UNIVERSAL NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

UNIVERSAL NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART* OF THE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on
Friday, 5 March 1954, at 11.35 a.m.

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appeared
under symbol number E/ICEF/SR.122.

54-06699
PRESENT:

Chairman:
Mr. LINDT Switzerland

Members:
Mr. MORALES Argentina
Mr. BRENNAN Australia
Mr. LEOIR Belgium
Mr. de PAIVA LEITE Brazil
Mrs. SINCLAIR Canada
Mr. TSAO China
Mr. RYBAR Czechoslovakia
Mr. CONCHA Ecuador
Mr. MANDE France
Mr. CARAYANNIS Greece
Mr. RAJAN India
Mr. UMARI Iraq
Mrs. HARMAN Israel
Mr. MONTINI Italy
Mr. GUNDERSEN Norway
Mr. HAMDANI Pakistan
Mr. CALLE y CALLE Peru
Mr. REYES Philippines
Mr. BUNCHOEM Thailand
Mr. KRIVITSKY Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. BARNES United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Dr. ELIOT United States of America
Mr. KOS Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mrs. SISMANIDIS Mr. WORK Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. SIEGEL Mrs. MEAGHER World Health Organization
Dr. INGALLS Dr. COIGNY
Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

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<td>Mr. ACTON</td>
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<td>Mr. ACTON</td>
<td>International Society for the Welfare of Cripples</td>
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<td>Miss DINGMAN</td>
<td>International Union for Child Welfare</td>
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<td>Miss SCHAIN</td>
<td>Pan-Pacific Association</td>
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United Nations Secretariat:

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<td>Miss KAHN</td>
<td>Department of Social Affairs</td>
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<td>Mr. ITTERA</td>
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UNICEF Administration:

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<td>Mr. PATE</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Mr. HEYWARD</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
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<td>Dr. BORCIC</td>
<td>Chief Medical Adviser</td>
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<td>Mr. YUAN</td>
<td>Assistant Medical Adviser</td>
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<td>Mr. DAVEE</td>
<td>Director, Latin America Regional Office</td>
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<td>Mr. EGGER</td>
<td>Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office</td>
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<td>Mr. KEENY</td>
<td>Director, Asia Regional Office</td>
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<td>Mr. EHRENSTRALE</td>
<td>Chief, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office</td>
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<td>Mr. CHARNOW</td>
<td>Secretary of the Board</td>
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REPORTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (c) UNICEF AID TO PROGRAMMES FOR THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN (E/ICEF/250)

Mr. PATE (Executive Director) thought that the report (E/ICEF/250) did not call for any particular comment and said the Administration was prepared to answer any questions which delegations might wish to put.

Mr. ACTON (International Society for the Welfare of Cripples) expressed his Society's appreciation and enthusiasm for the report on UNICEF aid to programmes for the care and rehabilitation of handicapped children, which indicated that the Fund had made a substantial investment in such projects. The experience gained in the development of those projects in co-operation with the Department of Social Affairs, the World Health Organization and the non-governmental organizations should constitute an excellent basis for further international action on the problem. He welcomed the opportunities provided for co-operation with voluntary groups, which should help to ensure the acceptance of handicapped children in the social, educational and vocational life of their community. Among the country projects, he referred particularly to that for Lebanon, with which both the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples and the International Union for Child Welfare had been concerned for several years. It was of special interest, for there was little provision for services for handicapped children in that part of the world.

Dr. Kessler, the former President of the Society and a leading authority in the field was examining the problem of handicapped children in various countries as part of his work on a United Nations mission, and the information which he acquired would be used by the International Society in the preparation of the recommendations for further action mentioned in the report. The advice of other experts had also been obtained. The Society's store of information would further be increased by the proceedings at its Sixth World Congress to be held at The Hague in September 1954 and by those of the Conference on Child Welfare to be held in Yugoslavia by the International Union for Child Welfare.
In conclusion, he wished to stress two points which had been made during the current session of the Executive Board, first, the fact, emphasized in the statement made by Miss Henderson, that successful projects for the rehabilitation of handicapped children could serve as a demonstration of possibilities of the reduction or removal of physical disability and, through the teamwork of medical, social, educational and vocational personnel, as a proof of the value of the co-operative approach in health and welfare activities. Second, the suggestion by Mr. Keeny and others regarding the importance of looking ahead to the day when the control of mass disease problems was in sight, might apply equally well to physical handicap, which would probably, as a result of further research, prove also to be a mass problem. The recognition of that fact was resulting in growing interest in the development of means of assistance to both children and adults. In view of those considerations it was gratifying that the Executive Board and the Administration had established a body of experience in dealing with the problem and were willing to co-operate with other bodies concerned in working towards a solution of the problems of the handicapped. The International Society for the Welfare of Cripples pledged itself to assist in every way possible.

Miss KAHN (Secretariat) said that her Department welcomed the document because it showed what UNICEF had done to promote services for handicapped children. It was clear from the document itself and from other sources that the work had been remarkably successful. The investments had been particularly well worth while, especially in countries in which the concept of rehabilitation was only now taking root. The assistance given to the National Crippled Children's Hospital at Tashashiku, Tokyo, for example, had helped to eliminate prejudice against handicapped children and to promote social welfare activities in general.

Her Department welcomed the recent apportionment to Lebanon and the opportunity it offered of further co-operation with UNICEF.
Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) said that while the programme in her country had benefitted only a relatively small number of children its importance from the preventive and curative viewpoints was great. The extension of existing MCW services to provide for handicapped children was logical. The provision of services also became vitally important in emergencies such as the outbreak of poliomyelitis in Israel in 1951. There had been an average of from 50 to 60 new cases a month since then, and some 1,400 victims now needed rehabilitation. UNICEF assistance in equipping a model rehabilitation centre at Sarafand had enabled it to provide care for 120 child patients daily, the treatment including physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, play therapy and gymnastics. Orthopedic appliances were produced and fitted at the existing brace-shop, raw material for which was provided by the Fund.

Her delegation supported the policy under which emphasis was placed on pilot projects.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that it should be recorded that the Board had noted with interest the contents of document E/ICEF/250.

It was so decided.

REPORTS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: (a) STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY NGO COMMITTEE ON UNICEF TO THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD (E/ICEF/NGO.10)

Mr. ACTON (NGO Committee on UNICEF) believed that the Board would share his satisfaction at the wide range of interests and specialized fields represented on the NGO Committee on UNICEF. The fact that such a large number of organizations had thus actively associated themselves with the Fund's work was a tribute to the Fund and its Board.

His Committee would continue to give high priority to the promotion of public understanding of and support for the Fund. Public education must have a substantial basis, however, and the Committee had therefore established four sub-committees to undertake, with the assistance of experts available to them, the detailed consideration of questions particularly lending themselves to the participation of voluntary agencies. The sub-committees, whose
respective fields were maternal and child welfare, national UNICEF committees, utilization of voluntary resources, and nutrition, would study their assigned subjects and later submit their findings and recommendations to the NGO Committee on UNICEF. That Committee, in turn, would submit observations or recommendations to the Board after consultation with the Administration.

He hoped that his Committee's 1954 programme would contribute to the development of efficient methods of co-operation and consultation between non-governmental bodies and UNICEF.

His Committee keenly appreciated the understanding and assistance accorded to it by the Board and the Administration.

The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Board, congratulated the officers of the NGO Committee on UNICEF on their election. The Board was glad that Mr. Acton would be continuing in office as Chairman.

Mr. GUNDERSEN (Norway) informed the Board that his Government had held conferences with various national organizations with a view to setting up a UNICEF organ in Norway. The Child Health Committee of the Norwegian Red Cross had undertaken to act as such an organ henceforth.

Mrs. SINCLAIR (Canada) expressed her delegation's appreciation of the work performed by the NGO Committee on UNICEF. The Committee would be a source of increasing strength to the Fund.

Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) associated himself with the Canadian representative's remarks.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the setting up of the sub-committees to study specific fields should result in improved collaboration with the Fund. In the present case also, the Board might formally indicate that it had noted with interest the contents of the progress report in document E/ICEF/NGO.10. It was so decided.
Mr. ACTON (NGO Committee on UNICEF) presented the paper in the absence of the representative of the World Federation of United Nations associations. The Committee as a whole was considering, in collaboration with the World Federation, the holding of other seminars in various parts of the world.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the Board's thanks to the World Federation for its assistance in making the Fund's aims widely known. He suggested that the Board should formally note the contents of document E/ICEF/NGO.9.

It was so decided.

Mr. RAJAN (India), referring to the statement (E/ICEF/252) made by the Director of the Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office at the Board's last meeting, welcomed the clear picture that statement had given the Board of the difficulties and opportunities that lay before the Fund in Africa. He noted that the campaign against malaria was making gratifying progress, but that the nutritional programmes had not advanced as rapidly.

The Fund has spent one and a half million dollars in Africa in the past two years and his only regret was that it had not been able to spend more for feeding. The difficulties that Africa presented were well realized and he did not seek to minimize them but against those difficulties one had to set the very considerable needs of the people. The Statistical Yearbook revealed that the proportion of physicians in the population was, in many areas, as low as one physician to 50,000 inhabitants and in some areas one to 100,000. In one area the ratio was one to 150,000. Those figures demonstrated that medical services in Africa south of the Sahara were less adequate than in any other continent; in India, a country in which considerable improvement was still necessary, the proportion was one physician to 6,000 inhabitants. Out of a population of 180,000,000 in Africa south of the Sahara, 26 million were yaws cases. The
Administering Authority's report for 1952 on Togoland under British Administration showed that some 17,000 out of approximately 45,000 patients hospitalized in the Territory were yaws cases. Yaws and malaria were fields in which mass health campaigns would have great scope in Africa south of the Sahara. He quoted all those figures in no spirit of criticism but as representative indications of the existing needs. Those needs were great and he was confident that assistance to Africa would be expanded notwithstanding the physical difficulties many of which were peculiar to Africa.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Switzerland, asked when the two WHO consultants mentioned in the Executive Director's progress report (E/ICEF/248) would be able to proceed to Africa; the results of their visit would affect the development of the Fund's work in that territory.

Mr. EGGER (Director, Africa, Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) said that the UNICEF Administration had discussed with WHO the appointment of high-level technical consultants to confer with Governments and Administering Authorities in Africa on the possibility of broadening or strengthening programmes relating to the eradication of diseases and the development of adequate health services in rural areas. The discussion had resulted in WHO's agreement to appoint two consultants, both medical experts. One would represent WHO in the evaluation of the anti-malaria campaigns in Liberia, French West Africa, and the Trust Territories of Togoland and the Cameroons under French administration. The second consultant, who was being appointed, was a qualified specialist in venereal diseases who would concentrate primarily on the development of the campaign against venereal diseases, in co-operation with the governments concerned on the basis of an over-all study to be made. He would not, however, confine his activities to yaws, a disease more prevalent in the forest areas of Central and West Africa, but would also deal with other venereal diseases more commonly found outside those areas. His studies would relate more in the first place to the territories under French administration, where considerable results had already been achieved. UNICEF's participation was being discussed with WHO, which intended to submit an over-all programme both to the next meeting of its regional
commission on Africa and to the forthcoming symposium on yaws. Plans were being worked out and UNICEF might be requested to participate in the implementation of one or more projects in a specified area.

Mr. UMARI (Iraq) concurred in Mr. Rajan's views concerning the mass health campaigns in Africa. He wished to know whether UNICEF offered its services on its own initiative or only when requested by the authorities concerned.

The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Ehrenstrale to submit his report concerning the Middle Eastern area.

Mr. EHRENSTRALE (Chief, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) presented his report (E/ICEF/253).

Mr. MONTINI (Italy) expressed his delegation's appreciation of Mr. Ehrenstrale's reference to the work being carried out in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. UNICEF's participation in child welfare activities in Somaliland was essential because the United Nations had a direct responsibility to the Territory. It was only fitting that UNICEF and the specialized agencies should contribute to the Administration's efforts to improve local conditions and prepare the Territory for independence and self-government. High priority should therefore be given to UNICEF projects for Somaliland.

Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) thanked Mr. Egger and Mr. Ehrenstrale for their constant co-operation with and assistance to the Government of Israel. Their statements had served to remind members of the Board of the great personal effort involved in sorting out the details of a scheme such as the milk conservation project in Israel. Co-operation at all levels was essential, particularly in the matter of co-ordination. As the Brazilian representative had pointed out, the need for complete co-ordination sometimes caused a project to progress more slowly than had been anticipated.
The success of the UNICEF milk conservation and child-feeding in Israel was indicated by the fact that 80,000 children now received milk under local schemes which UNICEF had initiated but which it no longer assisted or subsidized. Some 60,000 children received free school lunches. The Government's matching contributions, in terms both of funds and services, had exceeded UNICEF's own investment.

The Israel delegation looked forward to an expansion of UNICEF's programme in the Middle East.

Mr. UMARI (Iraq) was gratified at the numerous references to Iraq which Mr. Ehrenstrale had made in his report. UNICEF's achievements in Iraq were a source of considerable satisfaction to everyone connected with child welfare work. The Government could be relied upon to give its full co-operation. The work done by UNICEF in the field of mass health campaigns, milk conservation projects and BCG campaigns vitally affected all levels of the population. Particularly welcome was the provision by UNICEF of expert assistance, equipment and supplies.

The meeting adjourned at 12.50 p.m.