SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 17 August, 1948 at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman: DR. L. RAJCEWAN (Poland)

Mr. S. Graziadio
Mr. E.J.R. Hayward
Mr. R. Campos
Mr. T. Guerassimov
Dr. T.Y. Wu
Dr. P. Winkler
Mr. Dich
Dr. L. Bugnard
Mr. E. Theodoropoulos
Mr. J. Van Heuven
Mr. W. Sutch
Mr. A. Garcia
Mr. I. Eckersten
Mr. G. Kharkoveth
Mr. A.R. Lindt
Mr. V.I. Kobushko
Mr. J.A.C.C. Alexander
Mr. L.K. Hyde

Mr. A.E. Davidson

Director, UNICEF European Regional Office.

Representative of the Secretary-General

Representatives of Specialized Agencies.

Mr. Martin Hill

WHO
The CHAIRMAN, opening the meeting, stated that it was an emergency meeting called to consider the request from the Mediator of Palestine, Count Bernadotte, for assistance to children and pregnant and nursing mothers among the refugees, both Arab and Jewish, of Palestine. He outlined the history of the request, and read a telegram from the Mediator authorizing Sir Raphael Cilento to present the request to the Fund on his behalf. A request from the Provisional Government of Israel was also before the Board. The report and recommendation of the Programme Committee was contained in Document E/ICEF/74, dated 14 August, 1948.

MR. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom), on the question of the availability of fund referred to Table 3 in Document E/901 and pointed out that the figure of $1,700,000 appearing there under "General Reserve" was the sum actually in hand, and that the present recommendation, therefore, would not involve any encroachment on other allocations or earmarked sum.

Replying to a question from Mr. Sutch (New Zealand), the CHAIRMAN, referring to Annex 4 to the Programme Committee's report (Resolution 186(S-2) at the General Assembly), which showed the source of the authority given to the Palestine Mediator to request the assistance of the Children's Fund. As regards formal application for assistance from the Governments concerned, the Mediator had been asked to obtain such formal applications. An application from the Provisional Government of Israel was already before the Board.

MR. HILL (Representative of the Secretary-General) considered that in the very unlikely eventuality that any concerned Government failed to respond to this invitation, it would indicate that that Government would not welcome the intervention of UNICEF, and in that event the Mediator would not press for UNICEF assistance.

MR. HYDE (United States) reminded the Board that the activity of UNICEF was supposed to have a rehabilitative character and he hoped that to the extent possible this aim should be borne in mind in the present operation.

MR. SUTCH (New Zealand) stressed the importance attached by his Government to Resolution 57(I) under which the Fund had been set up, and to the three classes of priorities there laid down. They did not consider that the case now...
before the Executive Board came under either class (a) or (b), and, in giving
support to the Programme Committee's recommendation in view of the urgency of the
situation, he would wish it to be clearly understood that no precedent would
thereby be created for setting aside the established priorities in the future.

MR. CALPES (Brazil) did not agree with the New Zealand interpretation
of Resolution 57(I). It was his position that this proposal could only be sup-
ported as an exceptional case.

MR. THEODOROPoulos (Greece) said his Government also had some misgivings
about a proposal which might appear to represent a deviation from the Fund's terms
of reference, but, recognizing the emergency situation in the Middle East, they
were prepared to vote the present recommendation as an exceptional measure.

MR. DAVIDSON (UNICEF) assured the Board that the Administration had
the principles of the Children's Fund very much in mind and fully recognized that
the proposal was an exceptional one in view of the state of emergency in Palestine.
He hoped that concrete plans could very shortly be prepared which would be in con-
formity with the terms of reference. The recommended allocation of $411,000 had
been arrived at on the basis of the estimated necessary supplementary feeding as
set out in document PC/7.1 (with subtraction of the cereals), together with a
proportionate per capita sum for the estimated number of refugees within the terri-
itory of Israel. Approximate figures were 250,000 mothers and children in Arab
areas, and 20,000 within Israel.

MR. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom), seconded by MR. HEYWARD (Australia),
moved the adoption of the report of the Programme Committee. With regard to the
principle of the "matching" contribution, he considered that this should not be
rigidly adhered to, in view of the fact that in the present case the recipients
of assistance were not in their normal place of residence but were displaced.
Possibly the contribution which the United Kingdom Government had made for assis-
tance to the refugees might be regarded as part of the "matching" contribution.

MR. SUTCH (New Zealand) and MR. HEYWARD (Australia) could not agree that
such a reservation was valid, but they believed that there was every prospect of
the usual contribution being made.
DR. EUGNARD (France) pointed out that, in view of the fact that the recommendation envisaged the provision of only 200 calories per capita, it was evident that the governments concerned would have to make a very large contribution.

MR. GRAZIADIO (Argentina) proposed, and it was agreed, that it should be placed on record that the Board considered the present case not only as urgent but as exceptional and not to be regarded as a precedent.

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the report submitted by the Programme Committee, with an appropriate amendment to paragraph 5, and that the Administrative should be asked to provide written monthly reports on the progress of the operation.

The Executive Board rose at 12.30 p.m.