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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Report of the Programme Committee on its 63rd through 66th Meetings
held at the European Headquarters of UNICEF, Paris,
30th October and 2nd November 1948

1. The Programme Committee at its meetings on 30th October and 2nd November 1948 discussed the Report of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/79), medical programmes, revised plans of operations, an adjustment in the allocation for Albania, an increase in the raw materials programme for China, and policy on the utilization of whole milk supplies.

MEDICAL PROGRAMMES

2. The Programme Committee had before it two reports of its Medical Sub-Committee (*), two reports of the Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee on Health Policy (**), and a number of recommendations and information notes from the Executive Director on specific aspects of the recommendations of the Medical Sub-Committee and Joint Committee (***) .

(*) E/ICEF/77 (session of 9-10 August 1948); E/ICEF/77 Add 1 (session of 28 September 1948)

(**) JC.1/UNICEF/WHO/1, included as Annex 1 E/ICEF/77 (session of 23-24 July); JC.2/UNICEF/WHO/2 (session of 19-20 October)

(***) E/ICEF/W31 Statement on Anti-Syphilis Campaigns, E/ICEF/W33 Note on Streptomycin, E/ICEF/W34 Note on Insect Control, E/ICEF/W36 Recommendations of Executive Director Regarding Medical Programmes, E/ICEF/W37 Note on BCG Campaigns.

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3. The Programme Committee took note of a number of recommendations in the reports of the Joint Committee which require action by WHO, or are purely of a medical or technical nature. The Programme Committee also, as is detailed in the sections below, makes a number of recommendations to the Executive Board for UNICEF action.

(a) Anti-Syphilis Campaign

4. The Executive Board in September by mail poll approved an allocation of \$384,200 to Poland as the UNICEF contribution to the Polish anti-syphilis programme. This was the first allocation approved out of the \$2,000,000 set aside by the Board in July to initiate anti-syphilis campaigns on behalf of children and expectant mothers. Action on other allocations awaited the examination of detailed plans from other countries and recommendations by the WHO ad hoc Venereal Diseases Expert Committee and the Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee.

5. The WHO ad hoc Venereal Diseases Expert Committee met on the 15 to 19 October 1948, and examined proposals submitted by a number of countries. The recommendations of the Expert Committee were brought to the attention of the Joint Committee, which met on the 19 to 20 October 1948 and in turn recommended that the guiding principles set forth by the Expert Committee be followed as far as possible in the development of programmes in Europe and the Far East, and that priority be given to applications from countries where a structure for VD control exists, permitting a mass attack on syphilis; or where there are problems of endemic syphilis; or where it is desirable to encourage the development by Governments of broader VD programmes.

6. The Joint Committee also recommended implementation of the proposed programmes in Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary and Yugoslavia. In addition it recommended that in accordance with Government requests, surveys be made in Albania, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy and Roumania. (JC.2/UNICEF/WHO. Item 4)

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7. On the basis of the proposed plans, the costs as estimated by the WHO Secretariat would be as follows :

<u>Bulgaria</u>	(1,000 pregnant women and 3,900 infants and children)		
	7,200 phials of penicillin in beeswax or oil of 3 million units each at \$ 5	\$ 36,000	
	Laboratory supplies and equipment	<u>15,000</u>	\$ 41,000
<u>Finland</u>	(1,000 pregnant women and 200 infants)		
	2,100 phials of penicillin in beeswax or oil of 3 million units each at \$ 5	\$ 10,500	
	Laboratory supplies and equipment	<u>5,000</u>	\$ 15,500
<u>Hungary</u>	(5,250 mothers and 200 infants)		
	12,000 phials of penicillin in beeswax and oil of 3 million units each at \$ 5	\$ 60,000	
	Laboratory equipment and supplies	<u>5,000</u>	\$ 65,000
<u>Yugoslavia</u>	(6,037 mothers and 1,200 infants to be treated in the course of an overall campaign; 52,996 mothers and children for treatment in a special area of endemic syphilis)(*)		
	80,300 phials of penicillin in beeswax and oil of 3 million units each at \$ 5	\$401,500	
	Laboratory supplies and equipment	<u>50,000</u>	\$ 451,500

8. In connection with the proposed allocation to Yugoslavia, the Executive Director recommended an allocation, at this time, of one-half the sum of \$451,500, or \$225,750. The Administration recognized the special problem in Yugoslavia and the fact that the fulfillment of the plan, which would require a year or more, would have most constructive results. The Administration's recommendation was based on the fact that the proposed amount for Yugoslavia represented a substantial proportion of the total allocation and that it would be desirable to maintain a balance between the allocations to different countries. As the campaign in Yugoslavia progressed, the Administration would have further recommendations in the light

(*) In this connection the WHO Expert Committee states "it appears that this endemic syphilis area (Bosnia) is particularly suitable for a penicillin programme in view of the great prevalence of the disease. Such a project would be of national as well as international interest and importance since similar endemic areas of high prevalence also exist in other parts of the world."

of future applications and as future resources of the Fund permit.

9. Following the meetings of the WHO Expert Committee and the Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee, a request was received from the Italian Government for an allocation of \$300,000 in order to provide penicillin and other necessary materials for the treatment of expectant mothers in centres associated with mother's messes. The Committee agreed to consider the Italian application after it had been reviewed by the WHO Expert Committee and the Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee. In order that the Italian plan might move forward, the Committee noted that the Administration would initiate procurement of a moderate amount of penicillin and laboratory equipment as soon as WHO experts had discussed a plan with the Italian Government and favourable recommendations were made by the Medical Committees. The Committee also agreed on the desirability of the UNICEF and WHO Missions to China, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, working out a proposed programme.

10. On the basis of plans submitted and the considerations outlined above, the Committee recommends that the Board approve the following allocations for the treatment of children and pregnant mothers in anti-syphilis campaigns: Bulgaria \$41,000, Finland \$15,500, Hungary \$65,000 and Yugoslavia \$225,750. These allocations amount to \$347,250. If approved, they will, together, with the allocation to Poland, bring the total allocations to \$731,470 for five countries. Of the \$2,000,000 set aside by the Board for anti-syphilis campaigns on behalf of children and expectant mothers, \$1,268,530 will remain for additional allocations to countries.

11. An overall amount of \$6,000 for fellowships, in connection with the proposed campaigns and \$5,000 for follow-up evaluation by WHO/UNICEF experts is estimated as being necessary. The Programme Committee recommends that this amount be charged to the unprogrammed balances of the countries concerned.

(b) BCG Campaign

12. The Committee had before it an account of progress in the BCG
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campaign as set forth in the report of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/79, paragraphs 43-50) as well as in the reports of the Medical Sub-Committee (E/ICEF/77; E/ICEF/77/Add.1). It also noted that the Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee was satisfied with the process of the work and recommended that present arrangements for the management of the BCG campaign should continue. (JC.2/UNICEF/WHO, item 3).

13. In establishing the Joint Enterprise last March, the Executive Board approved a machinery of co-ordination of the technical work. This machinery included a semi-annual conference attended by the Medical Sub-Committee of the Programme Committee; the WHO Sub-Committee on Tuberculin Testing and BCG Vaccination; the technical representatives of the countries in which the Joint Enterprise is operating; and the technical experts of the Joint Enterprise and the Administration, (E/ICEF/43, page 6; E/ICEF/56, paragraph 23). The first of these semi-annual conferences will take place in Copenhagen in the Spring of 1949.

14. The Programme Committee requested that a comprehensive statement on the progress of the BCG campaign, including Joint Enterprise budgets for the programmes in the various countries, be prepared for presentation to the next session of the Programme Committee.

(c) Training Programmes

15. The Committee had before it a statement summarizing the most recent developments in the group training courses in Sweden and Switzerland and the fellowship programmes for UNICEF receiving countries in the Far East (E/ICEF/79, paragraphs 53-55).

16. In view of the possibility that facilities for group training in social pediatrics and child care will again be available in 1949 in France, Sweden and Switzerland, the costs to be borne by Government contributions to UNICEF, and the possibility of similar courses being offered by other countries, the Committee recommends that the Executive Director be authorized
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to accept such courses as are offered, with the concurrence of the Medical Sub-Committee.

(d) Streptomycin for Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children

17. Requests for streptomycin for the treatment of meningitis and military tuberculosis in children have been received from several Governments. At its August session the Medical Sub-Committee considered these requests in relation to the technical recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Streptomycin of the WHO Expert Committee on Tuberculosis, which had met in New York City, 30-31 July. The Medical Sub-Committee was fortunate in that its Chairman has also acted as rapporteur of the session of the WHO Sub-Committee on Streptomycin. The technical recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Streptomycin as to conditions governing the supplying of streptomycin to Governments (WHO/TBC/3) were accepted by the Medical Sub-Committee. The Medical Sub-Committee concluded that UNICEF might properly supply governments with a certain amount of streptomycin for use in specialized centres for Tuberculosis treatment. These centres would provide facilities and treatment for 50 children each, with the Fund bearing the cost of the streptomycin. The centres would be used not only for treatment but also for the training of specialists. (E/ICEF/77, pages 3 and 4)

18. The Joint UNICEF/WHO at its second session in October likewise recommended that streptomycin be supplied to Governments in accordance with the detailed recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Streptomycin (JC.2/UNICEF/WHO, Items 3-4).

19. The Administration estimated the cost of providing streptomycin for a 50 bed unit for children, dealing mostly with cases of tuberculous meningitis and military tuberculosis, at \$37,500 for six months. Since streptomycin will be available in relatively small quantities for some months to come, the Administration proposed that for the time being no
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more than 10 centres be assisted and further that no more than one centre for each country be assisted. In view of the relatively small quantities involved, the Administration recommended that the costs of streptomycin for each centre come out of the unprogrammed balances in the country's allocations. The supplying of streptomycin to Governments is to be in accordance with conditions set forth by the WHO Expert Sub-Committee on Streptomycin and the Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee. The Administration also recommended that the training of 20 technicians at existing centres in Paris and London, at a cost of \$350 each or \$7,000, be charged to the unprogrammed balances of the countries concerned.

20. The Programme Committee recommends acceptance of the Administration's proposal. Since both the cost of the streptomycin and the training are to be charged to the unprogrammed balances of the interested countries it represents no new allocations by the Board.

(e) Insect Control and the Reduction of Infant Mortality

21. Recent experiences in the campaigns against mosquitoes and flies have brought out one striking by-product, namely the decrease of the general death rate in Summer, due in large part to the decrease in summer diarrhoeas of infants and small children. Although no UNICEF receiving country has requested assistance for DDT, sprayers and other equipment, and the training of personnel necessary for the purpose, several have expressed interest in the possibility of applying the favourable experience in Italy, Greece, Sardinia, Egypt, and Ceylon, etc., to their own efforts to protect children.

22. The Joint UNICEF/WHO Committee at its October session took note of this development and recommended that the technical opinion of the WHO Committee on Insecticides be obtained. (JC.2/UNICEF/WHO, item 9)

23. The Programme Committee recommends that under the appropriate technical advice, the Administration be authorized to meet such requests for assistance as may arise in this field with the costs to be borne from the unprogrammed balances of country allocations.

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REVISED PLANS OF OPERATION

(a) Revisions Approved by the Executive Director

24. The Committee was informed by the Executive Director of revised plans approved by him under Executive Board authority to approve such changes in plans of operation as do not affect dollar allocations (E/901, paragraph 67). Revision in plans of operation were approved for Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland

25. The changes in plans of operation for Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were necessitated by increases in allocations voted to these countries by the Board in July (E/901, paragraphs 38-39). In the case of Bulgaria, the increased allocation enabled Bulgaria to maintain the level of feeding with UNICEF supplies that had already been established and approved for the last four months of the original six-month period. Consequently, no actual alteration in the plan of operations was required, but rather merely an extension of the existing plan. As regards Czechoslovakia, the revised Czechoslovakian plan for a total of 230,000 children provides for the feeding of infants under the age of one year to a level of at least 16,000 and a change-over of the balance of the entire operation to a school feeding programme for approximately 214,000 children. In the case of Hungary, the increased allocation permits the inclusion of over 50,000 school age children (up to twelve years of age) by after school feeding with milk, in day care homes and in Budapest schools. The revised plan for Poland represents a shift in emphasis from pre-school to school feeding. Under the revised plan, supplementary food will be given to approximately 70,000 infants under one year of age, 30,000 pregnant and nursing women, and 600,000 school children from six through 14 years of age.

(b) Revisions Approved by the Programme Committee

26. The Executive Board at its July session noted that in
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Italy and Yugoslavia the operating programmes fell below, by 100,000 child units, the total number of planned child units and costs previously allocated. Although recommending allocations for a continuation of the original programme through June 1949, the Board stated that any utilization of the balances for restoring the feeding operations to the original numbers, or for other purposes, be subject to the approval of the Programme Committee upon recommendation of the Administration (E/901, paragraphs 19-20).

Italy

27. Upon recommendation of the Administration, the Programme Committee approved a revised plan for Italy which, utilizing the full 700,000 child units will provide supplementary feeding for 945,000 children and mothers. + The revised plan emphasizes school lunches with a secondary emphasis on pre-school messes. Considering the relative needs, the programme will be limited to Central Italy (south of the Gothic line), Southern Italy and the Islands.

28. The Committee was informed that discussions are going forward with the Italian Government for a programme in Italy "designed to secure permanent improvements in child nutrition and welfare" as recommended by the Board at its July session (E/901, paragraph 41).

Yugoslavia

29. Upon recommendation of the Administration, which had recently completed a special field survey in Yugoslavia, the Programme Committee approved the restoration of the 100,000 child units in Yugoslavia to be utilized as follows: 50,000 child units through additional school feeding; 50,000 child units for home consumption of dry rations under

* The feeding programme in Italy will be as follows:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>No. of persons</u>
Orphanages	5,000
Pre-school messes	325,000
School messes	575,000 **
Mothers messes	31,000
Kindergartens	9,000
Total: *	<u>945,000</u>

** of which 450,000 are in day schools and 125,000 in residential schools.

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certain conditions to the end of 1948, with the possibility of continuance by the Administration to 30 June 1949 if the needs warrant.

30. Home consumption of dry rations is to be limited to pre-school children (2 to 7 years of age) in Southern Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia, where it is virtually impossible to organize the usual type of group feeding. Distribution will take place only where children would be required otherwise to go to a feeding point more than three km. distant. Distribution will be through dispensaries where the children will be examined and weighed. The issue of dry rations is not to be made for a period exceeding two weeks. The principle of matching with local foods will be in effect under this scheme as it is in group feeding.

31. In view of the Board policy on group feeding, the plan for home consumption of dry rations was recommended by the Administration and approved by the Programme Committee with reluctance. However, because of the special conditions which obtain, the strict controls which have been instituted and the assurance that the programme will be carefully supervised and reviewed, it was believed that the plan might go forward. A report will be submitted by the Administration on the implementation of the programme to the next session of the Programme Committee.

Finland

32. It will be recalled that the Board authorized the Administration to utilize currently unprogrammed balances for non-food items when such substitution is requested by recipient governments, and the Administration concurs in the substitution. However, any substantial changes in the programmes of operations resulting from this substitution must be submitted by the Administration to the Programme Committee for prior approval. (E/901, paragraph 73). Under this
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provision, the Programme Committee approved revisions in the plan of operations for Finland, as is summarized below.

33. No further food supplies are to be shipped to Finland beyond those already received to date, except for fat, since supplies on hand will suffice to carry on current feeding operations until the end of June 1949. Moreover, the Finnish food position, including milk, has noticeably improved because of this year's good crops. The unprogrammed balance of the allocation (about \$300,000 or almost the entire allocation for the first six months of 1949) will be used for the purchase of raw materials, particularly leather and wool to be processed into children's shoes and clothing. As was reported by the Director of European Operations who had recently concluded a survey in Finland, the need for warm children's clothing is especially acute in Finland.

Hungary

34. The Committee was informed that the Government of Hungary is at present discussing with the Administration a revision in its plan of operations similar in principle to that approved for Finland. In view of the time factor, the Administration was authorized to approve such a change for Hungary without additional concurrence of the Programme Committee on the understanding that the use of a portion of the milk allocation for non-food items would be compensated by Government provision of milk from indigenous resources so that there would be no reduction of child feedings under the presently approved plan of operations.

(C) REVISIONS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

France

35. The Committee recommends approval of a revision in the French plan of operations as follows:

(a) The feeding programme in France is to be limited to 55,000 children in orphanages, apprentice schools and public and private schools of two arrondissements in Paris. This programme which is for a six month period will utilize UNICEF supplies already delivered to France, and calls for no additional shipments except fat to balance the other commodities already in stock. UNICEF skim milk and margarine (approximately 193 calories per day) will be matched by sugar, cocoa and bread from the Government (approximately 182 calories). In connection with this feeding, a joint project will be carried out by the National Health Institute, the Ministries of Health and Education, and UNICEF, under scientific controls, to study the effects of the extra food on child growth and health. The costs of this study project will be borne by the National Institute of Health. The Medical Sub-Committee approved this project as constituting a sort of "pilot station" in the field of child nutrition. (E/ICEF/77/Add.1, pages 8-9 and Annex 3)

(b) The unprogrammed balances in the French allocation for the remainder of 1948 and the first six months of 1949, (amounting to slightly over \$1,000,000) are to be used for medical equipment for centres for the protection of newly born infants and for milk stations (Goutte de Lait). Any amounts remaining after supplying the medical equipment, which would be of a type not manufactured in France, would be added to the anticipated French milk machinery allocation, when a plan for milk machinery has been approved by the Board. The medical equipment for maternity hospitals

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and for specialized centres to be constructed by the French Government in devastated cities where medical reconstruction is urgently needed, would be of a type valuable for preventing infant mortality in newly born and premature infants. The second type of equipment for Goutte de Lait would enable the Government to establish the milk stations to be operated in conjunction with the Government infant maternal centres. By law of 1945 there are Government PMI Centers (Protection Maternale et Infantile) which provide free compulsory medical consultation in prenatal and post natal care and for infants up to one year of age. The milk stations added to these centres would enable the infants to receive pasteurized and hygienically bottled and refrigerated fluid milk. The Programme Committee recommends approval in principle of this section of the revised plan, with the details to be worked out jointly by the Administration and the French Government and subject to the approval of the Medical Sub-Committee.

ADJUSTMENT IN ALLOCATION TO ALBANIA

36. The Executive Board at its July session increased the Albanian programme from 25,000 to 50,000 child units for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1949 (E/901, table 6). The Committee had before it a recommendation from the Administration that this same increase of 25,000 child units, at a cost of \$85,000, begin with 1 December 1948 rather than 1 April 1949. The Administration's recommendation was based upon recent observations made by the Director of European Headquarters during a survey in Albania, where it was evident that a much greater number of children were in need of UNICEF assistance and that the Administrative organization is now in a position to handle an increased feeding programme. All of the increase will be put into supplementary school feeding (E/ICEF/W.32).

37. The Programme Committee authorized the recommended increase to Albania out of the "adjustment allowance". It will be recalled that the Board delegated to the Programme Committee authority to make upward adjustments in country programmes out of an "adjustment allowance" specifically allocated for the purpose, (E/590, paragraph 23). This allowance, which amounted to \$100,000 after the last Board session (E/ICEF/79, Annex 1), is now reduced by the \$85,000 increase to Albania to \$15,000.

38. The Committee was concerned that the vacant post of Chief of Mission in Albania had not yet been filled and understood that the Administration would be able to announce appointment of its mission within the next few days.

Increase in the Raw Materials Programme for China out of Existing
Allocation

39. The status of the raw materials programme for \$596,950 for China is discussed in the Report of the Executive Director to the Programme Committee (E/ICEF/79, paragraph 29). Negotiations between the Government and the UNICEF Mission have been underway for some time, and it is expected that an agreement will be signed shortly. For this purpose, UNICEF has a special Textile Consultant in China, to conduct and carry through the detailed arrangements. Funds have been made available by the Chinese Government to provide the entire processing cost of the present UNICEF raw cotton programme. It is contemplated that the cloth resulting from UNICEF raw cotton will provide a garment, without padding, for approximately 900,000 children and mothers.

40. In order to enhance the value of these garments for the winter months, the Chinese Government requests that an additional amount of approximately \$200,000 be authorized from its allocation for the purchase of cotton padding for these garments. With the understanding that the Chinese Government will, or has provided, the full cost of processing the \$596,950 UNICEF raw cotton into cloth, the Programme Committee recommends approval of these additional funds for padding.

POLICY ON UTILIZATION OF WHOLE MILK SUPPLIES

41. The Committee had before it a proposal from the Administration for the utilization of some \$ 4.1 million worth of powdered whole milk (4,300 metric tons) purchased in excess of currently approved country allocations. This milk was purchased during the summer months at favourable prices in European and other countries as a safeguard against the then existing shortage of powdered skim milk, and the possibility that the Fund would be unable to procure sufficient skim milk to meet programme requirements.

42. Since a portion of the powdered whole milk is vacuum-tinned, with good keeping qualities, the Administration proposed that it be authorized to permit the receiving countries to store specific amounts of the tinned milk, to be used after 1 July 1949, and charged to new allocations to be made by the Executive Board for country programmes after that date. None of the milk will be shipped to any country where it is not clearly anticipated that there will be a definite and continued need for milk from UNICEF after 1 July 1949. The milk will be stored as the property of UNICEF and storage charges are to be paid by the country in which it is stored.

43. The Programme Committee recommends that the proposal of the Administration be accepted.

REQUEST FOR UNICEF ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN

44. The Executive Director announced receipt during the course of the Programme Committee meeting, of an application for assistance from the United States Department of the Army which is charged with the responsibility for the occupation of Japan. The Department of the Army stated it would welcome a visit by a representative of the Fund to survey needs of children and nursing and pregnant mothers in Japan. The Executive Director informed the Committee that the application would be handled in accordance with the usual procedures of the Fund and a report on further development would be made to the next session of the Programme Committee.