UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 16 September 1953, at 10.50 a.m.

CONTENTS

Report of the Programme Committee (E/ICEF/R.518)
PRESENT:

Chairman:

Members:

Mr. LINDT Switzerland
Mr. CARASALES Argentina
Mr. BRENNAN Australia
Mr. FENAUX Belgium
Mr. LEITE Brazil
Mr. TEPLOV Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Mrs. SINCLAIR Canada
Mr. TSAO China
Mr. RYBAR Czechoslovakia
Mr. CONCHA-ENRIQUEZ Ecuador
Mr. BUGNARD France
Mr. ROUSOS Greece
Mr. BANERJEE India
Mr. UMARI Iraq
Mrs. HARMAN Israel
Mr. ROBERTI Italy
Mr. GUNDERSON Norway
Mr. PIRACHA Pakistan
Mr. HOLGUIN Peru
Mr. CALLE

Mr. REYES Philippines
Mr. DEVAKUL Thailand
Mr. KRIVITZKY Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. BARKES 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. SIGMANIDIS
Mr. van VEEN
Dr. COIGNY World Health Organization (WHO)
Dr. SUITER
Dr. VERHOOESTRAE
PRESENT (continued)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

**Category A:**
- Mr. ACTON: NGO Committee on UNICEF
- Mrs. FOX: World Federation of United Nations Associations

**Category B:**
- Mr. FRIDMAN: Agudas Israel World Organization
- Mr. MOSKOWITZ: Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations
- Mr. JUDKIN: Friends World Committee
- Mr. LONGARZO: International Conference of Catholic Charities
- Miss FREEMAN: International Council of Women
- Miss HYMER: International Federation of Business and Professional Women
- Mr. ACTON: International Society for the Welfare of Cripples
- Miss DINGMAN: International Union for Child Welfare
- Miss SCHAIN: Pan-Pacific Women's Association
- Miss WALSER: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Miss WEEKS: World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
- Miss SCHAEFER: World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

**Also present:** Miss LENROOT
- American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood

**United Nations Secretariat:**
- Miss KAHN, Mr. LITTERIA
  - Department of Social Affairs

**UNICEF Administration:**
- Mr. PATE: Executive Director
- Mr. HEYWARD: Deputy Director
- Dr. BORCIC: WHO Chief Medical Adviser to UNICEF
- Dr. YUAN: WHO Assistance Medical Adviser to UNICEF
- Mr. DAVEE: Director, Latin America Regional Office
- Mr. EGGER: Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
- Mr. KEENY: Director, Asia Regional Office
- Mr. SABIN: Milk Conservation Co-ordinator
- Mr. CHARNOW: Secretary of the Board
General programming policy matters: General questions (E/ICEF/R.518, paras. 1-5)

Mr. BRENAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, introduced the Programme Committee's report and apologized to the Board for the delay which had occurred in its production. The first matter of substance in the report was the section dealing with general programming policy matters, and was covered in paragraphs 4 to 27. The report indicated that, in the case of maternal and child health programmes, energy should be devoted principally to the consolidation of existing programmes, which was a matter of procedure rather than of policy. He drew attention to the paragraph in the Executive Director's report (E/ICEF/236) dealing with policies. The ad hoc sub-committee on policy which was to be set up in 1954 might go into the matter. It had not been within the competence of the Programme Committee, whose members had merely given their views for the benefit of the Administration. With regard to the kwashiorkor programme, referred to in paragraph 5 (d) of the Programme Committee's report, he pointed out that, although members of the Programme Committee had expressed the opinion that some of the difficulties encountered might have been foreseen, there was no question of failure of the programmes, and the specialized agencies were to be constantly consulted in future in order to minimize the effects of the difficulties which had arisen.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to paragraph 5 (c) of the Programme Committee's report. It was not for the Board to deal with policies for the time being, that was rather for the ad hoc sub-committee on policy questions which would be established later, at a special session of the Executive Board, subsequent to the General Assembly's approval of the suggestions put forward. The sub-committee should be entitled to call on the specialized agencies for consultation or information. Its decisions on policy questions would then be dealt with by the Board in 1954.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 of the Programme Committee's report were approved.
Report of the Joint Committee on Health Policy (E/ICEF/R.518, paragraph 6)

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, drew attention to the division of opinion in the Committee about the principle of granting UNICEF aid for environmental sanitation projects either as individual projects or as integral parts of maternal and child health programmes.

Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece) thought that, if that section of the report were approved, the Administration should be left free to make recommendations for environmental sanitation programmes, either as separate projects or as part of mother and child health programmes. If the recommendations were adopted in the form in which they appeared in the report of the Joint Committee on Health Policy (E/ICEF/228) the matter would obviously be left open for the Administration to decide.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) was much interested in the proposal to add environmental sanitation programmes to the mother and child health programmes, but thought that the new matter should be approached with care. The report of the Joint Committee on Health Policy had made it clear that environmental sanitation programmes in isolation would not be practical and she hoped that in the initial stages all such programmes would be linked with existing UNICEF maternal and child health programmes, as that would be the more economical and appropriate course.

The CHAIRMAN said that that principle had always been followed by UNICEF and wondered if the Board wished to endorse it in the present case.

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE (Brazil) favoured the interpretation of the recommendation put forward by the representative of Greece. There was no need to remind the Administration that programmes of a new type should be integrated with existing maternal and child health programmes. Paragraph 21 of the report
of the Joint Committee on Health Policy set the matter out clearly in all its implications. He was not in favour of assuming that new programmes should inevitably be linked with other UNICEF programmes in the countries concerned, because UNICEF programmes were not as comprehensive as that principle might imply. In some countries their scope was limited, and maternal and child health programmes were being undertaken by other bodies without UNICEF aid. The Board should endorse the position taken up by the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America) did not see any great inconsistency between the views put forward by the representatives of Greece and Brazil and those of the representative of Canada. If the Board accepted the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Health Policy, the scope of the programmes would be defined. It might be suggested that the Administration should obtain assurances that projects in their early stages would be associated with maternal and child health programmes whether operated by UNICEF or other bodies.

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) proposed, as a compromise, that, in the examination of requests for environmental sanitation programmes, the Administration should determine in the first instance whether or not they could be related to existing UNICEF-aided maternal and child welfare programmes. If that was not possible the requests should be considered on their own merits.

Mr. de PAIVA LEITE (Brazil) wondered if the representative of Canada would be able to accept the proposal put forward by the representative of Israel. If that were the case he would accept it himself although he did not consider it fully satisfactory.

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel), replying to a question by Mr. ROUSSOS (Greece), explained that the intention of her proposal was to give priority to environmental sanitation programmes as integrated with maternal and child health programmes, but it would also ensure that, if a really satisfactory environmental sanitation programme was put forward unrelated to maternal and child health programmes, it would receive full consideration.
Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) thought that the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Health Policy might well be left in their original form, and the principle that environmental sanitation programmes were a suitable field of action for UNICEF should be accepted. She proposed, however, that such programmes should be limited to those which could be integrated with existing UNICEF material and child welfare programmes.

The CHAIRMAN put the two proposals to the vote. The Canadian proposal was rejected by 10 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions. The Israel proposal was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN inquired if the Board was ready to accept leprosy control as a new type of UNICEF programme subject to the principles laid down by the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

It was so agreed. Paragraph 6 of the Programme Committee's report was approved.

UNICEF participation in programmes for handicapped children (E/ICEF/R.518) paragraphs 7-10

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, explained that the Committee had endorsed all the recommendations put forward by the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples, as stated in paragraph 7. With reference to the recommendation that a report on UNICEF's activities in that field should be prepared, he explained that a representative of the Administration had stated that such a report could be circulated to the Board at its next session.

Mr. ACTON (International Society for the Welfare of Cripples) expressed the gratitude of his association for the action of the Programme Committee. He thought it a matter of great importance not only that special projects should be continued but that all the services which would ultimately benefit handicapped children should be co-ordinated with those projects on a continuing basis.
Miss KAHN (Department of Social Affairs) expressed her Department's readiness to give all possible assistance in implementing the programmes for handicapped children. She drew attention to the fact that a representative of the staff of her department was in Korea, reviewing programmes for physically handicapped children in collaboration with the Korean authorities.

Paragraphs 7 to 10 of the Programme Committee's Report were approved.

Reimbursement to WHO of certain technical assistance costs (E/ICEF/R.518, paragraphs 11 to 22)

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, stated that the financial problems facing the World Health Organization had been such that a decision had originally been made to continue only programmes in operation and to abandon others. The Executive Board of UNICEF had then decided to reimburse personnel costs to WHO, thereby relieving the strain on its finances and enabling it to continue. The Board's decision related only to 1953, though a warning had been issued at the time that it might be necessary to continue the reimbursement in 1954. The Executive Director had reported that the World Health Organization was unable to meet the required personnel costs and had recommended that UNICEF should continue to bear them. The Programme Committee had had little hesitation in agreeing to that recommendation.

Since it might not be possible for WHO to finance personnel costs in respect of all UNICEF-assisted projects, the Director-General had suggested that UNICEF might underwrite the personnel costs of sixteen specific projects listed in document E/ICEF/R.509/Add.1.

The UNICEF Administration did not feel able to recommend approval of that additional request as the financial resources available to WHO in 1954 were not yet fully known. After hearing the views of the WHO representative, the Programme Committee had endorsed the attitude adopted by the Administration and made no recommendation to the Executive Board for action at the current session. However, it called the attention of the Board to the possibility of a future request should the Executive Director feel that continuation of certain projects might be jeopardized for want of funds. The Board would then decide whether or not to reimburse WHO for personnel costs in respect of those projects.
On the general question of reimbursement to WHO of technical assistance costs, several members of the Programme Committee had expressed their deep disappointment that the situation had continued and apparently deteriorated. It had been suggested that a more fundamental approach was required to prevent its recurrence.

Miss ELIOT (United States of America) felt that the third sentence in paragraph 21 might give the impression that the technical aspects of UNICEF projects were not part of UNICEF's main tasks. She therefore proposed that the words "called for the expenditure of too large an amount of available funds for this purpose" should be used instead of "diverted funds from the main tasks of the Fund".

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that 1954 would be the last year in which WHO would require such assistance from UNICEF.

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) felt that the financial difficulties which confronted WHO and FAO arose largely from defective administrative practices. Contributions from governments for technical assistance programmes were 20 per cent higher in 1953 than in 1952.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the text of paragraph 21, as amended, should be included in the report of the Executive Board.

It was so decided.

Mr. KRIVITSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished, with reference to the proposed allocations to China (Taiwan) in the Programme Committee's report, to explain the position his delegation had taken during the debate in the Programme Committee. The USSR delegation had not participated in the debate nor had it voted on the proposed allocations because the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China had not been represented. The Soviet Union delegation adopted the same position in the Executive Board.
Mr. TEFLOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. RYBAR (Czechoslovakia) associated themselves with the position taken by the representative of the USSR.

Mr. TSAO (China) failed to see the connexion between the question of the representation of China in general and the Board's decisions regarding allocations. The USSR representative's remarks were therefore both irrelevant and uncalled for. Moreover, the Board had taken a decision on the representation of China at the first meeting of its current session. Any reference to that point should therefore be considered out of order. While the USSR could not be expected to take part in UNICEF's humanitarian work, it could at least refrain from obstructing it.

The Executive Board adopted the Programme Committee's recommendations concerning reimbursement to WHO of certain technical assistance costs.

Reimbursement to FAO for certain technical assistance costs (E/ICEF/R.518, paragraphs 23 to 27)

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, explained that the request for reimbursement submitted by FAO was similar to that made by WHO. Reimbursement by UNICEF would be limited to 1954 and to the amount actually spent by FAO.

The Executive Board adopted the Programme Committee's recommendations concerning reimbursement to FAO of certain technical assistance costs.

Recommendations regarding returns (E/ICEF/R.518, paragraph 28)

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, pointed out that the Board had decided at an earlier session that, if the cost of a particular programme was less than the amount appropriated in respect of that programme, the unspent balance should be returned to UNICEF's general resources. The Programme Committee noted that $950,000 would thus be returned. It also recommended small additional apportionments totalling $5,100 to cover over-expenses against previously approved programmes for Germany, Ceylon and Thailand.
The CHAIRMAN was impressed by the size of some of the amounts which had reverted to the Fund's general resources.

Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Director) explained that they represented over-estimates of the cost of items of equipment. In the case of malaria control, savings had been effected as a result of the reduction in the price of DDT. The Government of the Dominican Republic had decided that it was not in need of international assistance for yaws control and the whole amount appropriated had thus reverted to UNICEF's general resources.

The Executive Board adopted the Programme Committee's recommendations regarding returns.

Recommendations concerning allocations (E/ICEF/R.518, paragraph 29)

Mr. BRENNAIAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, pointed out that each specific recommendation was subject to the availability of funds. It was customary to make apportionments out of allocations to specific areas. In most cases, however, funds available in the area of allocation were insufficient to meet all expenses and it was therefore necessary, as a first step, to allocate funds to areas so that they would be in a position to make the necessary apportionments.

The Executive Board adopted the Programme Committee's recommendations concerning allocations.

Unallocated resources remaining (E/ICEF/R.518, paragraph 30)

Mr. BRENNAIAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, explained that the paragraph had been included in the Programme Committee's report merely for purposes of information and that action by the Executive Board was not required.
Mr. Brennan (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, introduced and commented on each recommendation, noting those cases for which, as WHO projects, no question of approval was involved.

(A) Maternal and child welfare

Asia


Eastern Mediterranean

The recommendations concerning Iraq and Libya (R.509 and Corr.1) were approved.

Latin America

The recommendations concerning Brazil (R.483), Chile (R.502) and Peru (R.478) were approved.

(B) Mass health

(1) Malaria control

Africa

The recommendation concerning Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda (R.508) was approved.

Asia

The recommendations concerning Burma (R.462 and Corr.1), Ceylon (R.468) and Pakistan (R.503) were approved.

Latin America

The recommendations concerning the Dominican Republic (R.472), Guatemala (R.500) and Mexico (R.482) were approved.

(2) Typhus control

Asia

The recommendations concerning Afghanistan (R.463) and Pakistan (R.496) were approved.
(3) Control of yaws, bejel and syphilis

Africa

The recommendations concerning Bechuanaland (R.470) and Morocco (R.471) were approved.

Asia

The recommendation concerning China (Taiwan) (R.509 and Corr.1) was approved.

Eastern Mediterranean

The recommendation concerning Syria (R.509 and Corr.1) was approved.

(4) BCG anti-tuberculosis vaccinations and other TB control

Asia


Eastern Mediterranean

The recommendations concerning Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Sudan, Turkey and the Regional Statistician (R.509 and Corr.1) were approved.

Latin America

The recommendations concerning Chile (R.464) and Colombia (R.479) were approved.

(5) Other communicable diseases

Africa

The recommendations concerning Morocco and Tunisia (R.509 and Corr.1) were approved.

Eastern Mediterranean

The recommendation concerning Syria (R.489) was approved.

(C) Long-range feeding assistance

Africa

The recommendation concerning the Belgian Congo (R.509 and Corr.1) was approved.
The recommendations concerning India (R.504) and Thailand (R.458) were approved.

Use of cheap milk (E/ICEF/R.505)

Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), Chairman of the Programme Committee, discussed in general the Administration's proposals for the utilization of the supplies of skim milk powder which the United States Government was ready to make available to UNICEF.

Some members of the Programme Committee had expressed doubts as to whether UNICEF should acquire the milk merely because it was cheap. The trend of the Fund's activities had been away from feeding programmes and it seemed inadvisable to them to reverse the trend. Though agreeing with the distribution of milk in emergencies they felt that to devote resources to such a project at the moment might jeopardize other more important long-range programmes.

He then gave figures to show that the vast bulk of the milk available would in fact be devoted to meeting emergency situations in Korea, Japan, India and Pakistan. The representative of FAO had supported the use of dried milk for emergency purposes while pointing out that milk distribution in itself could not be regarded as long-range feeding.

But the doubts regarding the wisdom of taking advantage of the offered supplies had not been entirely dispelled. Some members failed to see why it was imperative to make recommendations at the moment as the milk would still be available at UNICEF's next session; and one delegation had in fact been unable to associate itself with the Committee's recommendation to approve the feeding programmes.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) said that, as hers was the delegation alluded to, she must stress again that milk distribution should only be a feature of emergency programmes or of long-range programmes. There was a very real
danger of losing sight of long-term objectives. In that connexion she had been especially interested in the views expressed by the FAO and WHO experts. Another vital objection to the proposals made for utilization of the cheap milk was that they had been improvised very quickly when the news of its availability had been received: there had therefore been insufficient time to make the necessary preparations. UNICEF's funds were limited and programmes of the highest value, such as the campaigns against tuberculosis, typhus or yaws, should not in any way be sacrificed to cheap milk distribution. Resources must be husbanded for the possible expansion of such schemes.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.