7. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

The General Assembly by resolution 57(I), adopted on December 11, 1946, established the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were the victims of aggression or had been receiving help from UNRRA and for child health purposes generally.[118]

At its fourth session in March 1947, the Economic and Social Council decided that reports submitted by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund should include an annual report and interim reports to each session of the Council in 1947 and 1948 (resolution 44(IV)).[119]

Accordingly, the Executive Board of the Fund submitted an interim report (E/459 and Add.l and Corr.1) to the fifth session of the Council. The report reviewed the needs of children as reported from first-hand observations by the European Mission of the Children's Fund and by the senior consultant on nutrition of the European Regional Office of UNRRA in a statement on supplementary child-feeding programs. The report dealt with the question of contributions from governments, from UNRRA and from private sources. Contributions had been made by the United States, France, Canada and Australia, and statements on the amount of contributions were expected shortly from New Zealand and Norway. The initial plans of operation of the Fund were reported, indicating eligibility for assistance and the priorities to meet the most urgent needs, as well as allocations for the first six-months period of operation of the Fund. The proposed initial distribution of the Fund was calculated to provide approximately 200 calories per day to 3,250,000 children in eleven countries: Austria, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Hungary, China, France, Greece, Italy, Poland and Yugoslavia.[120] Formal agreements were to be made with countries receiving assistance from the Fund. A basic form of agreement (E/459, Annex IV) was submitted by the Executive Board to give effect to the principles for the operation of the Fund, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session.

The basic form of agreement therefore contained provisions to ensure that all aid contributed by the Fund would be with the consent of and through the national government concerned. The government, or those voluntary agencies within the country mutually agreed upon between the Fund and the government, would act as trustees of supplies of the Fund, but title to these supplies would remain with UNICEF until their ultimate consumption. It also contained certain major policy provisions to govern distribution operations: "aid will be rendered without discrimination because of race, creed, nationality status, or political belief; International Children's Emergency Fund representatives will freely observe the distribution and use of the supplies of the Fund; supplies will bear the distinctive marking 'U.N. Children's Fund'; and complete and accurate records and accounts of supplies of the Fund and of child-aid activities in each country will be maintained" (E/459, p. 15).

The interim report also contained a provisional table of allocations approved by the Fund's Executive Board on June 19 (E/459, p. 13).[121]

The Economic and Social Council discussed the Fund's report at its 88th plenary meeting on July 22, 1947. The Council adopted without vote resolution 79(V), recording its appreciation of the work done by the Fund, and expressing the hope that governments and voluntary agencies would be able to contribute to the Fund as much as possible. It also drew the attention of the Fund to the views expressed by members of the Council.

Among the views expressed were the following. The French and Czechoslovak representatives expressed the hope that the work of revising the allocations would be undertaken shortly. The Byelorussian representative thought that the relations between governments and the Fund's Executive Board, in the draft agreement, should be carefully studied; the functions of missions sent by the Fund into different countries seemed too wide and encroached on the powers of governmental authorities; and installation of Fund offices would cause excessive expenditure on personnel. The Norwegian and Indian representatives emphasized the necessity of reducing administrative expenditures to a minimum.

At its sixth session, the Council had before it two reports of the Executive Board of the Fund covering the period from the end of the fifth ses-

[118] See Yearbook of the United Nations, 1946-47, pp. 163-64.

[119] Ibid., pp. 519-20.

[120] Later, at a meeting of the Fund's Programme Committee, from August 18 to 23, 1947, the French representative stated that his Government had offered a reduction in the help offered to France, in the light of the tragic circumstances affecting children in certain other countries. He asked permission to re-submit the plan for France later (E/ICEF/23). France was included later in the plan of operations.

At the same meeting, the Committee recommended allotments for Bulgaria and Roumania (E/ICEF/23), which were approved, with an increased allocation for Roumania, by the Executive Board at its tenth to fifteenth meetings, held from October 2-7, 1947 (E/590).

[121] See Yearbook of the United Nations, 1946-47, p. 521.