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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

AGENDA ITEM 12

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chap-
ters IV and V) (A/2686, A/C.3/L.444) (*con-
tinued*)**

**UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY (A/C.3/L.444)
(*continued*)**

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the amendments to the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444) accepted by the Indian and Uruguayan representatives at the 597th meeting and to the oral amendments to operative paragraph 3 proposed by the Australian and Saudi Arabian representatives.

2. Mr. KUEHN (France) proposed that a reference to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should be included in paragraph 3 of the operative part, since that was the agency most concerned with education. A suggestion the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund had made at the preceding meeting might be incorporated. The paragraph would then read:

"Requests the Executive Board of UNICEF, in co-operation with UNESCO, to take steps in accordance with this resolution and to include in its annual reports a report on the progress achieved.

3. Mr. MATTHEW (India) said that he was prepared to accept the Australian oral amendment to operative paragraph 3 for the deletion of "and to report progress to the General Assembly at its tenth session" and for the addition of a new paragraph, which would be paragraph 4, to read:

"Requests the Executive Board of UNICEF to include in its annual reports a report on progress achieved in accordance with the above recommendations."

4. He preferred to retain the reference to the International Union for Child Welfare in the fifth paragraph of the preamble, but did not regard it as indispensable. If any amendment for its deletion was adopted, he would still vote for the amended resolution.

5. He would accept the French proposal for a reference to collaboration with UNESCO, but he could not accept the second French amendment, which would to

some extent reduce the importance of the resolution. The Secretary-General was normally asked to perform such work; to ask the Executive Board of UNICEF alone would be to reduce the significance of the resolution.

6. Mr. KUEHN (France) said that he could not agree that his second amendment would reduce the importance of the resolution. The request would come from the General Assembly, the highest organ of the United Nations. He had merely been reproducing an idea put forward by the Executive Director of UNICEF.

7. Mrs. CISELET (Belgium) said that the draft resolution had been greatly improved by the amendments accepted, especially the French and Australian amendments. She asked whether the Uruguayan representative had accepted all the amendments agreed to by the Indian representative.

8. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) replied that he had accepted the insertion of the word "social" in the fourth paragraph of the preamble, mainly at the Guatemalan representative's request; the deletion of the word "shall" in operative paragraph 1, as proposed by the Swedish representative; the substitution of "invites" for "urges" in operative paragraph 2, as proposed by the Saudi Arabian representative; and the Australian amendment to operative paragraph 3 and for the addition of a new paragraph 4. He would prefer to retain the reference to the International Union for Child Welfare. It was true that there were a number of similar organizations to which reference might also be made, but several delegations had favoured retaining that particular reference. It would be only fair to UNESCO to insert a reference to it, as the French representative proposed, although it should be clear that UNESCO should not be asked to report on progress as well as UNICEF. The United Nations Children's Fund had its own sphere of competence, but the views of UNESCO would undoubtedly be useful.

9. Mr. KING (Liberia) thought that the reference to an International World Children's Day in operative paragraph 1 was confusing in view of the fact that Governments were asked in paragraph 2 to choose their own most appropriate date. The Costa Rican amendment (A/C.3/L.445) seemed to be based on the idea that there should be a single Children's Day. There was no mention of an international day in operative paragraph 2. He had gathered that the sponsors had originally thought of a single day.

10. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) replied that it should be obvious that what the sponsors had had in mind was a single Universal Children's Day. That did not mean that the date was to be set at that session. The draft resolution as it stood might be regarded as a first stage; the second stage, the setting of a special day, could be discussed when UNICEF had

presented its report. The feeling of the celebration, on whatever date it fell, would be universal, embracing all the children in the world, not merely those of the country in which it was held. Otherwise, there would be no point in the United Nations' intervening, when a great many countries already had their own Children's Days. He would press for the establishment of a single universal day when the UNICEF report was discussed at the next session of the General Assembly.

11. Mr. MATTHEW (India) agreed with the Uruguayan representative. A single set day would have been desirable, but it was not feasible. But each country would have its own World Children's Day, international in feeling and scope.

12. Mr. NUÑEZ (Costa Rica) said that the reference to World Children's Day in his amendment (A/C.3/L.445) appeared to have given rise to certain objections which were not really justified. It was not a reference to a specific day but to the concept of such a day, a concept which had had to be modified by the considerations guiding operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444). The central idea remained valid. The phrase referring to World Children's Day was qualified by the word "preferably" and obviously was not an attempt to set a definite date. The Executive Director of UNICEF had indicated at the preceding meeting that UNICEF would find a pledging conference useful, so that any objections to the reference to World Children's Day should not be a reason for rejecting the amendment as a whole.

13. Miss AMMUNDSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of her own country, Norway and Sweden, thanked the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444) for their co-operative attitude.

14. The new operative paragraph 4 proposed by the Australian delegation (597th meeting) was entirely acceptable, but Denmark would vote against the Afghan amendment to the fifth paragraph of the preamble (A/C.3/L.446, point 1). However, it would still support the draft resolution as a whole, even if the Afghan amendment were adopted.

15. It would vote against the Costa Rican amendments (A/C.3/L.445) for the reasons already explained by other delegations.

16. Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom) stated that the United Kingdom would vote for the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444) but against the Costa Rican amendments (A/C.3/L.445) for the reasons explained by the French representative (597th meeting). She supported the French proposal (597th meeting) to replace the words "on the initiative of the International Union for Child Welfare" in the last paragraph of the preamble by the words "on the initiative of certain non-governmental organizations". Her support for that proposal should not be construed as a criticism of the International Union for Child Welfare, for which she had great admiration, but she felt that mention of a non-governmental organization by name might create a *dangerous precedent*. The United Kingdom would support the joint draft resolution with or without that amendment.

17. Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) stated that the Secretary-General attached considerable importance to the suggestion made by the Executive Director of UNICEF at the 597th meeting, and formally moved by the French representative at the current meeting, to delete

the reference to the Secretary-General from paragraph 3 of the operative part of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444). The Executive Board of UNICEF would thus be responsible for taking steps under the resolution and reporting progress. The Secretary-General's position was based on broad administrative considerations, among which was the fact that the initiatives he was required to take under the resolution would make it difficult to avoid having Children's Day become another United Nations Day. That could not but detract from the effectiveness of United Nations Day and Human Rights Day, and could be avoided entirely if the responsibility were placed on UNICEF. The Secretary-General hoped that the French proposal would be accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution and the Committee.

18. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) said that she could not support the Afghan amendment (A/C.3/L.446). The International Union for Child Welfare had specialized in child welfare for the past thirty years. It worked through national organizations and had in effect acted as a specialized agency before the establishment of UNICEF. For that reason, some reference should be made to it, and the Greek delegation would vote in favour of inclusion of a reference to the International Union for Child Welfare particularly as that organization had already instituted a World Children's Day. She could not support the Costa Rican amendments (A/C.3/L.445), since she had not received any instructions from her Government.

19. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) moved the closure of the debate under rule 118 of the rules of procedure.

The motion was adopted by 29 votes to 7, with 15 abstentions.

20. Mr. KING (Liberia) explained that he had voted against the motion for closure of the debate as he would have liked to hear from the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444) whether they intended World Children's Day to be observed on the same date in every country.

21. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that he would have preferred the debate to continue. The idea of a pledging conference for UNICEF funds contained in the Costa Rican amendment (A/C.3/L.445, point 2) had a precedent in the similar conference for technical assistance funds, and it had been welcomed by the Executive Director of UNICEF. The Executive Board of UNICEF might be asked to report on the possibility of such an arrangement. The records of the Third Committee's debate should be forwarded to the Executive Board to help it in considering the question.

22. Mrs. CISELET (Belgium) did not oppose the principle of the Costa Rican amendment but, lacking specific instructions from her Government, she was unable to vote for it.

23. She supported the joint draft resolution including the amendment proposed by France to operative paragraph 3.

24. Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) regretted that she was unable to vote for the Costa Rican amendment (A/C.3/L.445, point 2) as it stood, since it was not consistent with paragraph 2 of the operative part of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444), but she fully endorsed the idea of a pledging conference, the possibilities of

which should be thoroughly explored by the Executive Board of UNICEF.

25. She asked for a separate vote on the words "preferably on World Children's Day", in sub-paragraph (a) of the amendment, which would enable her delegation to vote for it.

26. Mr. KUEHN (France) said that he had voted against the motion for closure of the debate since he did not yet know whether the amendment to the last paragraph of the preamble he had suggested at the 597th meeting had been accepted.

27. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) explained that he could not accept the French amendment unless the words "on the initiative of certain non-governmental organizations" replaced the words "on the initiative of the International Union for Child Welfare in association with UNICEF".

28. Mr. JOHNSON (United States of America) opposed any reference to the International Union for Child Welfare in the draft resolution. Although he had the highest regard for the Union's work, that would create an undesirable precedent.

29. Mrs. RÖSSEL (Sweden) asked for a separate vote on the words "the Secretary-General in association with" in paragraph 3 of the operative part of the resolution (A/C.3/L.444).

30. The CHAIRMAN put the Afghan amendment to the fifth paragraph of the preamble (A/C.3/L.446, point 1) to the vote.

The amendment was adopted by 28 votes to 7, with 18 abstentions.

31. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the French oral amendment calling for the deletion of the words "the Secretary-General in association with" in paragraph 3 of the operative part of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444).

The amendment was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

32. Mr. FAROUHAR (Iran) and Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom) asked what effect the possible adoption of the French oral amendment to paragraph 3 of the operative part would have on the new paragraph (paragraph 4) accepted by the sponsors as the result of an Australian proposal.

33. Mr. RAJAN (India) said that he wished to maintain paragraph 4 of the operative part.

34. Mr. KUEHN (France) withdrew his oral amendment.

35. Mr. FOMIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not consider that the text of operative paragraph 3 as it stood made it clear what steps the Executive Board was to take, since no active measures within its terms of reference were proposed in the draft resolution. It might be better to reconsider the French oral amendment.

36. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) thought that the request to the Board was quite clear. Paragraph 1 of the operative part contained a recommendation for the institution of a Children's Day, and paragraph 2 contained certain suggestions to Governments. The Board would take the steps it deemed necessary and report on the progress achieved. The situation might be clarified if paragraphs 3 and 4 of the operative part were combined to read as follows:

"Requests the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to take steps in accordance with this resolution and to include in its annual reports a report on progress achieved in accordance with the above recommendations."

37. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) and Mr. RAJAN (India) considered that, since the purpose of the draft resolution was to express the concern of the United Nations for the children of the world, UNICEF, as the United Nations organ dealing with children, would take the steps it considered appropriate. It was not for the Third Committee to decide the precise nature of the steps.

38. They accepted the Afghan suggestion to combine paragraphs 3 and 4 of the operative part.

39. Mr. KUEHN (France) pointed out that the amended text was practically identical with the oral amendment he had withdrawn.

40. The CHAIRMAN put the Costa Rican amendments (A/C.3/L.445) to the vote.

Point 1 of the amendments was adopted by 18 votes to 13, with 21 abstentions.

The phrase "preferably on World Children's Day" in point 2 of the amendments was rejected by 19 votes to 8, with 23 abstentions.

Point 2 of the amendments, as amended, was rejected by 25 votes to 14, with 14 abstentions.

41. Mr. KUEHN (France) suggested that another vote might be taken on the Costa Rican amendment to the preamble, since the Costa Rican representative had said that the two amendments were dependent on each other.

42. Mr. NUÑEZ (Costa Rica) considered that it would be advisable to retain the paragraph, which expressed the General Assembly's desire to support UNICEF by specific measures and implied that Governments would do so by contributing to UNICEF. His delegation would submit a draft resolution on the subject to the General Assembly at its tenth session.

43. The CHAIRMAN put the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.444), as a whole, as amended, to the vote.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

44. Miss DE VINK (Netherlands) explained that she had abstained from voting on the draft resolution as a whole because, although her Government was in favour of promoting world-wide fraternity and understanding between children, it did not feel called upon to take any position in what was, in its opinion, the task of the private organizations in her country. She had voted for the Afghan and French amendments because she considered that they improved the text and against the Costa Rican amendments because they were out of place in the resolution.

45. Mr. DUNLOP (New Zealand) explained that he had abstained from voting on the draft resolution because he would have preferred the institution of a Children's Day to have been left to the discretion of agencies and organizations working in various countries. He could not commit his Government to instituting such a Day in New Zealand or to persuading national organizations

to do so. Those organizations might well feel that educational activities for international co-operation would be best conducted in connexion with United Nations Day or Human Rights Day. The celebration of a Children's

Day in New Zealand might entail a complicated and possibly disadvantageous reorganization of activities which were highly successful under existing arrangements.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.