UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 10 September 1953, at 10 a.m.

CONTENTS

UNICEF aid to the Eastern Mediterranean area: statement by the Director of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (E/ICEF/239)

(continued)

UNICEF aid to Latin America: statement by the Director of the Latin America Regional Office (E/ICEF/241)

UNICEF aid to Europe: statement by the Director of the Europe Regional Office (E/ICEF/242)
PRESENT:

Chairman: Mr. LINDT Switzerland
Members:
  Mr. CARASALES Argentina
  Mr. ERBRENNAN Australia
  Mr. FENAX Belgium
  Mr. de PAINA LEITE Brazil
  Mr. TEPLOV Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
  Mrs. SINCLAIR Canada
  Mr. TSAO China
  Mr. RYBAR Czechoslovakia
  Mr. GORSE France
  Mr. ROUSSOS Greece
  Mr. BANNERJEE India
  Mr. UMAR1 Iraq
  Mr. ROBERTI Italy
  Mr. GUNDERSEN Norway
  Mr. HOLGUIN Peru
  Mr. REYES Philippines
  Mr. DEVAKUL Thailand
  Mr. SVIRIN Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
  Mr. BARNES United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
  Miss ELIOT United States of America
  Mr. KOS Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss SCOTT  Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mrs. SISMANIDIS  
Mr. Van VEEN  
Mr. WORK  
Dr. COIGNY  
Dr. SUTTER  
Dr. VERHOEESTRADE  World Health Organization (WHO)
Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category A:</th>
<th>Category B:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. FOX</td>
<td>Miss GUTHRIE</td>
<td>World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)</td>
<td>Rev. GAGNON</td>
<td>International Catholic Child Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Alliance of Women</td>
<td>Miss SCHAIN</td>
<td>Pan-Pacific Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Secretariat:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss KAHN</td>
<td>Mr. LITTERIA</td>
<td>Department of Social Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. PATE</td>
<td>Mr. KEENY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>WHO Chief Medical Adviser to UNICEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>WHO Assistant Medical Adviser to UNICEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. HEYWARD</td>
<td>Mr. DAVIDE</td>
<td>Director, Latin America Regional Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO Chief Medical Adviser to UNICEF</td>
<td>Dr. BORCIC</td>
<td>Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. YUAN</td>
<td>Mr. EGGERT</td>
<td>Director, Asia Regional Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO Assistant Medical Adviser to UNICEF</td>
<td>Mr. DAVIEE</td>
<td>Secretary of the Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. KEENY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. CHARNO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF AID TO THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AREA: STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL OFFICE (E/ICEF/239) (continued)

Mr. UMARI (Iraq) had listened with great interest to the statement by the Director of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (E/ICEF/239).

In his statement Mr. Egger had mentioned the informality which had been one of the features characterizing the co-operation between UNICEF and the Iraqi Government during his visit to Baghdad. That did not, of course, mean that the Iraqi Government had failed to observe the laws of hospitality; Mr. Egger's account testified to the cordiality governing the relations between UNICEF and the Iraqi Government. The collaboration between his Government and the UNICEF advisers in the country was so close that it might serve as an example to all international organizations.

The BCG vaccination campaign was proceeding with the co-operation of the population, the Government and private bodies, and the Parliament was to adopt special legislation to incorporate those activities into the law.

Dr. Van VEEN (Food and Agriculture Organization) was glad that the Regional Director had stressed the importance of nutrition and nutrition education for UNICEF programmes in the Middle East. It was often thought that UNICEF/FAO co-operation was of importance only in the milk conservation programmes, but FAO could assist also in connexion with such matters as nutrition, agriculture and fisheries. Nutrition was of concern to both FAO and WHO. FAO's work in that field was divided into two parts: the purely nutritional aspects and that which was incorporated in the home economics programmes.

FAO had a regional nutrition and home economics officer stationed at Cairo for the countries of the Middle East.

Egypt had its own nutrition services and institute, with which FAO was co-operating, and it was anticipated that the Egyptian Government would ask for the services of a home economics expert.

FAO had been working in Iraq for two years. A Technical Assistance nutrition expert had been assigned to that country in 1951; a nutrition council had been established, a nutrition institute was being built and a school feeding scheme had been started. Iraq had asked FAO to send a nutritionist to work in
the maternal and child health service and to be available for school feeding in general, but it might not be possible to grant that request owing to lack of funds. Two FAO nutrition fellowship holders were returning to Iraq to work in the nutrition institute and on school feeding and a nutritionist-biochemist trained in California was already working in the nutrition institute. A FAO Technical Assistance expert had been assigned to Queen Aliya College in 1952 and would remain until the end of 1954.

In Syria, a workshop in home economics had been held at Damascus with great success by a FAO Technical Assistance expert. Syria had just asked FAO for a nutritionist to work on food analysis and maternal and child health programmes. WHO and FAO were co-operating in the choice of a nutritionist to work at the WHO demonstration centre in Syria for six months.

WHO and FAO had co-operated on the problem of nutrition of the Arab refugees. On their recommendation, UNRWA had engaged a nutritionist to deal with supplementary feeding. Useful work had been done on weaning diets, using foods available in the country.

FAO had provided Israel, through the Technical Assistance Programme, with a home economics expert, some fellowships and some equipment for its college of home economics and nutrition. FAO was working with Israel, through the regular programme, on food mixtures which could be used in weaning diets.

No FAO experts had been assigned to Pakistan, but WHO was to make available a nutritionist for the maternal and child health programme and WHO and FAO were together endeavouring to find a suitable person.

In reply to Mr. UMARI (Iraq), Mr. Van VEEEN (Food and Agriculture Organization) gave some details concerning leban consumption in the Middle East: WHO and FAO had realized that the population in that area consumed milk more readily in that form. The inhabitants of the Middle East and southern Asia had developed methods of processing milk to conserve it and make it more digestible. The utmost circumspection must be exercised in introducing new methods.
Miss KAHN (Department of Social Affairs) recalled that three seminars had been held in the Middle East on social welfare and security and that a fourth was contemplated to be held at an early date. During the discussions the need to ensure the basic availability of food for the family had been stressed, a matter related to that of family income maintenance, with which the Department of Social Affairs was concerned. The Working Group on Long-range Activities for Children, basing itself on the FAO study on nutrition, had emphasized the relationship between nutrition and the basic availability of food for the family.

UNICEF AID TO LATIN AMERICA: STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL OFFICE (E/ICEF/241)

Mr. DAVEE (Director of the Latin America Regional Office) gave the Executive Board an account of the current status of UNICEF work in Latin America.

Mr. CARASALES (Argentina) said that his country, although not a recipient of UNICEF aid, was nevertheless deeply grateful to UNICEF for its work to help needy children. On behalf of all the Latin American countries not represented at the meeting, he also expressed his deep gratitude to Mr. Davee, his colleagues, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations for the devotion which they had shown in their humanitarian work.

He realized that much had still to be done to fulfil the proposed objectives, but he felt sure that UNICEF would do its utmost to achieve that purpose.

Mr. HOLGUIN (Peru) expressed his Government's gratitude to UNICEF for the work it had accomplished in Peru.

The progress achieved in the Lima-Pativilca area in the field of maternal and child welfare during the last three years provided a good example of the close collaboration between UNICEF and the Peruvian Government. His Government's contribution to UNICEF, which had risen from $16,600 in 1950 to $135,000 in 1953, was yet another illustration of that growing co-operation. UNICEF had also conducted a successful campaign in the department of Ica for the promotion of maternal and child welfare and it was to be hoped that the campaign would be extended to the department of Callao.
An appraisal of the results of the anti-malaria campaign organized by UNICEF in the Peruvian coastal area would provide a still clearer picture of the joint achievements of the Peruvian Government and UNICEF. That area was the most highly developed from the economic point of view and consequently exercised a great influence on the economic equilibrium of the whole country. Production conditions and particularly man-power productivity there would always affect the country's prosperity. In less than a year UNICEF had protected 76 per cent of the population living in areas where malaria was rife. The economic importance of such a measure could be assessed only within the framework of the general development of the country.

The same could be said of the anti-typhus campaign conducted in the Lake Titicaca which was also densely populated. On his own behalf and that of his Government, he thanked UNICEF, WHO, Mr. Pate, the Executive Director of UNICEF, and Mr. Davee, Director of the Regional Office in Lima, for the excellent work they had accomplished in Peru.

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE (Brazil) had listened with much interest to Mr. Davee's statement and congratulated UNICEF on the remarkable success of its efforts throughout Latin America. From the outset, his delegation had urged that UNICEF should devote its principal attention to under-developed areas and he was happy to note that such a policy had been followed, for Asia and Latin America were in fact the two regions of the world where the highest precentage of the target budget had been fulfilled.

All the Latin American governments were eager to improve the lot of their populations, the majority of whom had so far been living in unfavourable conditions. They have made every effort to implement extensive, and sometimes bold, programmes of social welfare, usually on a long-term basis; in that connexion he spoke of the programmes Mr. Davee had mentioned in his statement, including the plan for the construction of water mains in 700 small towns of Brazil and the twenty-year plan for the development of the Amazon region. The Brazilian Government had also drawn up a twenty-year plan for the development of the San Francisco valley. He hoped that all those plans would facilitate the task of UNICEF in Brazil. In making its recommendations and carrying out its programmes UNICEF should take into account the national and regional programmes already existing in the country.
He was pleased to note the constant increase in governmental contributions to UNICEF, but the delay in fulfilling governments' requests for equipment gave cause for a certain anxiety. He wondered whether, inadequate methods were to blame for the delay and whether it was not possible to find a remedy, such as, for example, drawing up and studying lists of material more rapidly. He would welcome the views of the Executive Board or of Mr. Davee on the subject, particularly on the following three questions.

He would like to be given an exact idea of the way in which the health education programme in the Lima-Pativilca area of Peru (E/ICEF/236, paragraph 190) had been carried out. He would also like to know why WHO had not yet given its official approval to the Guayaquil laboratory (Ecuador) and, finally, why equipment was not to be sent to the BCG vaccine production laboratory at Montevideo, Uruguay, (E/ICEF/236, paragraph 209) until the new building was ready.

Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Executive Director) wished to explain the reasons for the delays noted by the Brazilian representative.

He pointed out that three parties were involved in the task of establishing the list of necessary material and delivering it: the Government concerned, WHO and UNICEF.

In the first place a minimum of information had to be obtained on the centres receiving the material. Questionnaires were sent to the centres and it was their responsibility to return them quickly.

In the second place, a list of equipment had to be drawn up, on which agreement of the Government, WHO and UNICEF was necessary. Much progress had been achieved with the assistance of WHO in establishing standard guide lists. It was to be hoped that with the assistance of those standards agreements could be reached more quickly with regard to the preparation of lists.

Finally, the purchase of equipment, even if it did not necessitate a special order, took at least several months. Delays could obviously be reduced by the bulk purchase of equipment included in the standard list and by then drawing from stocks as the need arose. Delays would be further reduced if, contrary to practice in a number of cases in the past, the practical details of programmes were tackled immediately they had been approved by the Executive Board.
Mr. DAVEE (Regional Director for Latin America) felt that the three points raised by the Brazilian representative all applied to the same question, that of delays, whether real or apparent.

The first point, in connexion with the health education programme in Peru, concerned a programme of relatively minor importance by comparison with the whole programme that was being carried out in Peru. The sum provided for the implementation of that programme was only $20,000, whereas the whole programme in Peru amounted to $700,000. The programme was originally to be applied only to the area of Lima-Pativilca. It had since been decided to extend its application to the whole country. The list of equipment had had to be adjusted and that had caused the delay. Moreover, the question had already been settled, since a part of the equipment had already been unloaded in Peruvian ports.

With regard to the question of WHO's approval, the laboratory at Guayaquil was already producing BCG vaccine. Since, however, an initial inquiry by WHO had not yielded positive results, a new director of the laboratory had been appointed - the former Minister of Public Health, who was a distinguished scientist. WHO intended to conduct a further inquiry, which he hoped would give positive results.

Finally, in reply to the third point, the Montevideo laboratory was one of the oldest BCG laboratories in Latin America; hence it did not altogether conform to WHO's standards, which prescribed that vaccine should be produced in isolated and separate buildings. The Uruguayan Government had done all in its power; it had not only altered the existing laboratory but had decided to put up a new building, and the Montevideo laboratory would certainly be one of the finest in Latin America.

There were thus sound and sensible reasons for all the apparent delays.

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE (Brazil) thanked Mr. Heyward and Mr. Davee for their explanations, with which he was entirely satisfied.

The CHAIRMAN was glad that the anti-malaria campaign was to be extended to Mexico, as Mr. Davee had mentioned.
UNICEF AID TO EUROPE: STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPE REGIONAL OFFICE
(E/ICEF/242)

Mr. EGGER (Director of the Europe Regional Office) introduced a report on the present state of the work of UNICEF in Europe (E/ICEF/242).

Mr. ROBERTI (Italy) thanked Mr. Egger for having provided additional information on the milk conservation programme, supplementing that to be found in documents E/ICEF/244 and 236. The Italian Government attached considerable value to that programme, the benefits of which would be felt permanently. Moreover, public opinion throughout the country was beginning to realize its importance.

Deeply moved by the disaster which had recently befallen the people of the Greek Ionian Islands, Italy hoped that UNICEF would concentrate first and with all urgency on those supplies which are most needed by the children in that stricken region.

Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia) wished, on behalf of his Government, to thank UNICEF, and in particular the Regional Director for Europe and his fellow-workers, for the invaluable aid given to Yugoslavia. He was convinced that the constitutional obstacles mentioned by Mr. Egger were temporary difficulties to be expected in Yugoslavia's present period of transition and that UNICEF would easily overcome them with the help of the Yugoslav national section.

He emphasized that the destruction caused by the recent earthquake in Greece was much greater than was generally thought; a long-term programme of assistance to the victims would certainly be necessary. The Yugoslav Government, which had given and would continue to give practical proof of its sympathy with the people of the Ionian Islands, hoped that UNICEF would do its utmost to assist them.

Mr. GORSE (France) said he had hitherto abstained from speaking, in the hope that Dr. Bugnard would be able to take part in the Executive Board's discussions. Unfortunately, as Dr. Bugnard, who was the expert on the French delegation, had not yet arrived, Mr. Gorse wished to reserve Dr. Bugnard's right to present his views on the different questions under consideration.
In the meantime, he was happy to inform the Executive Board that the French Government was very satisfied with the work UNICEF had accomplished and in particular with the collaboration between UNICEF, WHO and FAO. Whereas in another body the French delegation had been compelled to criticize the methods of co-operation between WHO and the Technical Assistance Board, it was glad on the present occasion to express its deep gratification at the wholehearted co-operation established between UNICEF and WHO. The French Government was grateful to UNICEF for its work both in France and in some of the overseas territories. It realized that in the tropical areas UNICEF had undertaken experiments which were bound to involve a certain amount of trial and error, readjustments and rectification; in that field, as in others, however, the French Government was determined to support all its efforts, even if immediate results were not forthcoming.

The French Government was happy to share in the aid extended to the victims of the Greek earthquake. It, too, hoped that UNICEF would spare no effort to alleviate their suffering and meet their most pressing needs.

With regard to the difficulty of finding a French-speaking expert to conduct the BCG campaign in Vietnam, he pointed out that France had many doctors who could assume that responsibility; few of them might be available, however, as many services were required either for the war in Indo-China or in the overseas territories. He hoped, however, that the difficulty could be overcome satisfactorily in the near future.

He was disappointed to note that, once again, the French translation of the reports before the Executive Board was not ready. He hoped that the Administration would take steps to remedy a situation which made it difficult for French-speaking delegations to carry on their work.

In conclusion, he announced that the French Ministry of Finance had requested the inclusion in the 1954 budget of a sum of 175 million francs to be contributed to UNICEF. He hoped that the French Parliament would see its way clear to approve that amount.
Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) thanked the representatives of Italy, Yugoslavia and France for their sympathy with the unfortunate people of the Ionian Islands. He also wished to thank Mr. Egger and Mr. Cooper; the latter had been in Greece at the time of the earthquake and had immediately drawn up a most accurate report on the extent of the damage and the needs of the population. The Executive Director of UNICEF had recommended that further aid should be granted at once; but the Greek Government and the Administration of UNICEF in New York had so far been unable to agree on a list of the most urgently needed supplies. He therefore hoped that the Programme Committee would deal with the matter without delay.

Turning to UNICEF's long-term activities in Europe, he stressed that the two most important activities were the conservation of milk and the establishment of mother and child welfare centres. A third was the programme of environmental sanitation, which would be put into execution as soon as the Executive Board had approved the recommendation of the UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy. The Greek Government had already prepared social welfare programmes which it intended to put into effect and for which it hoped to receive UNICEF's support. They included a programme of rural sanitation for Thrace and Macedonia, and the construction of a dry skim milk plant and the establishment of maternal and child welfare centres in Thessaly.

Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) had listened with great interest to the Regional Director's account of UNICEF's activities in Europe and wished to thank and congratulate him. He had been particularly interested in the comments on the work of the national sections. Having personally had the opportunity of watching the Belgian national section at work, he had been struck by the keen interest of the Belgian public in UNICEF's activities. In Belgium, UNICEF was in truth a symbol and the enthusiasm it aroused was entirely disinterested, since Belgium was not a recipient country. That enthusiasm had been a determining factor in the Belgian Government's decision to set Belgium's contribution to UNICEF at $200,000. The actual governmental contribution would be $100,000, but that sum was to be supplemented by private collections, the Government making the total up to $200,000 if necessary.
He associated himself with the French representative's regrets that the translation of UNICEF documents into French was so slow and his hope that the situation would be remedied in the future.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America) said she had been greatly impressed by the admirable work done by UNICEF in various parts of the world. The Administration and the regional offices should be congratulated, in particular, on having so faithfully carried out the changes in UNICEF's general programme recommended by the General Assembly in 1950. They also deserved congratulation for the speed with which they had come to the aid of the victims of the earthquake in the Ionian Islands. The promptness and energy shown by UNICEF in a crisis were a source of deep gratification to the United States delegation.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the next meeting of the Executive Board would take place on Wednesday, 16 September, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

30/9 p.m.