SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York on Thursday, 19 March 1953, at 2.30 p.m.

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PRESENT:

Chairman: Mr. LINDT Switzerland
Members:

Mr. CARASALES (Argentina)
Mr. MRTALE (Australia)
Mr. BRENNAN (Belgium)
Mr. FEN I (Brazil)
Mr. SOUTELLO ALVES (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)
Mr. TEPLOV (Canada)
Mrs. SINCLAIR (China)
Mr. TSAO (Czechoslovakia)
Mr. GLOZAR (Ecuador)
Mr. LUKES (France)
Mr. CONCHA-ENRIQUEZ (Greece)
Mr. DEBRE (India)
Mr. ROUSOS (Iraq)
Mr. RAJAN (Israel)
Mr. KHALIDY (Italy)
Mr. UMARI (Jordan)
Mrs. HARMAN (Norway)
Mr. GIRETTI (Pakistan)
Mr. HANCKE (Peru)
Mr. HALDANI (Philippines)
Mr. HELGUIN de LAVALLE (Thailand)
Mr. REYES (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Mr. DEVAKUL (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. CHEGHEITKIN (United States of America)
Mr. ANDERSON (Uruguay)
Miss ELIOT (Yugoslavia)
Mr. FABREGAT
Mr. KOS

Also present: Mr. ACTON (Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF)
PRESENT: (cont'd)

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. MAHDAVI
Mrs. SICMANIDIS
Mr. ANDERSON
Mr. ARNALDO
Mr. COIGNY
Mrs. MCLAUGHER

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Mr. ARIAS-PEREZ

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category B:

Mr. LEWIN
Mr. VERGARA
Mr. MOCKOWITZ
Mr. JULKYN
Mrs. FREEMAN
Mrs. NOONAN
Mr. WILSON
Miss DINGMAN
Mrs. ARNETT
Mr. JACOBY
Miss SCHAEFER
Miss GARTLAN

Agudas Israel World Organization
Catholic International Union for Social Service
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations
Friends World Committee
International Council of Women
International Federation of University 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 of Catholic Women's Organizations
World Federation for Mental Health

Register:

Miss ASCHER

Secretariat:

Miss HENDERSON

Director, Division of Social Welfare
PRESENT: (cont'd)

UNICEF Administration:

Mr. PATE           Executive Director
Mr. KEYWARD        Deputy, Executive Director
Mr. FORGIC         Medical Advisers UNICEF/WHO
Mr. YUAN           Milk Conservation Co-ordinator
Mr. SABIN          Director, Latin America Regional Office
Mr. DAVES          Director, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
Mr. EGGERS         Director, Asia Regional Office
Mr. KEENY          Secretary of the Board
Mr. CHARNOV
Miss HENDERSON (Director of the Division of Social Welfare) said that, since the previous meeting of the Board, there had been daily informal co-operation between her Division and the UNICEF Administration, both at Headquarters and in the field. That co-operation had been particularly valuable in connexion with the Rome meeting of the ACC Technical Working Group on Long-Range Activities for Children, at which child nutrition had been the main item of discussion. The co-operation of FAO and WHO on that subject had also been much appreciated and the Working Group's discussions had been particularly helpful in showing how the United Nations and the agencies not directly concerned with child nutrition could play their part. The Group had made various concrete recommendations to the ACC and had also taken the opportunity to discuss the progress made since its previous meeting held in Paris in 1951. In the intervening period, a survey had been initiated in Burma to help the Government draw up a plan for the improvement of its social services. The United Nations, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, ILO and FAO were all participating in that project. Progress had been made in the preparations for a similar survey in Syria and negotiations for another in Latin America were also under way.

On the question of the training of auxiliary workers, agreement had been reached on a definition of terms and a distinction would henceforth be drawn between an "auxiliary worker", who came under the direct supervision of a professional, and a "community worker" who performed general social work in the community without any direct professional supervision. In India in December 1952, there had been held the first of a series of meetings of expert groups of selected heads of various training establishments for auxiliary workers in the region. There again the department benefited from the active participation of UNICEF, WHO, FAO, ILO and UNESCO. The Group had come to various concrete conclusions which she hoped would also prove useful to UNICEF. Two similar meetings were planned for 1953, one to be held in Latin America and the other in the Middle East. She hoped that after those meetings it would be possible to issue some general guidance for governments and for UNICEF on the training of auxiliary and community workers.
Since her previous report there had also been a meeting of the ACC Technical Working Group on the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. UNICEF had participated in a number of the meetings and had expressed particular interest in the preventive aspects of the work, an attitude which was fully in accord with the philosophy of the Group itself and especially of its member from WHO. The Group had had before it an excellent report from the WHO expert group on handicapped children, a document which she warmly recommended to the Executive Board as general policy guidance for UNICEF. There were certain financial difficulties involved in the programme for the rehabilitation of physically handicapped children because the Technical Assistance Board had ruled that it could not support from expanded programme funds, any rehabilitation projects unless they were closely related to economic development. Consequently, the work of the International Children's Centre, UNICEF and the non-governmental organizations was of particular importance in that field.

She then gave a brief outline of the social work of the United Nations under three main heads: advisory social welfare services, community organization and development and the preparation of items for the ninth session of the Social Commission. Under the first of those heads, experts on child welfare had been sent to a number of countries, sixty fellowships or scholarships had been awarded and various seminars had been organized at which problems of child welfare had played an important part. Under community organization and development, three missions had been sent out to evaluate the present community development projects in the Caribbean, the Middle East and South East Asia. The reports of those missions would soon be ready for publication. They contained a number of common conclusions, particularly that community development projects stood a far greater chance of success if they formed part of an overall national programme.

Among the documents which were being prepared for the ninth session of the Social Commission, there was one main progress report on the strengthening of national child welfare programmes. Another document, which would soon be available, would bear the title "Concerted Programme of Practical Action in the
Social Field". That document was intended to provide a series of practical suggestions to follow up the report on the World Social Situation which had contained an outline of the major problems. The new document would include one important chapter on child welfare services, which UNICEF had helped to prepare. Finally, a paper would also be submitted to the Social Commission on the future of UNICEF containing the Social Affairs Department's recommendation that UNICEF should be continued.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Miss Henderson for her very interesting statement.

Mr. DEBRE (France) also thanked Miss Henderson for her statement in which she had dealt with a number of very important problems and had described the valuable practical activities of the Social Affairs Department. The work on the rehabilitation of handicapped children and the training of auxiliary workers would be of particular value to UNICEF.

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON UNICEF AND RESOLUTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS (E/ICEF/NGO.1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mr. ACTON (Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF) introduced the Committee's report (E/ICEF/NGO.1). He was glad to report that twenty-four non-governmental organizations were now members of the Committee and that fourteen others had participated in its work as observers. All the members and observers had shown a keen interest in the purposes of UNICEF and had made a very real contribution to the Committee's work. Experience had already proved the Committee's value and he was convinced that the future would bring added evidence of the Board's wisdom in establishing that formal machinery for consultation with the non-governmental organizations.
Since the last meeting of the Board, the Committee had concentrated on three main points. The first was a plan to collect information on the child health and welfare programmes of all the national organizations affiliated with the organizations represented in the Committee. The second was the question of government contributions to UNICEF, a problem which all the national affiliates of the Committee's members would assist in interpreting to their governments. The third item of concern was the future role and status of UNICEF. The Committee's function there was to provide accurate and realistic information to international and national non-governmental organizations and to encourage intelligent discussion of the question.

The Committee was also very interested in the specific aspects of UNICEF's programme but it had decided that any recommendations should come from the organizations particularly concerned rather than from the Committee as a whole. The resolutions adopted by various individual organizations had been submitted to the Board in documents E/ICEF/NGO.2, 3 and 4.

In conclusion, he expressed his sincere appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Board for their co-operation and he was convinced that the Committee would justify their confidence.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Acton for his statement and expressed appreciation to the NGO Committee and to the organizations which had submitted resolutions for their very valuable contribution to the work of UNICEF.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) also expressed appreciation for the work of the NGO Committee.

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) said that the NGO Committee and its members were already playing a very helpful part in disseminating information about the activities of UNICEF. He felt sure that their services would be of help in augmenting the resources of the Fund.
STATEMENTS BY REGIONAL DIRECTORS ON AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA

Mr. EGGER (UNICEF) reported on the work in Africa during the past year with particular emphasis on the anti-malaria campaigns and the child-feeding programmes. A good start had been made in the campaign against malaria. With regard to child nutrition, programmes had been started in the Belgian Congo, Ruanda Urundi and French Equatorial Africa. When the pilot phase had been completed, the programmes would be reviewed and possibly altered. He had been impressed by the need for UNICEF to integrate its programmes with those already in operation in the various countries and territories of Africa. He had also noted a general trend away from purely curative medicine towards preventive medicine. Thus far UNICEF had concentrated its activities mainly in West and Central Africa but it hoped soon to be able to extend them to the British territories in East Africa where preliminary contacts had already been established.

Mr. KEENY (UNICEF) described the Fund's work in Asia, with particular emphasis on the campaigns against malaria and yaws and on the need to help to build up those campaigns as government programmes from the very beginning. He depicted an average day of UNICEF activities throughout Asia and indicated how local personnel were carrying increasing responsibility for the campaigns. He explained how the cost of anti-yaws campaigns would be decreased by nearly two-thirds because of cheaper penicillin, greater volume and simplified methods. By improving administration the local cost of BCG injections had been reduced in one state from fifteen cents to three cents per person.

He made a strong plea for more advance planning and closer calculation of costs before the programmes were started. The international experts should be trained to administer mass programmes and, if possible, should be engaged on long-term contracts so that they could acquaint themselves thoroughly with the local staff and local problems. Once the campaigns were begun, every effort

1/ The complete text of this statement will be circulated as document E/ICEF/224.
should be made to carry them through at an accelerated rate. While the experts on the spot should have the greatest possible freedom of action, the programmes were government programmes and the chief executive should be an influential national leader.1/

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) observed that the most interesting feature of the mass campaigns was that they paved the way for the effective functioning of maternal and child welfare centres, which usually became part of government welfare programmes. A most encouraging aspect of the reports given was the extent to which UNICEF action was encouraging self-effort and self-help. The Board would appreciate the preparation of a comprehensive analysis of the national and local effort matching the investment of the Fund.

Mr. RAJAN (India) said that he had been impressed by the account of how the cost of anti-yaws and BCG campaigns could be reduced and by the striking results achieved in Asia by mass health campaigns. The fact that the emphasis was now shifting to Maternal and Child Welfare programmes was further proof of the success of those campaigns. An anti-malaria campaign designed to reach 200 million people in the next three years was being launched in India with the help of bilateral aid. For that the pioneering work of the Fund deserved substantial credit.

Mr. REYES (Philippines) agreed with the Israel and Indian representatives. One of the principal aims of the mass campaigns should be to induce the peoples to identify themselves with the purposes of the United Nations Charter as expressed in UNICEF’s activities.

Mr. HEYWARD (UNICEF) said that a considerable amount of work had already been done towards the preparation of the comprehensive analysis of matching efforts suggested by the Israel representative. The resident representatives and regional officers regularly reported on such activities so that future costs could be estimated and the expenditure on each project could be kept continuously under review. That material was scrutinized and analysed by the Fund’s internal auditors. Thus, it might well be

1/ The complete text of this statement will be circulated as document E/ICEF/222.
possible to submit the suggested comprehensive analysis at the Board's next session. It should be borne in mind, however, that all matching activities could not be thus recorded, since a great deal of work was done independently by local authorities and voluntary organizations.

Mr. EGER (UNICEF) explained that in Europe UNICEF was no longer dealing with missions established there but directly with the governments concerned. In the countries from which the missions had been withdrawn liaison officers were maintaining close contact with the competent local authorities, particularly in Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece. That system had proved satisfactory. The principal recent activities had been fully reported in the general progress report of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/221).

Maternal and child welfare programmes were being concentrated mainly in Greece and Yugoslavia and advance procurement had begun. There had been some delays owing to the difficulties encountered by WHO in making available the services of a maternal and child welfare adviser. In some cases, short-term consultants had been employed, but that system was not entirely satisfactory.

The progress of the penicillin plant in Yugoslavia was very encouraging. The blood serum and plasma production laboratory in Belgrade would be in full production in the near future, although there was still a shortage of fully qualified staff.

With regard to procurement, suppliers had shown an increased interest in recent months in UNICEF business and procedures. In almost all cases it had been possible to satisfy their requests for information. The downward trend in prices had enabled the Fund to make better use of the various currencies available to it. Delivery periods had been shortened and the cost of moving supplies procured in Europe had been lowered by the reduction of freight charges negotiated in each individual case.
Public relations in Europe were still a problem. The governments and public had been accustomed to regarding UNICEF primarily as a post-war emergency organization. They were only too apt to assume that their interest was no longer necessary since the emphasis had been shifted to the needs of the non-European under-developed countries. All public relations activities in Europe were currently concentrated on impressing on the governments and the public the change in UNICEF's main objectives. To that end close contact was being maintained with the governments and a bulletin was being published in six European languages to report on the progress of UNICEF's long-term activities and to promote understanding of what the Fund was doing in other areas.

With regard to future activities in Europe, the point raised by the Greek representative at the previous meeting would have to await the decision of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy.

Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) welcomed the assurance that maternal and child welfare programmes would be carried out in Greece and Yugoslavia. It was regrettable that they had been delayed by difficulties which could easily have been overcome. Those difficulties seemed to have occurred at the higher levels. Greater weight should be given to the views of the experts in the field, who were obviously in a better position to assess the needs and possibilities of the programmes. He would discuss that issue informally with the Executive Director.

Mr. DAVIE (UNICEF) described the Fund's work in Latin America, with particular emphasis on child feeding, which was to be regarded as a preparation for milk conservation programmes. Future action with regard to public health should be concentrated mainly on expanding the maternal and child welfare programmes. He outlined the Fund's activities in that connexion in the Latin American countries concerned.
Governments were becoming increasingly aware that the milk conservation programmes initiated by UNICEF would not only improve the health of mothers and children, but would entail a development of agriculture. In that way UNICEF was collaborating in the WHO policy of improving health internationally and the FAO policy of improving the world's food supply to counter the increase in population.¹/

In reply to Mr. REYES (Philippines) and Mr. FABREGAT (Uruguay), the CHAIRMAN said that members of the Board could raise any matters connected with the statements of the Executive Director and the regional directors when those statements had been circulated in the form of documents or when the proposals for allocations were submitted to the Board by the Programme Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

¹/ The complete text of this statement will be circulated as document E/ICEF/223.