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INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORK COMMITTEE

Held at Lake Success, New York on 27 December 1946 at 11 a.m.

The following were present:

Chairman:	Dr. Rajchman	(Poland)
	Miss Burwash	(Canada)
	Dr. Yang	(China)
	Mr. Campos	(Brazil)
	Mr. Dollinger	(France)
	Mr. Phillips	(United Kingdom)
	Mrs. Lenroot	(United States of America)
	Mr. Kabuchko	(U.S.S.R.)

Secretariat: Mr. Stanczyk

Committee Secretary: Mr. Delierneux

At the CHAIRMAN's request the Committee decided that at the present meeting its discussions would be held in English. The representative of France observed that this decision should not constitute a precedent.

1. Discussion of the Plan of Work

The CHAIRMAN first of all stressed the gravity of the world food shortage, mentioning that 1947 would be a very difficult year for food supplies in Europe.

During the first months of 1947 UNRRA would deliver the supplies remaining from the 1946 programme. It would place its files at the Fund's disposal and would give the latter the benefit of its experience "on the spot."

In organizing its work the Fund's primary aim should be to obtain accurate information about the requirements of the various countries.

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The Executive Board of the Fund should first of all ascertain the requirements of children and adolescents in 1947. This would be a fairly simple and speedy task, for which the Fund would have the assistance of UNRRA and the United Nations Secretariat.

The Fund's plan of action consisted of three parts:

- A. Nutrition;
- B. Relief (including questions relating to equipment and miscellaneous institutions);
- C. Training of staff (medical and welfare staff and social workers) to be placed at the disposal of the countries to be assisted. In this connection the World Health Organization could give valuable assistance, especially as it had received \$1,500,000.00 from UNRRA of which a considerable proportion, at least two-thirds, might be allocated to the professional training of the necessary staff.

In order to carry out its tasks satisfactorily the Fund should:

- (1) First of all gather information as to how children were affected by the present rationing systems in the various countries. This was essential, as the Fund's food supply work was to be incorporated in the general framework of national supply programmes;
- (2) Study the supply programmes of institutions dealing with children, expectant mothers and adolescents (such as schools, canteens, etc.)
- (3) Tackle the milk question in the various countries, a very serious problem. For this purpose the situation and prospects in the various countries would have to be ascertained, together with government projects; the estimated minimum milk ration in each country for the next three years, and the means available for its actual distribution.

/Governments

Governments would be asked to indicate on the one hand, the proportion of deliveries they could themselves supply, and, on the other, the estimated deficit which would have to be made good by imports.

The CHAIRMAN then asked the UNRRA representative to make a statement.

Mr. DAVIDSON (UNRRA) mentioned that UNRRA had drawn up a scheme for feeding children and recalled the past activities of that organization. He pointed out that by applying to the UNRRA missions in the various countries, the Fund would be able to obtain a great deal of valuable information about the countries in which the organization had worked and particularly about the national supply systems and the way in which they operated in regard to children, and food distribution in schools and children's institutions. UNRRA was most willing to place its records at the disposal of the Fund's Executive Board and to co-operate with the organizations referred to by Dr. Rajchman.

The CHAIRMAN considered that what really mattered were the programmes for 1947 of the institutions concerned (particularly those which were considered by their Government to be "key institutions") and also, specification of those imports necessary for rendering possible the implementation of those programmes. The respective needs of the different categories of children varied considerably from country to country.

Furthermore, the governments should specify their needs apart from food, i.e. as regards medical and pharmaceutical supplies, artificial limbs and other aids to the disabled, clothing and footwear.

As regards the specialized agencies the Fund should in no wise discourage voluntary agencies but, on the contrary, should assist them. It should, moreover, request information from the governments regarding the number of private institutions and their field of operation, and

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also the co-ordination of their activities and what part of the necessary imports could not be supplied either through them or through the authorities, as it was only in respect of that part that the financial assistance of the Fund could be afforded.

According to information obtained by the Chairman it appeared that Switzerland's participation in the Fund could be effected in three different ways, whereby the Swiss Government either increased the amount of the assistance given by it to its voluntary specialized agencies operating abroad, or afforded certain export services to the Fund, or accorded hospitality to a larger number of children; it might also make a cash contribution to the Fund.

II. The Staff Question

The CHAIRMAN proposed that this item on the agenda be postponed and referred to the next meeting of the Executive Board, which was to take place on 7 January.

Mrs. LENROOT (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) pointed out that the time allowed to delegations for studying the candidatures for the post of Executive Director would be too short. She asked that the names of candidates be communicated to delegates before 6 January, as and when they were received by the Secretariat.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) thought it would be helpful for delegates to suggest names of candidates for the possible post of Assistant Director.

The CHAIRMAN said that so far no arrangement had been made to consider the matter.

He proposed that the meeting of the Executive Board scheduled for 17 February be postponed until 24 February.

This suggestion was adopted.

III. Report to the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council

Mrs. LENROOT (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) requested that a study be made of the broad aspects of the report which should contain numerical data in addition to the general plan of procedure. In that respect the report should suggest that the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council afford general guidance to the Executive Board in order to expedite its activity.

The CHAIRMAN considered that such principles had already been embodied in the Fund's Constitution and that difficulties should only be dealt with as and when they transpired in the course of the activity of the Fund, that is to say, only when guidance in such questions had to be sought.

IV. The Problem

IV. The Problem of Financing the Fund

The CHAIRMAN added that in his opinion the over-riding question was that of obtaining the necessary financial resources for the Fund.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) considered that Governments would not take any decision on the question of contributions until the Executive Board had specified the amount of UNRRA's unused balance which would revert to the Fund.

The CHAIRMAN thought that as this amount would not be known until about the end of January 1947, an appeal should in the meantime be made to Governments for financial assistance to the Fund, especially as the balance of UNRRA funds would not be actually available until the second part of 1947.

The Assembly resolution asking governments to contribute to the financing of the Fund was very precise and the Secretary-General was bound to give effect to that resolution by making representations to governments setting forth the Fund's *raison d'être* and the importance of the work of saving children's and young people's lives, its international social service quality which was more than mere charity. It was necessary, too, for the members of the Executive Board, for their part, to explain forthwith to their respective Governments the purpose of the Fund, the action it proposed to take and the amount of the funds it ought to have at its disposal. All Governments, whether they had financed UNRRA or had received its help, should contribute to the Fund, since the greater part of its resources would consist of government contributions and the inheritance received from UNRRA. For instance, the Polish Government would make a contribution in kind, probably sugar.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) thought it might be dangerous to fix the Fund's capital, as that might be tantamount to limiting it. He also considered that it would be easier to collect funds through collections or private organizations than through governments which had to follow parliamentary procedure.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN, basing his calculations on estimates and in particular on the Greek and Polish projects, thought that the Fund should have at least 100 million dollars at its disposal. He doubted whether collections from the general public upon whose generosity so many calls had already been made, would yield any large amount. In his opinion, national agencies should not be expected to hand over to the Fund part of the moneys they had collected through their own efforts. At any rate, collections could not be organized directly by the United Nations, but only by the Governments concerned and on a national basis.

Moreover, the Secretariat would have to study other methods of financing the Fund. He mentioned the recent Norwegian suggestion put forward in connection with another question, that both employers and wage-earners should contribute one day's pay per month to relief work (which he thought might produce as much as 200 million dollars), the assistance which might be given by the World Co-operative Alliance, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the FAO. A number of other possibilities might be explored. A special committee of inquiry should be set up, to which the Executive Board would make suggestions.

As a purely personal suggestion, the Chairman remarked that he had been struck by the fact that every freight invoice for a shipment of goods comprised percentages which were added to the total cost of transport. He wondered how much could be brought in by a surcharge of one per cent of the invoice amount and by a similar surcharge on marine insurance premiums and all transcontinental transport invoices. A tax on harbour dues, which were very high, and on the enormous Suez and Panama Canal dues, might also be contemplated.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) thought that the suggestions which had just been outlined were very complicated and intricate; in his view a direct general appeal to the public would yield better and quicker results.

/Mrs. LENROOT

Mrs. LENROOT (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) shared Mr. Phillips' doubts.

The CHAIRMAN said that the chief point was that Governments should indicate the method they preferred, each in so far as it was concerned, which they would be prepared to organize or encourage throughout their territory. The danger of voluntary appeals was that they might give the impression that the Fund was a charitable organization; moreover, publicity campaigns to start collections were often extremely costly.

Lastly, it was difficult to contemplate both governmental contributions and a collection campaign simultaneously.

Hence, the Work Committee should concentrate first and foremost on transmitting all useful data to Governments, to enable them to state their views on contributions and collections as soon as possible. It was particularly to be desired that members of the Executive Board should make representations to their respective Governments with this object in view.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) thought that some Governments would be disinclined to study the problem of financing the Fund until they knew how much public collections were likely to yield.

Dr. YANG (CHINA) suggested that, to enable the members of the Executive Board to approach their respective Governments, a statement be drawn up and circulated, giving a clear summary of the purpose and aims of the Fund, the resources it should command, and the various methods of obtaining them which might be contemplated.

Mr. CAMPOS (BRAZIL) hoped that the proposed statement would take into account the diversity of circumstances in which the various countries were placed, since their food requirements and difficulties, and their possibilities of production differed widely.

Mrs. LENROOT (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) hoped that the statement would also contain information as to the number of children to be taken into consideration, and the methods by which the Fund's food supply plans

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would be carried out.

The Committee approved the Chinese delegate's suggestion without opposition.

The Committee then asked the Secretariat to convene a meeting of the delegates of Latin-American countries represented on the Executive Board.

In conclusion, the CHAIRMAN summarized the present plan of work, based on suggestions approved by the Committee. This scheme would be communicated as quickly as possible to the members of the Committee (see annex).

The CHAIRMAN announced that the next meeting would probably be held on 24 February 1947, and again appealed to the members of the Executive Board to be the interpreters and ambassadors of the Fund to their Governments. He especially hoped that the latter would state their views on the possibility of raising voluntary contributions.

The meeting rose at 12:45 p.m.

ANNEX

Plan of work drawn up during the meeting
of the work Committee
(27 December 1946)

I. APPRAISAL OF THE IMMEDIATE FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.

The Committee shall with the aid of UNRRA and the competent services of the Secretariat undertake an enquiry for the appraising of needs in the countries concerned.

II. PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE MILK PROBLEM

The attention of the Secretariat is drawn to the urgent necessity of establishing a Committee to carry out the above study. This Committee should comprise representatives of the World's Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNRRA and the competent services of the United Nations Secretariat.

III. FINANCE

1. The Secretary-General is invited to set up a Committee to consider this question. The said Commission should examine the suggestions already made (Norwegian proposal for the contribution of one day's pay, wages or salary, any assistance that might be given by the major non-governmental organizations, etc.,) and any other suggestions which the executive Board may make.

2. With a view to giving effect to the resolution of the Assembly respecting the International Children's Emergency Fund steps should be taken to explain the reason for the constitution of the Fund, its international character as a body for social welfare and not merely a work of charity, and also to obtain the help of the Governments.

For this purpose documents would be drawn up setting forth:

- (a) the reason for the constitution of the Fund (purpose, aims, etc.),
- (b) a general summary of the situation (estimate of the various categories of young people in need of relief and the needs of the categories in the countries concerned - a short statement of the

/schemes now in

schemes now in operation for feeding children and adolescents, etc.)

(c) financial and other resources necessary for the operation of the Fund

(d) the necessity for the constitution of the Fund and a participation in financing it.

3. The Secretariat shall convene a meeting of the members representing Latin America on the Executive Board. The meeting of the Executive Board due to be held on 17 February 1947 has been postponed till 24 February 1947.

IV. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND (CANDIDATURES)

As the names of the candidates for the post of Executive Director are communicated to the Secretariat, they shall be transmitted confidentially to the members of the Executive Board.

During its meeting on 7 January 1947, the Executive Board shall consider the names of the candidates and also of those persons likely to be suitable for appointment to the post of Assistant-Director.

V NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Executive Board will take place at 11:00 a.m. 7 January 1947, at Lake Success.

The meeting of the Executive Board which was to be held on 17 February 1947, shall be postponed to the 24 February 1947.
