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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND
EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 7 October 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

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General Progress Report of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/205,
E/ICEF/205/Corr.1, E/ICEF/205/Add.1 (continued))
PRESENT:

Chairman: Mrs. SINCLAIR

Members:

Mr. BRENNAN
Mr. FENAUX
Mr. FLAMMARION COSTA
Mr. PEIRIS
Mr. CHENG PAGNAN
Dr. BIGNARD
Mr. ROUSSOS
Mr. RAJAN
Mrs. MARZUKI
Mr. KHALIDY
Mrs. FARMAN
Mr. GIUFFRETTI
Mr. SCOTT
Mr. ARREVALO CARRENO
Mr. GARCIA
Mr. LINDT
Mr. DEVAKUL
Mr. KRIVITSKY
Mr. ANDERSON
Dr. ELIOT
Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT
Mr. PLEC

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss Riegelman
Dr. COIGNY
Mr. WRIGHT

Secretariat:

Miss HENDERSON

Canada
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Ceylon
China
France
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Israel
Italy
New Zealand
Peru
Philippines
Switzerland
Thailand
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Yugoslavia

International Labour Organization (ILO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
Department of Social Affairs
UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE
Mr. HEYWARD
Mr. BORDERS
Dr. BORCIC
Mr. SCHMITTLINGER
Mr. DAVIE
Mr. EGGER
Mr. KEENY
Mr. CHARNOW

Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Advisor
Programme Co-ordinator
Director, Latin American Regional Office
Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
Director, Asia Regional Office
Secretary of the Board

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Mr. ACTON
Mrs. FOX
Miss GUTHRIE
Mr. ACTON
Miss DINGMAN
Miss COLEY
Mr. BLATTEBURG
Mr. RONALDS
Miss SCHÄFFER

NGO Committee on UNICEF
World Federation of United Nations Associations
International Alliance of Women
International Society for the Welfare of Cripples
International Union for Child Welfare
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
World Jewish Congress
World Union for Progressive Judaism
World Union of Catholic Women Organizations

The CHAIRMAN invited observations on the progress report on the work in Asia given the previous day by Mr. Keeney.

Mrs. MARZUKI (Indonesia) expressed her delegation's appreciation of the report and gratification at the tremendous progress made in Asia as a result of the Fund's work. The developments in the past year in Indonesia had been remarkable, especially in connexion with maternal and child welfare schemes in rural areas. The lack of trained personnel had been partly overcome by the introduction of a simplified form of training. She felt she need give no further details in view of the fact that the situation as a whole was clearly described in the Executive Director's recommendations for future appropriations (E/ICEF/R.367).

Mr. PEREIS (Ceylon) congratulated the Executive Director and his staff on the very comprehensive report submitted. In the Asian section, he had been particularly heartened by the evidence of useful co-operation between UNICEF, WHO and FAO, the effect of which was to expedite the joint work. He also welcomed the Fund's continued activities in the field of maternal and child welfare, particularly in rural areas. The Administration was to be commended for the proposed extension of the programme to include environmental sanitation.

Lack of skilled staff was generally acknowledged to be the chief stumbling block to progress in the public health field in under-developed areas. UNICEF action to fill that gap, while praiseworthy, seemed hardly adequate and it was to be hoped that it could be extended in the future.

Tuberculosis was now the greatest scourge to the people of Ceylon and the surrounding areas, the erstwhile enemy, malaria, having been brought largely under control. He would like to see more funds devoted to combating its ravages in the future.

/On the question
On the question of fund raising, he fully agreed with the Indian representative that the budget of $20 million was eminently reasonable and possible, having regard to world potentialities. His Government, for its part, despite the recent economic setback it had suffered as a result of international factors, had done its utmost to fulfil its obligations to UNICEF and thus to help the children of the world.

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) said that her delegation also had been deeply impressed by Mr. Keeny's report which indicated that substantial progress had been made in a number of programmes. In evaluating achievements at meetings of the board there was sometimes a tendency to lose sight of the human effort involved in implementing the Fund's field operation. The deeper insight provided by Mr. Keeny had led to a better understanding of how much had been achieved as a result of the devotion and industry of the people in the field.

The overriding importance of training schemes to meet the tremendous shortage of skilled workers had been greatly emphasized. She wondered whether Mr. Keeny regarded the existing programmes as representing the maximum effort required in that field.

Mr. KEENY (Director, Asia Regional Office) answered that every health department in his area would agree on the need for building up trained staff as speedily as possible. The dilemma was how to achieve the proper balance between the training of supervisory and elementary staff. The need for a subsistence allowance to trainees was another practical obstacle to the recruitment of suitable candidates. The Programme Committee would have the opportunity to recommend how far UNICEF should go in subsidizing local training programmes. He personally would urge expansion of such subsidies, with suitable safeguards to assure that such expenditures increased the amount of training.

Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) joined in the tribute to Mr. Keeny and the Asian staff. It had been an extremely interesting report because of the introduction of the human touch and also because it showed that UNICEF's action in Asia was very rightly being conducted at a local level. That was an encouraging trend. In the Philippines, most of the existing maternal and child welfare centres were in the rural areas.
Referring to a point raised the previous day by the Australian representative, he said that the Philippine Government was fully prepared to carry on within the limit of available resources the projects initiated through UNICEF aid, although, in common with other under-developed countries, its balance-of-payments situation was not as favourable as a year ago, when the demand for primary products was at its height.

International collaboration was well illustrated by the example cited in the report where coconut oil donated by the Philippines had been processed in Australia before being distributed in Palestine.

In conclusion he paid a tribute to the head of the UNICEF mission in the Philippines, Mr. James McCall, who because of his long residence in the Philippines, had shown an exceptional understanding of the country and its people.

Mr. RAJAN (India) also recorded his warm appreciation of the report and gratification at the encouraging picture which it had outlined. He had been particularly impressed by two facts: first, the substantially larger proportion of the Fund's resources that was now being devoted to maternal and child welfare programmes and, secondly, the progress made in supplying aid to areas difficult to reach, such as Afghanistan. The Indian delegation attached particular importance to the latter trend because the universal nature of the Fund was of more than sentimental significance to India and the presence of UNICEF aid in such countries was bringing home to the peoples the reality of the United Nations as a constructive force in everyday affairs.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) also voiced appreciation of the admirable and inspiring report submitted by Mr. Keeny, adding at the same time a tribute to the Executive Director's report. The way in which countries in South and South-East Asia were practising self-help was a cause for very considerable gratification for all contributors to UNICEF work. It was evidence that the initial work was now bearing fruit in large measure.

New Zealand had been interested for some years in the development of humanitarian causes in South and South-East Asia and in its modest way had contributed to the Colombo Plan and the work of UNICEF. Its interest and contributions were now being amply repaid by the good work accomplished in that area.
Dr. ELIOT (United States of America) also expressed appreciation of Mr. Keeny's report. She particularly welcomed the reference to the training of staff since adequate skilled personnel would be the corner-stone of future progress. The great strides made in the establishment of maternal and child welfare centres was also very encouraging. That side of UNICEF's work had resulted from the initial recommendation made to the Fund by the first field visitor to those Asian countries. Their importance as practical centres of health education could not be overstressed. The emphasis on health education in rural areas was also very gratifying.

The CHAIRMAN declared the discussion closed and thanked Mr. Keeny.

Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF), answering a question on training asked by the Israeli representative at the previous meeting, said that the sum of $143,000 was mainly intended to cover equipment for twenty-six centres of midwifery in two different countries, fifteen schools of nursing in one country and ten schools for assistant midwives. That accounted for $30,000 or the bulk of the allocation. A further $20,000 was to be devoted to equipment for training of traditional midwives in district centres and $29,000 for stipends for auxiliary midwife trainees. Further details on the type of training involved would be found in the documents relating to individual recommendations (E/ICEF/R.367 and E/ICEF/R.368).

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel), referring to the division of the allocation between equipment and stipends for instructors, said that the proportion for instructors appeared to be very small and should be increased.

The CHAIRMAN felt it was only fair to point out that although at the last Executive Board meeting the Administration had been authorized to bring forward recommendations for the payment of local stipends under certain conditions, the broad policy of requiring local payment of such costs had still been maintained. She wondered how far it had been possible to implement that policy.

/Mr. HEYWARD
Mr. REYWARD (Deputy Director of UNICEF) pointed out that the figures he had quoted did not include international staff acting as instructors, the cost of which was borne by UNICEF or the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The information he had just given therefore did not tell the complete story as to proportions devoted to instruction. So far as he was aware all requests for international advisory staff for teaching purposes were being met. The allocation for stipends was to meet payments to local trainees under certain conditions established by the Board. The individual countries concerned were still expected to meet their obligations as before.

Mr. EGGER (Director, Africa, European and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) began his review of the work in the Eastern Mediterranean area by drawing attention to the relevant section of the Executive Director's report where a very true picture of the situation was given.

Of the total allocations to the area amounting approximately to $2.9 million, $2 million related to programmes which were scheduled to start in 1952 onwards. Procurement operations had already been done for half that amount and about one-fourth of the total supplies had already been shipped and imminent delivery of the remainder was awaited.

The programmes covered by the remaining $1 million had already been approved by the Board but the necessary procurement and shipping arrangements had not yet been started. The main operations concerned were milk conservation projects in Iran and Israel, DDT and insecticide plants in Egypt, Iraq and Syria, anti-venereal campaigns in Iraq and Syria and a small non-programmed balance for maternal and child welfare work in Iraq and Israel.

Activities in the eastern Mediterranean area were passing from the preliminary to the operating stage and programmes now being started would be greatly extended in the future.

He reviewed in detail the state of the work in the different countries under the various programme headings: BCG vaccination campaigns, malaria control, milk conservation projects, and maternal and child health.

The slow development of the BCG campaigns was not a matter for surprise. The initial steps of selecting and training local teams, charting supply routes for the vaccine and instituting the necessary co-ordination within each country all took a certain time. The response to the work, however, and the degree of co-operation given by local authorities was highly encouraging.
UNICEF direct aid to Palestine refugees was now in its last stages. The Fund had been more than happy to place its experience of procurement of relief supplies (in particular milk) for emergency operations at the disposal of another United Nations agency. It was estimated that the food stocks in hand would last until January or February of next year. The pre-fabricated huts which had been procured in Yugoslavia had arrived in Gaza where great satisfaction had been expressed regarding their type and quality.

Speaking generally, the mass health campaigns undertaken to combat tuberculosis and malaria had more than proved their worth. Nevertheless, future efforts would be better concentrated on the expansion of maternal and child health services, particularly in local areas. WHO had reached a similar conclusion independently. The resulting network of centres would serve as a basis for comprehensive public health services and eventually the centres would take over much of the preventive work now being undertaken in separate programmes.

For the future, therefore, it was recommended that apart from anti-tuberculosis campaigns to be extended to cover the remaining two countries in the area, Jordan and the Sudan, the chief emphasis should be laid on maternal and child health work: training of staff including payment of stipends, establishment of centres, equipment of pediatric and obstetric centres in hospitals and so on.

Nutrition constituted a third main field of activity where much remained to be done. UNICEF assistance would be devoted to helping governments to set up training and demonstration centres and establish plants for the collection, processing and distribution of milk. Further study of the various problems involved was imperative and in that connexion he was glad to note that FAO had appointed a nutrition adviser to the area.

Finally, he expressed appreciation for the valuable collaboration of WHO, given mainly through its various expert advisers. Co-operation with the Technical Co-operation Administration in Washington had also been strengthened recently and a full interchange of information between the two organizations was now taking place in the field.

In conclusion, he again acknowledged that net results in the area were relatively small. The foundation had been laid, however, for subsequent expansion and the relations established with governments and private agencies were an encouraging augury for the future.

/Mr. KHALIDY.
Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) expressed his Government's general satisfaction with the report of the Executive Director and with the projects planned for the Eastern Mediterranean area, paying a tribute to the staff who were engaged in carrying out those projects. The Iraqi Government had had occasion to observe at first hand the vital contribution which UNICEF projects could make and would favour the permanent continuation of the organization, if necessary.

Conditions as regards UNICEF's programme in the Eastern Mediterranean area were not perfect in all respects. As Europe's needs had received top priority after the war, projects in the Eastern Mediterranean area were just being initiated. Accordingly, little had been accomplished so far in comparison with the need, but a beginning had been made. It might be best, as UNICEF proposed, to concentrate on long-range mother and child health programmes, but he also thought that the training programmes were most essential for the future development of the programme.

He assured the Board of his Government's continuing co-operation with UNICEF's projects in that area.

His Government felt, however, that increased direct contact between the organization and the area, which would result in a better understanding of the needs and problems of the area, was vital to the success of the projects. In expressing that viewpoint, he was not criticizing any particular person but rather the system in general. For example, His Government felt that a headquarters for the Eastern Mediterranean area established in Europe could not adequately service the area. Despite the subsidiary office in the region, many important decisions required a final word from the Paris office and that, in turn, could lead to delays.

His Government had no objection to maintaining a separate headquarters in Europe for that area, if necessary, but it felt that the success of the programme would be promoted if closer contact could be established between the organization and the Eastern Mediterranean area. The Committee on Administrative Budget, in discussing that matter would undoubtedly raise questions of procurement. He was not so much interested in that aspect of the problem as in the question of the feasibility of setting up separate headquarters to serve the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Although the staff and the director, Mr. Eggert, had undoubtedly done their utmost to understand the problems of the area, it was difficult to deal with such matters from such a distance. In conclusion, he expressed his Government's satisfaction with the projects under way and hoped that those activities would be expanded.

/Mr. PATE
Mr. PATE (Executive Director of UNICEF) confirmed the Administration's support of the principle of close personal contact between UNICEF's staff and the representatives of Governments working in the field as well as of the principle of the decentralization of activities.

Mr. EGGER (Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) agreed with the Iraqi representative that increasingly close relations between his staff and the persons working in the field would be useful. It was with that in mind that after a visit to the area Mr. Heyward, the deputy executive director had recommended increasing the staff of the Beirut Office and the programme staff at the Paris headquarters so that more attention could be given to the problems of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

He pointed out that two-thirds of the time of his staff had been spent in that area, despite the fact that the office had to visit many countries which were not easily accessible. In the circumstances, therefore, he felt that direct contact with the area had been maintained. Moreover, as projects in the field of milk conservation were brought to a close in Europe more attention could be devoted to the problems of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the discussion of the headquarters of the Eastern Mediterranean area should be postponed until the Board took up the report of the Committee on Administrative Budget.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) thanked Mr. Egger for his report on activities in the Eastern Mediterranean area, adding that her Government welcomed the stress on mother and child health and training programmes. Well-developed mother and child health services had been set up in all areas of her country.

She also welcomed the appointment of a resident nutrition adviser and expressed the hope that efforts would be made to develop new foods for the area as well as better utilization of local foods, possibly in a processed form for children.

She also thanked UNICEF for its assistance to Israeli milk conservation programme, the implementation of which had been slowed down by the need to adapt it to the situation arising from her Government's new economic policy. She added that communications between her Government, the Area Officer and Headquarters had been dealt with promptly and efficaciously. No delay had been experienced due to the location of Headquarters in Paris.

/Mr. ANDERSON
Mr. ANDERSON (United Kingdom) said his Government was pleased to note in the report of the Executive Director and in the statement of the Director of the European and Eastern Mediterranean regional office that increasing attention was being given to the Eastern Mediterranean area. It also agreed that attention should be concentrated on the development of mother and child welfare services for that policy would prove very effective in the long run.

The comments in the report on co-operation with other agencies working in the area were most interesting. Such co-operation was essential if any improvement was to be brought about in conditions in the Middle Eastern countries. He remarked that any favourable developments in the economic and social conditions of that area would also help to solve the problem of the Palestine refugees. At a previous session the Board had wisely decided that the chief responsibility for the Palestine refugees should be entrusted to the UNRWA. That decision, in his Government's view, was correct both procedurally as well as from the financial viewpoint. His Government was gratified, however, to note the closer co-operation developed between UNICEF and UNRWA.

He also noted with satisfaction the comments in the report on the economic refugees in Gaza and Jordan, for although they were not strictly within the terms of reference of UNRWA, there was no doubt that they were refugees in the true sense of the word. He was also pleased to observe that, subject to the approval of the Board, supplies in kind would continue to be made available to the Palestine refugees.

The United Kingdom and the local authorities were gratified at the results achieved in the vaccinations campaign UNICEF had conducted in Aden and welcomed the proposal to extend UNICEF operations to the Sudan.

Mr. EGGERT (Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) said that his office's activities were centred mainly on the mother and child health and milk conservation programmes for Europe. In future, those activities would be carried on without the assistance of resident missions, and would be conducted directly from Paris with the aid of visiting staff from UNICEF, WHO and FAO.

He wished to report briefly on two projects for mother and child welfare programmes which were submitted to the Board at its previous session. In connexion with the programme for Greece, WHO had appointed an expert to assist in the project and he was now on his way to the area. He intended to stay at least a month to...
review the plan of operations, and to assist the Government in putting the programme into effect. The Greek Government had given careful attention to preparations for the project. It had established a Special Committee of physicians, pediatricians and representatives of voluntary welfare agencies who had investigated the area and worked out a plan of operations. They had selected Thessaly for the experiment, deeming it to be typical. The programme was well advanced and the recommendations for funds for that programme were intended to enable the mother and child welfare centres to distribute milk, cod liver oil and soup.

In preparation for the mother and child welfare programme in Portugal, he had attended the WHO conference held at Lisbon in September 1952 and had discussed the problem with the Portuguese authorities. They had settled a number of questions relating to the basic agreement.

Most of the mother and child welfare activities in Portugal were centred in the Institute for Mother and Child Welfare. A training centre, maternity ward, dispensary and the office of the Administrative Services for the Provinces were located at the Institute. The Director had stated that the UNICEF programme was being instituted at a particularly fortunate time and would enable the Government to introduce mother and child welfare services into the provinces, adding that UNICEF had been instrumental in securing Government approval for expanding the mother and child welfare services. To illustrate the necessity for that programme, he mentioned that Portugal had the highest infant mortality rate in Europe. UNICEF programmes had been successful in reducing the infant mortality rate in southern France, Italy and Yugoslavia and he hoped to achieve the same favourable results in Portugal.

In planning the programme, funds should be allocated for expendables such as dried milk. He had received assurances that there would be adequate personnel to staff the mother and child welfare centres throughout the country in the initial stages.

A further recommendation for funds was made to enable UNICEF to purchase equipment and supplies so that the Yugoslav Government could extend its mother and child welfare services into rural areas and so that the training programme could be revised.

He then
He then outlined the situation with regard to the milk conservation programmes, mentioning in particular the problems reviewed in paragraph 119 of the report. It should be pointed out, however, that definite progress with regard to milk conservation had been made. The Board should bear in mind that in many countries, bottling and pasteurizing techniques had been largely unknown until introduced by the governments with the assistance of UNICEF. Governments were attempting to accomplish in a few years what it had taken some countries over two decades to do.

After giving examples of the type of difficulties the UNICEF was encountering, he mentioned that satisfactory progress had been made in the programme for extending milk conservation projects in Italy.

At the Lisbon Conference of WHO, his office had established close contact with representatives of the various ministries of health, who were members of WHO Regional Committee. Those relations should prove most helpful to UNICEF in future.

Through the relations established at the Conference, UNICEF had been invited to visit Spain to work out milk conservation programmes.

Such, in brief, were the principal UNICEF activities in Europe. In addition to its mother and child welfare programmes and milk conservation programmes, it was engaged in extensive procurement work. It had made preparations for a series of visits by Mr. Speak of Belgium on a fund-raising campaign and in addition, it maintained contact with non-governmental organizations and with governments with a view to disseminating information on UNICEF.

Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) expressed his Government's appreciation to UNICEF, WHO and FAO for the assistance they had given the Greek Government in setting up mother and child welfare services.

His Government was also satisfied with the report of the Executive-Director and felt that no effort should be spared to develop the work of UNICEF.
There was a tendency to shift the emphasis in the Fund's activities from Europe to other areas, and he could understand the reasons for that trend. He was sure, however, that the Board was well aware of the Greek Government's plight, as Greece had suffered severely during the war, and would take a sympathetic attitude towards its problems.

Mr. PLEIC (Yugoslavia) thanked UNICEF and its staff for the assistance it had given European countries and Yugoslavia in particular.

Although certain UNICEF programmes in Europe were coming to an end that did not mean that the end of UNICEF's activities in Europe was in sight. Such an attitude would be unrealistic. Although the principal stress in UNICEF's activities would henceforth lie in other areas, many countries of Europe were under-developed and had the highest rates of infant mortality in the world, and therefore would continue to require assistance in the future.

He reserved the right to comment on the question of regional offices at a later stage in the debate.

The CHAIRMAN expressed regret that the Board would be unable to see the WHO film as had been planned. Unfortunately, there were no adequate facilities in the Headquarters building in which to show the film.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.