

Chron Ref: CF/NYH/OSEB/HST/1996-082
File Sub: CF/HST/MEM/BUS-001/M

Memoirs of Miguel E. Bustamente

Notes Relative to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
1946-1982

[no date of publication]



UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label



Item # **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1996-0014**

ExR/Code: **CF/HST/MEM/BUS-001/M**

Miguel E. Bustamente Notes Relative to UNICEF, 1946-82: WI
Date Label Printed 4/26/2001

Cover + 33 ppt + 6

Chron Ref: CF/NYH/OSEB/HST/1996-082
File Sub: CF/HST/MEM/BUS-001/M

NOTES RELATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
CHILDREN'S FUND
(UNICEF)
1946 - 1982

MIGUEL E. BUSTAMANTE
PHYSICIAN, DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

INTRODUCTION.

From the moment when I received the first reports on the work in support of the infantile population of the world, primarily from the organization for emergency assistance known as the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, I have had admiration for its working goals and for the leaders who have directed it, as well as professional respect for their ideals and capacity for work, and personally, gratitude for having permitted me to associate the efforts of my country and myself to the executive Board of UNICEF in 1962 and 1963.

I have extracted from the pages of my memories those that follow which are related in various ways and with differing intensity to the United Nations Children's Fund for the period 1947 to 1982.

FIRST AWARENESS OF THE INITIATIVE TO CREATE THE UNITED
NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

In June 1976 the Secretary of Health and Social Services in Mexico, Dr. Gustavo Baz, appointed the delegation to attend

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the International Conference of Health which met in New York to study and, in this case, to approve the constitution for the World Health Organization. The delegates from Mexico were: Dr. Octavio Mondragón, Under-Secretary of Health and Social Services and Drs. Miguel E. Bustamante, Alberto P. León, Gustavo Rovirosa, and José Zozaya.

In the conference assembled in July 1946, the proposal for the World Health Organization was drafted and signed, with the Organization itself to be established on the prior ratification of the Constitution by 26 member states.

During the weeks of work at Hunter College, I had the opportunity to become acquainted with the principal personalities who were working in the field of world health, and among various of whom I maintained friendships for many years.

Among the leaders I recall Dr. Thomas Parran, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service of the United States, Dr. Brock Chisholm of Canada, and Dr. Andrija Stampar, Director of Health of Yugoslavia, who was the President of the First World Health Assembly, which was convened in Geneva, Switzerland in 1948.

Among the American countries the delegate from Brazil, Dr. Geraldo de Paula Sousa, was a prominent figure in the Conference for having been, together with Dr. Siming Zi of China, a proponent in the United Nations Conference held in San Francisco, of the idea to create an international organization of health.

The delegates of the American countries took a very active part in the debates of the Conference, in which two opposing points of view were discussed. Some delegates were proposing that only a world health organization remain, abolishing all other existing health organizations of international character; another group was maintaining, respecting the countries in the Americas, that the organization constituted by the Pan American Sanitary Organization (now the Pan American Health Organization) and the Pan American Sanitary Conferences, traditions which had been historically important since 1902, be continued.

Finally, it was decided for the delegates of various countries in the Americas, among them Brazil, Chile, United States, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, that the integration of the existing regional health organizations with the World Health Organization would be accepted, in due time, once the latter had been established.

The debates in the International Health Conference lasted several weeks in a physical ambience of intense heat, without air conditioning in the meeting rooms, and without simultaneous translation, although consecutive translation was carried out in three languages and, at times, in four. As a beneficial result, beyond the agreement which was achieved in the prolonged sessions, we became acquainted with all the delegates, as well as with persons who were attending without right to vote, since their countries were not members of the United Nations, and finally with persons from various groups interested in peace and the well-being of the world who were accredited as observers.

INFORMATION ON UNICEF IN 1946

During those days in July 1946 and in those circumstances I got to know an observer, Dr. Ludwik Rajchman who, with other persons during those years, was pursuing a crusade against hunger and lack of shelter and employment among the European population affected as a consequence of the World War. The organization "For Aid to and Rehabilitation of the Abandoned, Malnourished and Homeless Inhabitants of Europe" was supported by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Dr. Rajchman and his colleagues concerned themselves with emergency assistance to the children of Europe and to their families. Understanding that hunger, illness, misery and ignorance extended to almost all the children in the world, the need to extend the work of UNICEF to the entire world and to continue its work in a permanent form was seen clearly.

Given the beneficial and admirable work of UNICEF and recalling the Geneva Déclaration of the Rights of the Child of 26 September 1924, a recommendation was formulated in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in order that a new institutional force might be given to the Geneva Déclaration.

On 11 December 1946 the General Assembly of the United Nations created the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the practical dreamers who had fought for the permanent establishment of an organization dedicated to infancy saw a beautiful and difficult task in front of them.

I listened to discussions on the duplication that would occur in infant health care in the world with the establishment, on the one hand, of the World Health Organization, which should have mother-child health programmes, and, on the other hand, of UNICEF which would assimilate itself to the programme of the World Health Organization.

THE NEED FOR UNICEF AND ITS ALTRUISTIC AND OPEN CO-OPERATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Mexican delegation to the World Health Assembly had supported the idea of creating a world organization, without abolishing that of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, now the Pan American Health Organization, which is of regional character and functions as a regional office of the WHO without difficulties through agreements with the latter.

The existence of the specialized regional organization widely benefits all the countries of America.

The abolishment of the Pan American Organization, in order to maintain only the World Health Organization, provoked many and heated discussions, but finally good judgment prevailed and Article 54 of the Constitution of WHO provided the solution that functions admirably and is an example of understanding and co-operation between nations. It is a triumph for the cause of physical, mental, and social health in the world. I thought then, and time has confirmed it, that the United Nations Children's Fund complements, but does not substitute for, nor interfere with, WHO and PASO.

The fact that the funds for the budget of UNICEF, an organization of the Economic and Social Council, are not included in the regular budget of the United Nations produces difficulties for UNICEF operations. Its regular budget is made up of voluntary contributions, principally those of governments and individuals, very limited, which vary from year to year and sometimes decline to dangerous levels in terms of the organized life of UNICEF.

It is noteworthy that the countries are aware of the reality of UNICEF assistance, as for example, improvement in the health services and the health of mothers and children and as in programmes for the protection and encouragement of a healthful life in the rural areas. One can observe this reality in Mexico where one sees the initials of UNICEF on the potable water supply pumps in many isolated communities.

Less visible, but no less real, is the assistance which UNICEF provides to doctors, nurses, auxiliary nurses and practically experienced midwives in the programmes for infant and maternal protection.

MY SECOND CONTACT WITH UNICEF

At the end of 1947 I left Mexico in order to occupy the post of the Secretary-General of the Pan American Sanitary Office, executive body of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.

I then had an opportunity to personally know the admirable human being Maurice Pate.

The Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Mrs. Adelaide Sinclair, visited the Office in Washington and was able to observe how, in the fight against the transmissible diseases

Which oppressed many countries in the Americas, such as malaria and yaws (framboesia tropica) and, in the programmes for mother-child care, the resources of UNICEF were meshed with those of the Pan American Sanitary Office and, through these, with those of the World Health Organization in its regional office.

On taking up the position of the Secretary-General of the Pan American Sanitary Office, I had already had the opportunity at different international meetings to know Miss Katherine F. Lenroot and Mrs. Shirley Enochs who had undertaken admirable work in the Children's Bureau of the United States and in inter-american programmes of co-operation and I could understand their admiration for the works of UNICEF in the world.

Besides co-operating in the direct care programmes for mothers and children and in the campaign against illnesses that cause the greater part of infant mortality, UNICEF provided technical assistance and resources for establishing the BCG production laboratory in Mexico, BCG being a vaccine which is indispensable for the fight against tuberculosis in the developing countries. Moreover, UNICEF provided powdered milk to be used as complementary nourishment for children.

EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
OF MEXICO WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CHILDREN'S FUND

In 1955 the World Health Assembly was held in Mexico City, the first Assembly to take place outside of Europe. Dr. Ignacio Morones Prieto was elected President and one of the

resolutions approved, which was of primordial interest for Mexico, stated that the countries overwhelmed by the intensity of malaria, a disease which impedes the cultivation and development of the most fertile regions and increases infant mortality, should undertake a campaign for erradicating it.

Mr. Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, President of the Republic, knowledgeable about the problem of malaria due to his origins in Veracruz, for having directed the Department of Demography of the Secretariat of Government, and having been Governor of his state, which was affected by malaria, issued on 17 December 1955 a Decreto declarando de interés público y de beneficio social la campaña para erradicar el paludismo. In support of this decree, he increased the 1956 budget for the campaign by twelve times. UNICEF, also in support, provided Jeeps for transporting the personnel, doctors, insecticide sprayers, and sanitation health inspectors, as well as laboratory equipment for microscopic examinations of blood in order to penetrate the rural areas and remote places in the country.

As a most practical mark of the detailed coverage given by the National Commission for the Eradication of Malaria, the Commission used the acronym "C.N.E.P." and a corresponding sequential number for each house visited and registered as a guide for the periodic application of the insecticide and for the administration of medication to the residents, ill persons and those suspected of having contracted it.

The rural homes accepted this form of identification and, in many small localities, used it for a postal address, as for example, "C.N.E.P 825" and the name of the locality. The vehicles with the acronym "UNICEF y S.S.A." marked the penetration in Mexico of the health sanitation activities, carried out by the personnel in the most remote rural regions.

On writing these lines in 1983, in which are linked historically the work of UNICEF and the Secretariat of Health and Social Services, only one or two deaths or none, have been recorded in recent years, whereas around 18,000 deaths annually were occurring in 1935 from this disease.

For the presidential period following that of Don Adolfo Ruiz Cortinez, Dr. Adolfo Lopez Mateos was elected. In order to be aware of his views on international problems, it is worthwhile to recall his words at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in March 1983, at which time he described clearly the objectives for achieving a dynamic peace, which, in fact, characterize the functions of the international organizations:

"War, hunger, ignorance and illness are the worse scourges of civilization. It will not be possible to attack any of them on a worldwide scale without an active and fruitful international cooperation. This fact, which appears evident when one alludes to war, is no less certain for the circumstances pertaining to disease, which, is more extensive each day in many regions. As such it requires measures of joint action, on each occasion more precise and more complex for all that pertaining to hunger, against which it would not be possible to fight without the assistance of all continents, and for all that pertaining to ignorance, which is, at the same time, the most

concealed cause and the clearest consequence of the tragic injustices of history. To avoid war is without doubt, and above all presently, the most compelling task. But peace does not only presume good juridical and political agreements. The United Nations understood this from the beginning, and, for this reason, created a body of specialized institutions, among them FAO for food and agricultural support; WHO for the maintenance of health; and UNESCO for the development of education, science and culture.

The work of the three institutions that have just been mentioned and that of the agencies that complement them, such as the ILO, should be realized in narrow coordination and requires, among all parties, equal energy. Man, without doubt, is a vulnerable body. To defend him from physical misery implies a duty which cannot be prescinded. But man is, also, a menaced conscience. From this arises the necessity of attending to his spirit, of training him through studies, and of opening the ways to a liberating culture for his intelligence, sensitiveness and character."

President Lopez Mateos and his wife, Mrs. Eva Samano de Lopez Mateos, who directed the National Association for the Protection of Children and INPI, the National Institute for the Protection of Children, created in 1961 "under the moral and social imperative of protecting the child through all means", increased the contribution for UNICEF.

The patronage of the INPI, presided over by the wife of the President of the Republic, Eva Samano de Lopez Mateos, was composed of the Secretaries of Health and Social Services Dr. Jose Alvarez Amezcuita, Finance, Lic. Antonio Ortiz Mena, Public Education, Lic. Jaime Torres Bodet, and National - Patrimony, Lic. Eduardo Bustamante.

I was named by the Government of Mexico as its representative to UNICEF in 1961 at the suggestion of the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Jose Alvarez Amezquita, and had the privilege and high honor of being elected President of the Executive Board of UNICEF in 1962 and re-elected in 1963.

In my long life in the service of national and international public health, I have known many persons occupied actively in the programmes of health and welfare for human beings, some representatives of their countries, others international functionaries of the respective organizations, all in one form or another servants of humanity.

I can say that I hold the names and the deeds of the persons who I knew in UNICEF in a special place of affection in my memories, and in immense gratitude. I speak of those persons with whom I dealt with as representatives of their countries in the Executive Board meetings of UNICEF and, above all, the magnificent group of functionaries who, with the Executive Director, Mr. Maurice Pate, collaborated, worked and yet work in New York and in the remote corners of the earth.

I speak of Mr. E. J. Robert Heyward, admirable worker, of the Secretary of the Executive Board; and Mr. John Charnow, as well as the personnel of the central office in New York and the representatives on the various continents.

In Mexico I speak of two especially with whom I dealt with day after day, as Under-Secretary of Health, in their representation in Mexico for UNICEF: Mr. Bert Reynolds for a considerable time and Mr. John Grun, although for a shorter time due to my departure from the position of Under-Secretary.

All of them were human beings, intelligent, prepared for their roles as ambassadors of UNICEF, with love for children and mothers, brothers and members of the families which were the object of the solicitudes to UNICEF throughout the world, exceptional in the manner of doing good. People who left a deep sense of service in my spirit. The best that I found in my life.

In these notes of historical recollections, I will mention only the members of the Executive Board of UNICEF who attended the Session of December 1962, in order not to increase the number of these pages.

I maintain in my library among documents the declarations that fell to me to make as President of the Executive Board in the 33rd Session of the Economic and Social Council on 9 April 1962 and in its 35th Session on 16 April 1963.

UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION

In April 1962 the Executive Board examined two decisions taken in 1961, one that UNICEF co-operate with the countries that request it, evaluating their principal problems relative to children; and one that it prepare realizable uninterrupted programmes of action. It was decided that UNICEF consider all requests made by countries for its co-operation with them in the solution of the problems, although these were, in some cases, programmes in which, up to then, UNICEF had not participated.

As a first result of the examination, it was noted that the needs of the children are immense; that in each country a different type of assistance was needed and, also, that it is necessary, in each country, that UNICEF approach and deal with

each government in a particular way, taking into account the history of the country and the social, economic, cultural and political conditions. Moreover, one cannot have a rigid attitude and a carpenter's square to which the countries are subjected in order that UNICEF's co-operation with them may be possible.

In the report to the Economic and Social Council I mentioned, as an example, known to me, that the Secretariat of Health and Social Services in Mexico, taking into account mother-child needs, rural social welfare in some cases and urban or suburban social welfare in others, carry out specialized programmes directed by doctors of the Department of Health in:

- a) community development;
- b) encouragement and preservation of health by means of mother-child clinics;
- c) distribution of scientifically balanced school breakfasts for improving the nutrition of children;
- d) participation of mothers in the preparation of the breakfasts and their cooperation in the oversight of the children in order to teach them to wash their hands before and after eating and to train them to leave the utensils and dining area clean, which space is frequently made available by the community; and
- e) encouragement of the rural communities in the production of fruits and vegetables, in the establishment of poultry raising, in the promotion of sports and the improvement of housing.

The programme seems quite ambitious, but it has been carried out, particularly in the states of Michoacan, Tlaxcala, and Coahuila and in districts established in Tlaxcala, San Andres Tuxtla, Veracruz and in Celaya, Guanajuato. In these three places UNICEF has co-operated in that part of the social welfare programme which is related to mothers and children.

UNICEF has provided pumps for wells, jeeps for the transportation of the personnel of the Secretariat of Health and Social Services, kits for the nurses and for the needs of children which are universal and can be noted with different gradations on each continent, in each climate and under all economic, political and social regimes of the world.

Under practical considerations UNICEF divided the needs of children into: a) the needs in urban areas and b) needs in rural areas.

OBSERVATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WHILE IN MEXICO

Appointed by Dr. Jose Alvarez Amezquita, I had the opportunity, together with Drs. Felipe Garcia Sanchez and Jose Figueroa Ortiz to show a group of Executive Board Members the mother-child services in the rural area of Tlaxcala, center of the country, in Veracruz on the coast and in Tamaulipas in north-eastern Mexico. This was in 1961.

It is possible that the interest of my country in mother-child care and in the fight against malaria, with the assistance of UNICEF, may have been factors in my election as President of the Executive Board, in which post I presented the reports of this body.

The Executive Board has also taken into account the fact that, in recent years, the cities are experiencing a rapid increase of population in which the children, the adolescents, the fathers and the mothers within the family context all have problems involving shelter, environmental sanitation, education and preventive and curative medicine.

In these cases, physicians need the assistance of anthropologists, and social and health workers with wide experience and preparation.

Among the commitments approved in the Session of December 1962 for work in Africa, Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean region, Europe, the Americas, as well as in international projects for health services, can be mentioned the following for the control of transmissible diseases: malaria, tuberculosis and B.C.G. vaccination, yaws, trachoma, leprosy and other illnesses. In nutrition were included programmes of infant nourishment applied nutrition and milk preservation.

Programmes of family and infant welfare, education, vocational training, national planning evaluation, development and training programmes can be mentioned, as well. Furthermore, there were emergency aid programmes, in some cases, in the amount of \$227,135, with a programme total of \$25,964,464.

In each one of the programmes the technical approval of the specialized agency of the United Nations was obtained. Thus, health programmes were approved by the World Health Organization, those of education by UNESCO, those of milk preservation by the Food and Agricultural Organization, and specialized services by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations and by WHO.

I took immense spiritual and unique satisfaction in observing the international co-operation of the different organizations and UNICEF's respect for the technical organizations.

As President of the Executive Board, I also had the opportunity to be acquainted with and to present the reports to the 34th and 35th sessions of the Economic and Social Council. Another problem for UNICEF is that of taking into account the needs of children, those requirements that necessarily include the needs of mothers and fathers, within the programmes of national development planning. In this case needs are very variable in each one of the countries and even within a country, as much for education as for employment, economy, technical education and in the preparation of the natural leaders of the community.

UNICEF needs to be aware that its funds are made available voluntarily by the countries and in some cases the budget requirements are of such considerable scale that, in spite of the desires of the government leaders and the directors of health, the contribution for UNICEF is very limited.

The meetings of the personnel of UNICEF, together with representatives of the Executive Board, when considering the technical approval of the World Health Organization for health and nutrition programmes, and of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for food production programmes, always counted on the co-operation of the personnel of these organizations.

At all times and in all cases, I should repeat that the Executive Director, Mr. Maurice Pate, Mr. Heyward, Mr. Charnow and the remainder of the personnel have been admirable from the point of view of their co-operative working spirit and in their assistance. This was shown in my particular case, as a fraternal friend, by Mr. Heyward when I suffered a grave problem of illness

in Moscow in December 1963 at the beginning of a trip that I had undertaken with enthusiasm and hope as a Member of the Executive Board, in order to visit the mother-child services of the U.S.S.R., Indonesia and Thailand, where the meeting of the Executive Board, which I could not attend, took place and after which the scheduled visits were to terminate in Japan.

The permanent programmes for aiding mothers and children throughout the world have as their ideal that children, as well as their mothers and, through education, all members of the family, may be provided with nutritional food, potable water, sanitation and better shelter.

Oh, happy and healthy children assisted by UNICEF and by their parents: on growing may then encounter the support of schools and teachers; as adolescents may they learn, primarily in the developing countries, simple technologies that may assist them in work; and may the programmes of UNICEF be a leavening, support and ideal for human welfare and peace.

Currently family planning occupies a very special place in the programmes of UNICEF.

MEMBERS OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD WHO ATTENDED

THE SESSION OF DECEMBER 1962

C O U N T R I E S

M E M B E R S

President	Dr. Miguel E. Bustamante
Afghanistan	Mr. A. H. Tabibi
Brazil	Mr. Marcos de Azambuja
Bulgaria	Mr. D.D. Stamboliev
Canada	Mr. J.W. Willard
Chile	Mr. Tobías Barros
China	Mr. Pao-Yi Tsao
Ecuador	Dr. Gonzalo Alcivar
El Salvador	Mr. F.A. Carrillo
	Mr. Mario Carmona
Federal Republic of Germany	Mr. Guido Brunner
France	Mr. J.M. Bouquin
Greece	Mr. J.D. Retalis
India	Mr. K. Natwar Singh
Indonesia	Miss E. H. Laurens
Iran	Mr. Mehdi Ehsassi
Israel	Mrs. Zena Harman
Italy	Mr. Giovanni Scolamiero
Japan	Mr. Bunshichi Hoshi
Mexico	Dr. Miguel E. Bustamante
Nigeria	Dr. O. Adeniyi-Jones
Pakistan	Mr. V.A. Hamdani
Poland	Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner
Republic of Vietnam	Mr. To-Ngoc-Thach
Sweden	Mr. B.C.G. Holmsquist
Switzerland	Mr. O. Exchaquet
Tunisia	Mr. M. Chakchouk
Turkey	Mr. N. Karakoylu
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. D.D. Venediktov

United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

Mr. H.P.L. Attlee
Mr. P.F. Delli Quadri
Dr. Katherine Bain
Miss Blanche Bernstein
Mr. John E. Means
Mr. Mateo Marques Sere

Uruguay

SECRETARIAT OF THE BUREAU OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Miss Martha Branscombe
Miss Phyllis Burns
Miss Aída Gindy

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ILO

Mr. H. Reymond
Mr. L.H. Segovia

FAO

Mr. M. Lamer
Mr. J. Orr
Miss I. Sweede

UNESCO

Mr. P. Thomforde
Mr. A. Salsamendi

WHO

Dr. G.R. Garcin
Dr. Michael Sacks
Dr. D.R. Thomson

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic International Union
for Social Service

Mrs. Carmen Giroux

International Conference of
of Social Work

Miss Ruth Williams
Miss Sally Ehrlich

International Union Against
the Venereal Diseases and
the Treponematoses

Mrs. Josephine Tuller

League of Red Cross Societies

Mrs. John W. Sheppard

The Salvation Army
World Alliance of Young Men's
Christian Associations
World Federation for Mental Health
World Jewish Congress
World Union of Catholic
Women's Organizations

Colonel Jane E. Wrieden
Mr. Dalton F. McClelland
Mr. Myer Cohen
Mrs. Philip Berman
Miss Alba Zizzamia

I have referred periodically in the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico to the programmes of UNICEF co-operation in the fight against malaria and also to the assistance in various forms to mothers and children. Furthermore, for the reason that UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on 25 October 1965, the National Academy of Medicine celebrated a special session in honor of the United Nations Children's Fund on 1 December of the same year.

In that session I presented the work "El Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia y el Premio Nobel de la Paz," in which I praised and explained the work of UNICEF in the world and in Mexico.

In concluding the session, Mr. John Grun, UNICEF Representative in Mexico spoke in order to express appreciation for the homage.

WRITINGS OF DR. MIGUEL E. BUSTAMANTE REFERRING
DIRECTLY TO THE PROBLEMS OF CHILDHOOD

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- 1938 "Asistencia a los niños en edad preescolar en zonas rurales." Segundo Congreso de Higiene Rural. S.L.P., 1938.
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- 1939 Bustamante, Miguel E. y Ramos Galvan, Rafael. "Mortalidad infantil y mortalidad de niños de 1 a 5 años en México." Rev. Mex. de Puericultura. 9: 167, 1939.
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- 1965 "La labor del Instituto Nacional de Protección a la Infancia en la Salud Pública." Prensa Médica de México, año 30: 297, año de 1965.
- 1966 "El Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia y el Premio Nobel de la Paz". Gac. Med. de Mex. 96: 163, 1966.
- 1969 "50 años de mortalidad infantil en México." Acta Pediátrica Latinoamericana 1: 45, 1969.

RECOLLECTIONS OF SOME EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF UNICEF
OF SPECIAL PERSONAL MEANING

The first session of the Executive Board in 1962 in which, having been elected President of the Board, I could count directly on the advice of Mr. Maurice Pate, Executive Director, and of Mr. John Charnow during the course of the session.

The friendly attitude of co-operation of all the delegates from various countries of the world and their constant participation in the sessions which were realized with absolute punctuality in the morning and afternoon of each one of the working days in 1962 and 1963.

The presence of Mr. U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations in the opening session of the 1963 meeting.

The exchanges of impressions with the delegates in the informal meetings in the office assigned to the President of the Executive Board.

The radio transmissions in New York of the educational programmes of UNICEF.

The meetings in Paris, with the assistance of the UNICEF Representative in Europe, and the visits to the School of Prenatal and Infant Care, which received the co-operation of UNICEF.

The meetings in New York and in Geneva with representatives of the World Health Organization in relation to the technical approval of the programmes for the fight against various illnesses and for support to maternal and infant care.

On being the victim of an infarction of the myocardium in Moscow on 30 December 1963, it was the personal assistance and company of Mr. E.J.R. Heyward, which permitted me to overcome the first hours of illness, and to receive the aid of the emergency medical services of the U.S.S.R. until the transfer to the Diplomatic Section of the Bodkin Hospital, I remained there during the months of January, February and March until my departure from the U.S.S.R. with my wife, Alice Mary Connolly de Bustamante, who accompanied me in the hospital and to Paris where we finally left for Mexico by way of New York.

During the return trip and with great surprise and happiness Mr. Maurice Pate, Executive Director of UNICEF, joined us and accompanied us as far as New York.

Mr. Pate made a magnanimous gesture which reflects his character, spirit and human sentiment. He, who never asked anything special for himself and traveled by air in tourist class, on noting on our arrival at New York that the airplane was taking its position in the "stacked up" landing pattern, went to see the pilot in order that he advise the control tower that an ill passenger who had suffered an infarction of the myocardium was on the airplane and that it was necessary that the airplane land with the least delay possible.

With a period of waiting, given the personality of Dr. Pate, and his attitude and goodwill, it was looked after and we arrived in New York.

In Mexico I succeeded in recovering my health.

My wife and I returned to visit UNICEF in January of 1965 on the death of Maurice Pate, the great man of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Since a meeting in 1916 of a group of delegates of the Commission for Assistance in Belgium of the European Population, especially for children and mothers abandoned as a consequence of the war, Pate worked always as one of the humanists of the greatest stature which the world has known. UNICEF left a monument in the institution which, for him, covered all the peoples of the world, as much in the Americas as in Africa, Asia and Europe, in its care for mothers and children. Among the people and in their governments he could converse with the same simplicity with a dignitary as with a woman of the community or with a child in a school.

I saw him caress the head of a Tlaxcalteca girl who was drawing water from a pump, and we said to her that Mr. Pate was the Director of the institution that had sent the pump, at which point the girl spontaneously kissed his hand. It was surely the attraction of an intelligent and generous man through which his smile conveyed love.

When he died of a heart attack in transit to eternity which is, for him, made of the memory that he left in the world, the group assembled at the ceremony in Riverside Church and the homage paid to him expressed the sentiments and the emotions of those who knew Maurice Pate (1894-1965). Those paying their respects were Secretary-General of the United Nations U Thant; Mrs. Zena Harman, President of the Executive Board of the United Nations; Mr. Clare M. Torrey, President of the Belgium-American Educational Foundation; and Mr. Pate's working colleague of the United Nations Children's Fund, Mr. E.J.R. Heyward. Finally, we listened to the words of the Reverend Laubach, written by Mrs. Martha Lucas Pate in her expression of love and memories.

Later, it was possible for me to return to a session of the Executive Board of UNICEF in 1967, as Adviser to the official Spokesman of the National Commission for the Erradication of Malaria, and in relation to the budgets of Mexico and UNICEF dealing with the continuation of the programme of erradication.

Lastly, in celebrating the Annual Meeting of the Executive Board in Mexico City in 1980 in the Conference Hall of the Secretary of Foreign Relations, Mr. John Charnow invited the President of the Executive Board of that year and the ex-Presidents who attended on that occasion for a photograph, which in the nationalities of the persons represented, is a symbol of the union of the nations in the work of the United Nations Children's Fund.

A N N E X N O . 1

Among the delegates of the countries of the Americas, members of the Pan American Sanitary Office, I recall Drs. Alberto Swank of Argentina; Geraldo de Paula Sousa and Héctor P. Froes of Brazil; Pedro Nogueira of Cuba; Thomas Parran, James Doull and Louis L. Williams of the United States; Nacianceno Romero of Chile; Juan Alwood Paredes of El Salvador; Carlos Enrique Paz Soldan of Peru; Justo González of Uruguay; and Arnoldo Gavaldón of Venezuela.

The delegation of Mexico was constituted by Drs. Octavio Mondragón, Under-Secretary of Health and Social Services, Miguel E. Bustamante, Alberto P. León, Gustavo Roviroza and José Zozaya.

A N N E X N O . 2

SUMMARY OF THE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MIGUEL E. BUSTAMANTE,
PHYSICIAN, DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE-
BOARD OF UNICEF IN 1962 AND 1963

Graduated as Physician Surgeon at the National School of Medicine in 1925; obtained, in 1926, in an open competition of the Department of Health, a fellowship of that institution and of the Rockefeller Foundation for studying public health in the United States.

Graduated as Doctor of Public Health on 12 June 1928 in the School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns-Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 1929 was Chief and Founder of the Co-operative Sanitary Unit of Veracruz, in which the Department of Health of the central government, the Directorate of Health of the State of Veracruz, the Municipal Government of the Port and the Rockefeller Foundation participated.

The health programme was established to cover 69,000 inhabitants.

The programme of the Unit included a special section on mother-child hygiene with a specialist physician and four nurses, two of them visiting nurses. In 1930, with the collaboration of various groups of the Veracruz population, the Association for the Protection of Infants was founded, following the programme established in the capital of the Republic. It established the first modern lying-in hospital in the port.

In 1930, the overall and infant mortality rates were very high throughout the Republic, the infant mortality rate reaching 131 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1930, dropping to 68.5 in 1970 and to 39.7 in 1978.

The overall mortality was affected in large part by the infant mortality; it was 26.6 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in 1930, dropping to 9.9 in 1970 and to 6.4 in 1978.

The Department of Health, taking the system of co-operation with some states and municipalities as a base, refined the agreements and, in 1934, the services of national health were co-ordinated with those of the states and municipalities in order to avoid duplications and join forces with each one of the governments preserving its legal authority.

On concluding this stage, various studies were initiated on childhood problems, as well as a series of investigation on infant mortality and its causes.

Respecting the specific works of UNICEF, I presented a work titled "El Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia y el Premio Nobel de la Paz" to the National Academy of Medicine in 1966 on the occasion of the awarding of the Nobel Prize to UNICEF. In the same session, Mr. John Grun, UNICEF Representative in Mexico expressed words of appreciation for the homage paid. The works were published in the Gaceta Médica de México, Tomo 96: 163, 1966.

Periodically, I made reference in the National Academy of Medicine to the Campaign for the Eradication of Malaria and, in the Ordinary Session of 15 November 1967, before the reduction of the budget for the programme in the Secretariat of Health, I repeated a part of the Report presented to the Economic and Social Council in February 1967 at its 15th session in Geneva, in which, in referring to the programmes for combatting malaria, it was stated:

If the governments cease making counterpart funds available as required for executing the anti-malarial programme, it would not be justified for the international organizations to continue providing assistance.