These countries which have been occupied or which have been devastated are not only suffering by that very fact but they also have to use their means to reconstruct these areas. These very well-known facts have to be kept in mind when we consider the plan of the daily-pay contribution. We feel that the plan has too much of a mechanical approach. It leaves aside the realities with which the countries are faced. Some of the countries have not suffered during the war; others are in need of aid themselves.

We also feel that the question of the contribution from the point of view of the daily-salary contribution may be resolved better from the bottom rather than from the top. In other words, it should be determined by the workers, the syndicates, and so on, rather than from the top; in other words, by the Economic and Social Council. Therefore, because of these various considerations, we cannot support the plan, as it was suggested, of the daily-salary contribution.

Now, my second question pertains to the International Children's Emergency Fund. As is generally known, we feel that the International Children's Emergency Fund was created in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, which specifically stated that this contribution should go to children and adolescents of countries which have suffered because of aggression. Therefore, the Fund should direct its attention toward aiding the needy countries. The means should be obtained from the countries which have not suffered during the war and directed toward those which have. If means are collected from those countries which have suffered, then they should be spent within the areas of those countries themselves. In general, the idea of the Fund should be international in its aspect and should be to aid these countries which have suffered because of aggression during the war.

These are the thoughts, Mr. President, that we wanted to express on the subject.

MR. MOROZOV (USSR) (Interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, my last remark was not completely accurate in its translation, and I should like to be permitted to correct it.

As is commonly known, the International Children's Emergency Fund was created in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, and it was to provide aid for children and adolescents in the countries which have suffered because of aggression. Therefore, we feel that the attention of the Fund should be concentrated on giving international aid to children of needy countries. Therefore, the programme should be worked out in such a way that the means which are to be obtained from the countries which provide aid will be directed and sent to the countries which are in need of aid, and that the means which shall be obtained in these countries, themselves should be used by these countries. I believe that this would render the work much easier and it would prevent unnecessary expense. The Fund would then actually become an organization for international aid, and this will provide an additional means for finding aid for the needy children.

The PRESIDENT: Any other speakers?

MR. FAUSTO SOTO (Chile): Mr. President, my Government is in general agreement with the proposal for the implementation of the International Children's Emergency Fund. I should like only to make some remarks referring to the question of relations between the Children's Fund and the one-day pay collection.

According to the Report of the Social Commission, page 11, document E/260, in the second paragraph of the sub-title, "International Children's Emergency Fund", it says, "The Commission recognized the relationship between any efforts made to meet general relief needs and the activities of the Fund in meeting the special needs of the children."

Then in document E/299 there is a report submitted by the Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council, which says, "...One Day's Pay Collection might most appropriately be devoted to the ICEF." And further, "...the small

administration needed at headquarters for work in connection with the collection might be established within the framework of the Fund."

I should like, Mr. President, to clarify this situation in this sense: that according to my point of view, the point of view of my Government, these are two different questions. The General Assembly has two different resolutions. One was the creation of the Children's Fund, and the other one referring to the relief needs after the termination of UNKRA. These two questions were studied by different Committees of the Assembly.

Now, it is proposed by the Social Commission in its Report and by the Executive Board of the Children's Emergency Fund in some way to merge these two questions. My point of view is that it is necessary to clarify the situation as to why this Children's Fund -- which has a very specific purpose -- has to be connected with the question of the one-day's-pay collection. One is for the Children's Fund and the other for the continuation of the relief work done by UNRRA. It is true that in many ways the Children's Fund will continue the relief for children which was given by UNRRA, but it seems to me that to mix the two questions is to try in some way to continue it on only one line, while the work actually has been carried out in different ways. For that reason, Mr. President, I do not agree with the Report of the Commission referring to the merging of the two questions and, at the same time, the proposal made by the Executive Board on the same line.

MR. PEREZ-CISNEROS (Cuba): Mr. President, the views of the Cuban delegation on this subject will be expressed in the committee to which this question is going to be referred.

However, we want to advance the information that, while agreeing with the principles which are behind the idea of the one-day's-pay collection, we do not agree with the method which has been suggested in the papers which we are considering now.

MR. KIRPALANI (India): Mr. President, I should like to say a very few words about the International Children's Emergency Fund. My Government has the most complete sympathy with the objectives of the Fund and welcomes the creation of the Fund.

From the very tentative estimates before us it is clear that the number of children that will have to be looked after is very considerable indeed. The present estimate is thirty million in Europe and perhaps an equal number in the Far East. There are very many children in India who have suffered either directly from the effects of the war, or perhaps equally severely as an indirect result of the war, and it is going to be the responsibility of the Government of India to look after their relief and welfare.

In our opinion the best contribution that India can make is to stay out of this Fund. Indeed, under the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly India is not a Member of the Executive Board. The reason we would stay out of the Fund is that any contribution we might make to the Fund will be out of all proportion to the obligations the Fund will have to incur in regard to the welfare of the number of children in India.

I would perhaps say one word more about the one-day's-pay collection. It is an excellent idea. It may be that it could be improved in its concept and execution over the manner which has been suggested, but so far as India is concerned, the wage of the average worker is so small and his existence so marginal, that I doubt very much if it will be possible for the large number of wage earners to make any contribution as big as one day's pay. Any little contribution that it may be possible to secure from that source will be taken by the Government of India in formulating its own welfare and relief schemes.

have been many
The PRESIDENT: There / suggestions about the way in which the
one-day's-pay collection fund may be raised, about the plans regarding the
Children's Fund and the way it should be utilized, the priorities, et cetera,
and I suggest that these details may be examined by the Committee of the
Council. If that is so, there is only one major question -- it is really
not important in any sense, but it is still a major question--which I will
put to the Council now; That is, that Switzerland be added as a Member of
the Executive Board.

(A vote was taken by a show of hands)

The PRESIDENT: The recommendation was adopted.

The matter will be referred to the Committee of the Council as a Whole.

REPORT ON DEVASTATED AREAS, FAR EAST

The PRESIDENT: The next item is the Report on Devastated Areas in the
Far East. I call upon the representative of China.

DR. CHANG (China): Mr. President, you have before you the report of the working group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on the Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas. As Chairman of that working group, may I briefly comment on the report that is before you.

Devastation in Asia and the Far East was enormous. The working group having in charge the problems involved would indeed itself have been devastated had it not been for the increasingly loyal services of the Secretariat. With their help we continued until 2 a.m. one morning to bring the work to a gratifying conclusion. I hope that the Economic and Social Council will not try to outdo us in our record that evening for prolonging our meeting to the early hours of the morning.

On the whole, I think the Members of the working group regard the report as altogether gratifying and satisfactory. We tried as hard as we could to give an intelligent evaluation of the problems of reconstruction of devastated areas in Asia and the Far East. We carefully analyzed the crucial related problems and needs. We modestly mentioned the methods of organizing international aid and cooperation, and we strongly and unanimously urged the establishment of an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East during this session, as has been done for Europe.

There were during the debates differences of opinion in certain matters, but the differences were healthy and useful. Some of us were cautious, exceedingly, very cautious, but the caution was by no means unjustified. Our differences never for a moment blinded us to the important task before us or to the urgency of the problem of reconstruction of devastated areas, affecting the lives of a large portion of humanity, perhaps half or more than half of the

total population of the globe. As a matter of fact our differences only led us to attain a higher degree of unanimity in purpose, to do something, to get something done. Our caution was the dictate of wisdom, to produce a report acceptable to all in principle.

I myself, Mr. President, am not particularly in favour of the term "Far East". If we look across that peaceful ocean, the Pacific, from the Golden Gate, the Far East will become the Far West, at least to the United States. I make this point now in order to stress the idea that it is dangerous to overemphasize the division of East and West. Historically, the cordon of east and west was, has been and still is only imaginary, a line drawn arbitrarily. Sometimes we wonder where the line is drawn now. Where? As a matter of fact, in China we regard ourselves as living in the center of the earth's surface, and those of you who know Chinese know we call our country the "Middle Country" even today, and we shall continue to call our country the "Middle Country", so we do not belong to any East, wherever you put the line of division.

The PRESIDENT: Or West!

DR. CHANG (China): Or West -- thank you for your correction. In this shrunken world of ours, which is becoming more interdependent economically, and in every other way, such a division can only cloud our thinking in every respect. We cannot afford ^{to} divide ourselves into east and west. That is the reason that all along, in our discussion in the group, we stressed the importance of the reconstruction of all devastated areas.

Therefore, we suggest the close cooperation of all the regional Economic Commissions of Reconstruction to be created by the Economic and Social Council. In the report, Mr. President, you will find that emphasis is placed on the free-industrial nature of the methods of production of most

of the peoples in the areas under study. If we look at the problem with perspective -- that is the word which I humbly stressed again and again -- if we look at the problem with perspective we realize that Asia and the Far East ^{some} say, not too far back, /one hundred and fifty years ago, were not too far behind other parts of the world in economic achievement. It is only one hundred and fifty years. We are apt to think the differences are far wider. We are apt to think that at all times the East has been behind the West in industrial achievement. That does not happen to be true. It is only a difference, let us say, of one hundred and fifty years, and perhaps even much less, and especially it has seemed broader in the last fifty years -- in the last fifty years.

It is not necessary to go into all the unpleasant details of what I call again and again the myopic 19th century, so far as China and the Far East are concerned. Suffice it to remind ourselves at this stage of not letting those who are on top now economically be unmindful of the ascent of those who are now situated below.

Mr. President, reconstruction must be hastened also in order to make up for the delay in the economic progress which has been caused by the recent war. The reconstruction of the devastated areas concerned will benefit all the areas, included the areas unscarred by the devastation of war. If international cooperation thus is achieved, it will be beneficial to all. If international aid is to be given the devastated areas in order to put them on their feet, it must not be governed entirely by the immediate results of short-term material goals, but must be motivated by long-term consideration of a more human, or humane basis -- on the more human or humane basis which in the long run will benefit and replenish the draining reservoir of goodwill for all.

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In regard to the different parts of the report, Mr. President, may I just call your attention to two parts, one of them on page two of the report, namely, the Importance of Asia's Economy to the World. You will find here a statement of the relationship between the economy of Asia and the Far East and the rest of the world.

Under point 2:

"There are also certain considerations which make the economic reconstruction of these countries a matter of deep concern to the other nations of the world:

- (a) First is the fact, which the war so clearly exhibited that the region was one of the chief suppliers of vital industrial, medical and household materials, such as rubber, tin, tungsten, quinine, tea, soya beans, hemp and vegetable oils.
- (b) Secondly, a substantial rise in the purchasing power of the Asiatic peoples would open up new opportunities for the interchange of goods and services and capital with other regions to the benefit of all.
- (c) Conversely, the evil effects of a low standard of living cannot be confined to any one region.
- (d) Progress in rebuilding production and trade has hitherto been slow. Such recovery is a prerequisite for sound world trade relations as well as for effecting, on a world-wide basis, that improvement of living standards which is one of the most important objectives of the United Nations. If Asia, with the assistance of other parts of the world, can enter upon a phase of rapid economic progress, its enormous population and resources and its potentially massive production and consumption will make it one of the greatest areas of development in an expanding world economy.
- (e) Economically less developed areas have too often in the past served as the meeting place for the conflicts and contentions of the industrialized powers, and their attainment of economic strength will do much to diminish the occasions for such conflicts."

And then, another part, the conclusion--and that is the part we would like very much to call to the attention of the Council, for immediate action. It is the recommendation of the working group, on pages 41 and 42. On page 41, under "D. Conclusions", you will find certain reasons why the working group arrived at the conclusion of recommending an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Then, on page 42, you have the recommendations stated here in very cogent form. Therefore, the working group, appreciating the trust that the Council has given them, now has the honour to present this Report and it is our humble and urgent hope that this Report will be adopted, especially the working part of it, the creation of an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now adjourn and reconvene at 2:45.

(The meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm)