United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
Executive Board
Summary Record of the Sixty-Ninth Meeting
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Tuesday, 20 June 1950, at 3 p.m.

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Time and Place of the Following Session

Acting Chairman: Mr. Sutch New Zealand

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Members:

Mr. PEZET  
Argentina

Mr. SHANN  
Australia

Mr. ALMEIDA  
Brazil

Mrs. SINCLAIR  
Canada

Mr. TSAO  
China

Miss de ZALAMEA  
Colombia

Mrs. HOLTEN-EGGERT  
Denmark

Mr. GONZALO APUNTE  
Ecuador

Mr. AMANRICH  
France

Mr. PESMAZOGLU  
Greece

Mr. KHALIDIY  
Iraq

Miss WITTEVEEN  
Netherlands

Mr. HANCKE  
Norway

Mr. WOLLIN  
Sweden

Mr. PESTALOZZI  
Switzerland

Mr. BAHN  
Union of South Africa

Mr. LEDWARD  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Miss LENROOT  
United States of America

Mr. PLEIC  
Yugoslavia

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Miss SCOTT  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mr. PATTON  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Dr. INGALLS  
World Health Organization (WHO)

Secretariat:

Mr. PATE  
Executive Director, UNICEF

Mr. HEYWARD  
Deputy Director, UNICEF

Mr. BORDERS  
Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF

Mr. SCHMITTLINGER  
Programme Co-ordinator

Mr. DAVIDSON  
Director, European Headquarters of UNICEF

Mr. CHARNOW  
Secretary of the Board

Mr. VAN HEUVEN  
Director of the Division of Social Activities
1. The CHAIRMAN reviewed the various documents before the Board and invited comments on the recommendations that had been made.

2. Miss LENHART (United States of America) raised the question of the allocation suggested for the European Headquarters of UNICEF. That allocation amounted to $245,300 for the dollar budget while expenditures for the first quarter were at a rate of $85,000 per annum. The corresponding budget was higher than the amount expended in 1949 and she wondered why a higher budget was necessary at a time when costs were being reduced and other reductions were being made in the European Headquarters.

3. With regard to operations in Latin America and the Far East, she asked whether balances which had resulted from over-budgeting could be used to reduce the total allocation for the last six months of 1950. If, however, the amount for the budget in question was to be approved, it was nevertheless to be hoped that the whole sum would not be required for actual expenditure.

4. At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BORDERS (Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF) explained that in considering the question of the increase in the budget for the European Headquarters, it must be borne in mind that operations under the budget for 1949 had begun at a low level and did not accelerate until the end of that year; they would continue at that rate through the first half of 1950. In the beginning, therefore, savings had been effected but they were subsequently offset by the accelerated operations in the second half of 1949. Although the peak operational period occurred in the first quarter of 1950; it would be seen that savings had, in fact, been effected when expenses for the whole year were reviewed.

5. Mr. DAVIDSON (Director, European Headquarters of UNICEF) said that operations at the Paris Office had continued at their peak through the first six months of 1950 and would remain at that level throughout the third quarter. A reduction in costs would therefore be possible only during the last quarter of the year.

/6. Considerable
6. Considerable expenditure would be incurred in the repatriation of staff members who were being withdrawn from service, as well as in the payment of earned leave.

7. In reply to a further question from the United States representative, Mr. BORDERS (Chief Executive Officer, UNICEF) pointed out that there had been a change in the character of the programme, particularly in regard to the question of procurement. The matter of medical supplies, for instance, was very complex indeed. At the present time all Missions were operating with a minimum staff.

8. Mr. DAVIDSON (Director, European Headquarters of UNICEF) confirmed that the medical programmes were of a very complex nature. In addition, there were also the technical services required for the Milk Conservation Programme. The services of expert staff had been required to carry out that programme.

9. The CHAIRMAN asked the Board to approve the revised administrative budgets for European Headquarters and European Field Missions for 1950 and the inclusion of budget estimates for a mission to Paraguay in the approved Latin American administrative budget estimates.

   The revised budget estimates and the new budget for Paraguay were approved by the Board.

10. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Board approved the proposed budget estimates of $2,979,000 for administrative and operational services expenditures plus $9,000 for the establishment of a mission for Paraguay, making a total of $2,988,000 for the year 1950.

   Those estimates were approved.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee on Administrative Budget had suggested that it would not be necessary to set aside the entire amount of this budget estimate for the second half of 1950. The Committee recommended that the sum of $1,300,000 gross be allocated for administrative and operational services.

   It was so agreed.
12. Mr. LEWAND (United Kingdom) referred to paragraph 20 of the report (E/ICEF/R.60/Add.1) concerning the possibility of realizing economies in the field of public information by means of a closer integration of work with the United Nations Department of Public Information. He approved that proposal and was in favour of using channels already established such as the press, radio and cinema for the dissemination of propaganda, rather than special publications. He wondered, nevertheless, whether the proposed amount of $131,250 for publicity in 1951 was entirely justifiable, taking into consideration the work which would be done by the Department of Public Information at Headquarters. Paragraph 8 of document E/ICEF/R.33 showed a total of $113,750 budgeted for publicity operations in New York in 1951, but it did not show that any economies would be achieved. Furthermore, he did not wish it to be said that a large publicity organization was thriving on the Fund. He wondered to what extent the Committee on Administrative Budget had considered that question.

13. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was not intended that the Department of Public Information of the United Nations would completely take over the publicity functions of the Fund. Lake Success would provide such material as photographic prints, photostats, and mimeographed material, as stated in paragraph 21 of document E/ICEF/R.60/Add.1, but the services would not exceed those set forth in that document. So far as 1951 was concerned, the question had been discussed by the appropriate administrative officers of the United Nations and UNICEF but had not yet been submitted to the Committee on Administrative Budget for consideration or to the Board for its approval; the estimates for 1951 would be dealt with at the following meeting of the Board.

14. The discussions at the present stage were merely of a general character and the document in question had not been submitted to the Board as directly relating to the agenda item.

15. Mr. LEWAND (United Kingdom) felt that the matter could be left as it stood since it would subsequently come before the Board for examination.

/16. The CHAIRMAN
16. The CHAIRMAN referred to the recommendation regarding approval of the plans of expenditure of the International Children's Centre in Paris (E/1969/R 60/Add.1, paragraphs 32, 33, 34 and 35) and asked whether the Board approved those recommendations. There was also the question of the extent to which the Committee and the Board should examine the plans of operation of the Paris Centre.

17. Miss LENROOT (United States of America) wondered whether the Programme Committee or the Committee on Administrative Budget would be in a better position to deal with that question. The plans were not of an administrative or operational order and the Programme Committee should therefore consider that point.

18. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada), Chairman of the Programme Committee, said that on the previous occasion the Programme Committee had not dealt with the matter. She supported the views of the United States representative, however, and said that in future the Programme Committee would examine the question.

19. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee on Administrative Budget had recommended approval of the plans of expenditure, which were conservative as regards the size of staff and the salary levels.

20. Mr. AMANRICH (France) observed that the Centre had its own Board and Director, but the examination of any plans or projects might be accomplished according to any procedure desired by the Board.

21. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Board agreed that plans involving the expenditure of funds transferred for the use of the Paris Centre should be examined by the Programme Committee, administrative matters being handled by the appropriate executive organs of that Centre.

22. Miss LENROOT (United States of America) supported the Chairman's views. Matters related to substance should be left to the Programme Committee, but if the Programme Committee felt that expert advice was needed on any particular administrative question the matter could be referred to the Committee on Administrative Budget.

It was so agreed.
The Board approved the plan for expenditures of the Centre as recommended by the Committee on Administrative Budget in document E/ICEF/R.60/Add.1, paragraph 32.

Report on purchase of military scrip in Germany and Japan (E/ICEF/R.60/Add.1)

23. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the policy of UNICEF was to utilize as much local currency as possible and to substitute the use of local currency for military scrip to the extent possible in providing living allowances for its staff, as indicated in paragraph 37 of the report. He was disposed to accept any procedure worked out in such a way.

The principles contained in that paragraph were approved.

Report on numbers and functions of staff provided by receiving countries in UNICEF field missions (E/ICEF/R.60/Add.1)

24. The CHAIRMAN observed that a good deal of work had been done by the people of the countries concerned; though members of the UNICEF mission, their expenses were paid by their respective Governments. As a result of such co-operation, administrative costs had been kept down to less than five per cent.

25. He suggested that the report of the Committee on Administrative Budget and the Executive Director’s report on the expenses for 1949 should be noted by the Board.

It was so agreed.

Report of the Committee on Administrative Budget on its ninth session held in Manhattan, New York, covering meetings of 9 and 22 May 1950 (E/ICEF/R.60)

26. The CHAIRMAN drew the Board’s attention to the question of the 1,000,000 dollars granted by UNRRA and the action taken regarding the WHO request for project personnel. He thought that the report was self-explanatory and should be noted accordingly.

It was so agreed.
RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH REGARD TO APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL PLAN OF EXPENDITURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE IN PARIS (E/ICEF/R.74).


27. Mr. PATE (Executive Director, UNICEF) recalled that the health programme of the International Children's Centre in Paris had been agreed upon when the Centre had been established. Those programmes were an approved operation of the WHO and most of the expenditure had been authorized under the plans of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy. He wished to point out however that there were still two or three aspects of the plan which remained to be discussed by the Director of the Centre and the WHO.


28. The CHAIRMAN referred to the question raised by the United Kingdom representative regarding ex gratia payments. UNICEF auditors had concurred in the views of the United Nations auditors in that matter, which was the usual formality. The Secretary-General was always consulted in regard to such payments.

29. Through the recommendation of the Board, a report would be prepared and submitted at the following meeting.

It was so agreed.

CONTINUING NEEDS OF CHILDREN (E/ICEF/151, E/1678, AC/R.30/Rev.1, CL9/26 and E/1682).

30. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Board should decide whether to adopt a formal resolution on the subject or to transmit a statement to the Council.

31. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) said that the Programme Committee had not dealt with the question so as not to duplicate the work of the Social Commission which had already discussed the matter in substance. It had felt that the...
Executive Board should transmit a concise statement on the work and finances of the Fund to the Economic and Social Council. She thought that the draft prepared by the Administration was entirely satisfactory for that purpose, and suggested that it should be transmitted to the Council as a separate document.

32. Miss LENROOT (United States of America) supported the Canadian proposal, suggesting that additional information might be given on the financial position of the Fund, in particular as regards the financial position of the Fund, reserves and allocations to countries.

33. Mr. SHANN (Australia) supported the Canadian representative's proposal as amended by the United States which, he thought, might be adopted without further discussion.

34. Mr. AMANRICH (France) also endorsed the proposal as amended. He wondered, however, whether it might not be possible to set out, on a percentage basis, the total administrative cost as compared with the total expenses of the Fund since the beginning of the latter's operations.

35. Mr. PESTALOZZI (Switzerland), expressing support of the paper prepared by the Administration, thought that it should, however, describe in greater detail the shift in the Fund's operations from the original objective of bringing relief to children in war-devastated countries, to that of assisting countries to meet permanent needs. The paper might include graphs showing such trends on the basis of programmes approved by the Board.

36. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) proposed that it might also be desirable to give charts indicating the relative changes in types of assistance rendered and the gradual shift to various countries.

The draft paper was approved for transmission by the Board to the Council taking into account the changes suggested above.
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CONTINUATION OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
(E/ICEF/R.44/Add.1)

37. The CHAIRMAN, with reference to the Executive Director's note (E/ICEF/R.44/Add.1), explained that the Administration, having procured large quantities of milk more cheaply than originally anticipated, had been able to provide countries with greater quantities of milk within the original allocations. That made it possible to increase the level of feeding. In order to continue the milk feeding programmes at that higher level during the second half of 1950, rather than at the usual original programme level, additional quantities of milk would have to be purchased for Greece and Yugoslavia, involving an additional expense of 50,000 and 75,000 dollars respectively. In the case of Italy the quantities available in stock would be sufficient to continue the feeding programmes until the end of the year.

38. As regards meat and fish, in accordance with previous practice, if any contributions were received in the future which could advantageously be used for such supplies, the Administration would circularize the Board.

39. In conclusion he noted that the representative of Greece had submitted a draft resolution dealing with the needs of his country, to which an amendment had been presented by the United States.

40. Miss LENROOT (United States of America) explained that she had submitted her amendment in view of the urgency of the Greek situation and the consequent desirability of maintaining the feeding programmes at the existing level. In reply to a question by the Greek representative, she said that the phrase "as soon as resources permit" meant that if the Fund received contributions in kind appropriate to the Greek programme, or cash contributions which could advantageously be converted into the necessary supplies, the Administration should circulate to members of the Board a recommendation to increase the allocation to that country accordingly.

41. Mr. PATE (Executive Director, UNICEF) suggested that for the sake of equity the Board should consider the entire situation taking into account his proposals on the subject in document E/ICEF/R.44/Add.1.

/42. Mr. SHANN
42. Mr. SHANN (Australia) objected in principle to allocating funds which were not yet available. He therefore preferred the United States amendment which, while recognizing the difficult situation in Greece, did not make any commitments in advance, but merely authorized the Administration to utilize in the future contributions to the Fund for proposed allocations to that country.

43. Mr. de ALMEIDA (Brazil) said that his Government, while generally of the opinion that the Fund's assistance should be extended to regions outside Europe where the need was greatest, recognized that the situation in Greece was particularly serious and consequently supported the Greek resolution as amended by the United States.

44. Mr. PATE (Executive Director, UNICEF), in reply to a question by the Canadian representative, said that his note merely gave the actual cost of continuing the milk feeding programmes in Greece and Yugoslavia during the second half of 1950. He had not recommended any additional allocations in view of the limited reserve available, leaving the matter for the Board itself to decide.

45. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) did not think it advisable to recommend allocations out of the limited amount remaining in the general reserve.

46. Mr. SHANN (Australia) shared that view.

47. Miss LENROUGHT (United States of America) said that it was the purpose of her proposal that the funds allocated at the present session should be used for the purchase of additional milk supplies with a view to continuing the expanded milk feeding programme which had been made possible for a time through the purchase of milk at a reduced price. If subsequent contributions would make it possible to provide additional supplies of meat or fish, the allocations could be increased accordingly.
48. Mr. PESMAZOGGIU (Greece), with reference to the United States representative's remarks, said that the problem in his country was to obtain adequate supplies, not only of milk -- which was still available in sufficient quantities -- but of meat and cheese. Without the latter products the feeding programme in his country would be crippled, and all the benefits derived from the existing programmes under which children had been receiving rations of milk, meat and fish, would be lost.

49. The CHAIRMAN pointed out the large costs of continuing the distribution of food supplies other than milk at the existing levels if they were to be purchased by the Fund at world market prices.

50. Mr. SHANN (Australia) agreed with the Chairman, noting that the United States amendment was designed to avoid further depletion of the Fund's already limited reserves. According to that amendment, if appropriate supplies for Greece or Yugoslavia were received by the Fund the Administration, after circularizing the Board, could allocate them to those countries. The same might apply to financial contributions which could only be used to purchase the necessary supplies at an advantageous price.

51. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was by no means certain whether future contributions would be sufficient for continuing the feeding programmes in the two countries at the existing level.

52. Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) called attention to the policy of the Fund, irrespective of the countries in question, to distribute meat and fish only when received in the form of a contribution, and to limit its cash resources for milk.

53. Mr. PATE (Executive Director, UNICEF) agreed with the Canadian representative's statement. Moreover, out of the existing reserve of 215,000 dollars, 125,000 dollars would have to be spent on milk, leaving a small balance of 90,000 dollars which would not be sufficient to pay for a continued meat and fish feeding programme.

54. On the other hand, there was good hope that additional commodity contributions would be received in the not too distant future. He therefore felt that instead of making allocations out of the insufficient reserve, or
allocating funds which were not yet available, provision should be made for the allocation of supplies when they became available.

55. In view of those considerations he favoured the United States proposal which was similar to that put forward by the Administration.

56. Mr. FESMAZOGLU (Greece) said that he would accept the United States amendment provided it was understood that if no contributions in kind were received, the Fund would use financial contributions to purchase meat and fish supplies at a reasonable price.

57. Miss LENROOT (United States of America) said that her interpretation of her proposal coincided with that given by the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Executive Director, and did not imply any change in the existing policy of the Fund.

58. After some further discussion, the CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Greek draft resolution as amended by the United States which read as follows:

"The representative of Greece drew the attention of the Board to the very special conditions existing in his country. With the allocation of $145,000 recommended by the Programme Committee for food assistance to Greek children it would not be possible to extend the present feeding programme for the full number of children and mothers beyond July 1950, although the serious need for this assistance at the present level would continue undiminished until the summer of next year. The Executive Board recognized that, in view of the particularly great needs of Greek children, it was desirable to continue the present feeding programme until the end of the coming winter.

"The Board, therefore, authorizes the Administration to permit continuance of the feeding programme at the present level, and to circularize the Board as soon as resources permit with regard to an increased allocation".

The draft resolution as amended was unanimously adopted.
Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) thought that in view of the considerations put forward by the Administration, and the existing needs in Yugoslavia, a similar text should be adopted for that country. She therefore suggested the following paragraph:

"In view of the information received on Yugoslavia, the Executive Board similarly authorizes the Administration to permit the continuation of feeding programmes in Yugoslavia at the present level and to circulate the Board as soon as resources permit with regard to increased allocations."

Miss LENROTH (United States of America) and Mr. PESMAZOGLU (Greece) supported the Canadian representative's proposal.

Mr. PLEIC (Yugoslavia) thanked the Canadian representative for her proposal. The need in Yugoslavia as a result of war devastation and that country's struggle for independence was well known.

The text proposed by the Canadian representative was unanimously adopted.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE FOLLOWING SESSION

A sounding of Board opinion resulted in a consensus that the following session might best be held during the plenary meetings shortly after the opening of the fifth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5:55 p. m.