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**Draft Notes for UNICEF Workshop on Children and Adolescents in the Second Development Decade. Newton Bowles to Tarlok Singh**

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## UNICEF

### UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE

#### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. T. Singh

DATE: 19 January 1971

FROM: Newton R. Bowles

FILE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Draft Notes for UNICEF Workshop on Children and Adolescents in the Second Development Decade

Following our discussion yesterday, I have been thinking about the notes circulated with your memorandum of 15th January. As I said to you yesterday, my chief concern is to avoid a generalized and theoretical discussion and to ensure that the workshop will provoke new ideas on new approaches to old problems.

Maybe I am living in a dreamworld, but I think that your opening paragraph underestimates the efforts which UNICEF has made in the past decade to broaden its perspective in the identification and diagnosis of problems in the country context and to make UNICEF assistance correspond better to the particular situation in each country. I would suggest that a useful exercise for this workshop would be to examine the reasons why this basic UNICEF policy has not been implemented more successfully. To what extent are the obstacles within the assisted countries - are they cultural, political, economic, administrative, lack of trained personnel, etc? To what extent are the obstacles within UNICEF itself - in our staff, in the dispersal of field offices, in the structure of the organization, in our methods of planning, programming and decision making, in the limitations of UNICEF resources, etc? To what extent do the obstacles derive from our relationships with other aid-giving organizations within the United Nations and outside of it? To what extent do they derive from the lack of a coherent United Nations strategy for development?

I would also suggest that it would be very useful to have a couple of country case studies which would illuminate the examination of this question. Perhaps between now and May, Regional Planning Officers could work out these studies.

After having defined obstacles to the implementation of this basic UNICEF policy, the workshop might then go on to the discussion of possible solutions, especially solutions which lie within the means of UNICEF, either to effect directly or to encourage or promote.

/...

The above is my main suggestion as to the basic orientation of the workshop. In addition, I have a few comments on the text of your draft.

I think the first sentence in the second paragraph, page 1, is not quite accurate. It is true that in the 50's UNICEF <sup>gave</sup> a good deal of support to the control of communicable diseases, but, at the same time, we were also involved in many other activities, including the support of basic health services (MCH), nutrition and family and child welfare. In the 60's, special campaigns against diseases were more and more integrated into basic health services. This was a logical evolution within the health sector. The reorientation of UNICEF policy was of a more basic character, as discussed earlier in this memorandum.

I also question the unqualified statement in the fourth sentence of this paragraph to the effect that "the projects involved have been generally small and even isolated or dispersed". It certainly is true that in some countries there still are small and isolated projects assisted by UNICEF. However, I do not feel that this is generally true of the health and education projects which absorb about 3/4 of UNICEF's resources. Perhaps there is a problem of definition - i.e. what is meant by small, isolated and dispersed? If measured by the volume of UNICEF's assistance, any of these projects could be described as small in the context of over-all external assistance and general national development. On the other hand, UNICEF is supporting many over-all national health and education programmes, even if only at certain specific points. Similarly, I think we need to be quite clear about what we mean when we say isolated and dispersed.

On the same page, toward the bottom, there is the suggestion that UNICEF should contribute more towards "productivity and economic development". In principle, this is a good idea, but it seems to me that the UNICEF contribution to these ends will remain, on the whole, an indirect one, i.e. in the preparation of the younger generation for participation in national development. Some activities assisted by UNICEF, for example, in the field of nutrition, can also make a direct contribution to productivity, but it seems to me that this is bound to remain rather limited.

On page 2 under objectives, it seems to me that "protection against disease" should be combined with "health including maternal and child health".

Also under objectives, I am not clear as to the meaning of "provision of supplementary welfare services".

On page 3, point 5, it seems to me that (i) and (iii) might logically be combined. Also I do not understand the difference between "local" and "community" in point (i).

In 5(ii) is the reference to indigenous or foreign voluntary agencies or both?

The reference on pages 4 and 5 to a "perspective of development" is extremely interesting to me. The preparation of such a perspective will certainly be an extremely difficult and ambitious task. I wonder whether it would be prudent to announce that Headquarters will prepare such a perspective unless or until we are sure that we can do it.

On page 5, under "planning and programming at country level", in point 3, I am not quite clear as to the meaning of "as well as inter se".

As a grammatical purist, I am waging a war against "hopefully" (top of page 5).

As you know, I have no professional competence in development planning and I offer the above suggestions only as a lay person who has some feeling for the people who would be participating in this workshop. I hope these suggestions may be of some value to you. I have appreciated very much your fresh perspective on the work of UNICEF.

cc: Dr. Egger  
Mr. Heyward  
Mr. Moe