INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Office of the I.L.O., Geneva,

Monday, 19 July, 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Dr. L. RAJCHMAN (Poland)

Mr. Salvador Crazadio (Argentina)
Mr. E. Heyward (Australia)
Mr. R. Campos (Brazil)
Mr. P. Guerassimov (Byelorussian SSR)
Mrs. D.B. Sinclair (Canada)
Dr. T.Y. Wu (China)
Dr. B. Schober (Czechoslovakia)
Mr. F. Friis (Denmark)
Dr. G. Coulon (France)
Mr. B. Theodoropoulos (Greece)
Miss M.Z.N. Witteveen (Netherlands)
Mr. C.C. Aikman (New Zealand)
Mr. E. Winsnes (Norway)
Mr. S. Soderblom (Sweden)
Dr. A.R. Lindt (Switzerland)
Mr. I. Kozulia (Ukrainian SSR)
Mr. T. Hewitson (Union of South Africa)
Mr. V. Kobushko (U.S.S.R.)
Mr. J.A.C.C. Alexander (U.K.)
Miss K. Lenroot (U.S.)
Dr. A. Stamper (Yugoslavia)

Mr. M. Pate (Executive Director, UNICEF)
Mr. A.E. Davidson (Director, EHQ, UNICEF)
Dr. B. Bercic (UNICEF)
Mr. D.R. Sabin (UNICEF)
Mr. J.J. Charnow (UNICEF)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Miss B. Howell (WHO)
Dr. J.M. Latsky (FAO)

Observation Tour of the Members of the Programme Committee

The CHAIRMAN introduced Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada), Chairman of the Programme Committee, who first commented on the observation tour taken by members....
Demographic Survey of Certain Countries of the World (E/ICEF/W.7)

After the Chairman opened the meeting, Mr. CAMPOS (Brazil) referred to E/ICEF/W.7, pointing out that statistical data were given only for three Latin American countries and omitted all of the Middle and Far East. He stressed the low level of child health and nutrition in the underdeveloped countries, and could not see how allocations could be made without objective comparative data, especially on infant mortality rates. He gave data which showed that the infant mortality rates in Chile were far in excess of those of the U.S. and U.K. zones of Germany.

Miss LENROOT (U.S,) shared Mr. CAMPOS’ views with regard to the desirability of more complete data. She stressed, however, that it was difficult to draw conclusions from statistical data alone, no matter how accurate the data might be, and that interpretation and analysis of the relevant non-quantitative factors was also necessary. She agreed, however, that the time had come when serious consideration needed to be given to having more complete information on the needs of children in the various parts of the world for purposes of comparison with the UNICEF emergency programmes. She proposed the following resolution as perhaps a way of meeting the problems posed by Mr. CAMPOS:

"The Executive Board, having examined material made available to it in its present session concerning the needs of children in various countries of the world, including such partial statistical material as has been compiled, request the Administration to undertake, with such co-operation as the Division of Social Activities, Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations and the World Health Organization may be able to provide, to assemble and compile such material as may be available concerning the health and welfare of children in all countries, and report to the Board not later than January 1st, 1949."

Mr. SUTCH (New Zealand) stated that in his view such a study was not in the emergency scope of UNICEF, and would seem to be more within the province of some other United Nations Agency.

Mr. ALEXANDER (U.K.) agreed with Mr. SUTCH. With regard to Germany, he pointed out that the needs of Germany would be considered only after priorities (a) and (b) of the Fund’s basic resolution have been taken care of.

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) pointed out that his staff had originally prepared more
prepared more comprehensive statistics, as suggested by Mr. CAMPOS, with the help of the WHO and United Nations Statistical Division. The unreliability of much of the data, however, resulted in a request that UNICEF not make them publically available.

Mr. WU (China) questioned the use of the term unreliable for the statistical data for some countries. He thought "inadequate" would be a better term.

Mr. THEODOROPoulos (Greece) pointed out that in some countries there was a fast moving picture, and figures were often obsolete because of this.

Mr. HEYWARD (Australia) urged that sight not be lost of the overall figures such as milk production, agricultural and industrial production, etc.

The CHAIRMAN gave illustrations of how the use of infant mortality statistics alone might be misleading. He agreed with Miss LENROOT (U.S.) that a monographic study of the state of children in the world would be valuable, but thought that the coordination and direction of such a study should be undertaken by the Division of Social Affairs, with other United Nations agencies participating. The Children's Fund would, of course, be in a good position through its field staff and survey teams to provide valuable information.

Miss LENROOT (U.S.) stated that on the basis of the discussion, she would submit a revised resolution.

Mr. CAMPOS (Brazil) stated that in his view, the establishment of categories of priorities by the General Assembly Resolution 57(I) did not mean exclusion of countries of the lowest categories. He drew attention to the fact that neither India nor Pakistan had made requests prior to the survey. He agreed with the U.S. Resolution, however, and suggested that a statistical study should be considered as a basis for an allocation by UNICEF.

Report of the Survey Mission to the Far East (Other than China) (E/ICEF/72)

Dr. PARRAN summarized the major points of the report submitted jointly by him and Dr. C.K. LAKSHMANAN emphasizing that the health standards of the countries visited were much lower than in the western countries, and that in /view of the.....
view of the limited funds available it was obviously impossible to attempt any large scale feeding of hungry children. For that reason emphasis was placed on programmes other than feeding. One striking feature is the high infant mortality rate in all of the countries visited. In only one country is the rate less than 100 per 1,000 live births. The Children's Fund has a considerable opportunity and obligation, and he was confident that much can be done with the available funds.

In response to a question from Miss LENROOT (U.S.), Dr. PARRAN thought that the allocations recommended might cover a period of 12 months except for capital equipment.

Answering a query of Mr. KOBUSHKO (U.S.S.R.), he pointed out that in the Netherlands East Indies, the Dutch authorities had given every assurance of "non discrimination" with regard to children in all areas and that they will forward the specific request for aid from Republican controlled areas with their endorsement and include it as a part of the total Netherlands request.

In response to a question of Mr. KOZULIA (Ukrainian SSR), Dr. PARRAN pointed out that allocations recommended for India and Pakistan were based upon proposals received from the two respective governments. On the question of malaria control, which was an important factor in infant mortality, Dr. PARRAN pointed out that the amount included in the WHO budget was inadequate, and in his belief, an allocation by UNICEF would intensify the work, already begun on a small scale.

After the Chairman thanked Dr. PARRAN for his excellent report, the meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.