

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUNDEXECUTIVE BOARDReport of the Special Committee to the Executive Board on the French  
Offer of an International Children's Centre

1. By a letter of March 5th, 1949, the French Government offered facilities for an international children's centre to work under the auspices of UNICEF in close co-operation with the Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations and the relevant Specialised Agencies (E/ICEF/108).

2. The Executive Board on Mar 10th, 1949, adopted the following resolutions:

## "THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXPRESSES its deep appreciation of the formal offer of the French Government contained in their communication to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of 5th March, 1949, to establish an International Children's Centre in Paris to work under the auspices of UNICEF in close collaboration with the Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations and with the Specialised Agencies and Institutions of the United Nations more particularly interested in the problems of children;

REFERS to its decision of 7th October 1947 (E/590, paras. 39-40) to utilise the facilities offered by the French Government as part of its contribution to the Fund for the purpose of (a) assisting in bringing technical facilities within reach of doctors and their collaborators in the way of new methods and techniques for carrying out child health projects, and (b) for carrying out joint studies of a practical nature in collaboration with WHO, designed to improve the health of children;

NOTES the success of the courses of Social Pediatrics and the Pilot Station for BCG, in Paris, for which allocations were made by the Board in the implementation of the above decision;

REQUESTS its Chairman, the Chairman of the Programme Committee (with the representative of the United States acting as alternate) and the Executive Director to examine without delay together with the French member of the Executive Board and the representatives of the Secretary-General and the WHO, FAO, UNESCO and ILO the detailed proposals presented by the French Government including the generous offer of adequate premises for the Centre, with a view to submitting concrete recommendations at the next regular session of the Board or at a specially convened session, the date to be suggested by the Committee."

/3 Separate informal

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3. Separate informal discussions were held with the United Nations Secretariat and the different Specialised Agencies, after which the Special Committee put forward the following proposal as a basis of discussion:

"Proposal for United Nations Children's Centre."

Purpose. The centre would be a research and training instrument for the use of the UNICEF, United Nations Department of Social Affairs, Specialised Agencies concerned with child welfare, and governments with the agreement of its Governing Committee.

Immediate Programme. The basis for much of the immediate programme is the work already undertaken by UNICEF. The following activities would be continued or inaugurated:

- (1) Training Courses in child care and child development for physicians, nurses, social workers and administrators.
- (2) Such laboratory research in BCG or similar subjects related to children, as the WHO may desire to have carried on under its direction.
- (3) Investigations in the field of child nutrition, including experimental demonstrations, under policies developed by and with the technical advice of WHO, FAO, UNICEF.
- (4) Studies of the health, educational and social problems of children suffering from the effects of war, under policies developed by and with the technical advice of UN, UNESCO, WHO, and UNICEF.

Finance. The Centre will be financed over a three year period by (a) such allocations from UNICEF as may be decided by the Executive Board. It is expected that these would use a substantial part of the French contribution to UNICEF, (b) such other contributions as may be forthcoming from the United Nations, the Specialised Agencies and governments or governmental sources.

Governing Committee. The following should be invited to participate in the Governing Committee:-

UNICEF	2
U.N. Department of Social Affairs	1
Representative of France	1
WHO	2
FAO	1
ILO	1
UNESCO	1

It is understood that formal participation of these representatives would generally need to be sanctioned by their respective governing bodies. The Committee should arrange suitable representation for any national institute contributing to the Centre.

The Committee should report to the Executive Board of UNICEF so long as UNICEF was providing the major part of the funds for the Institute.

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Director and Staff. The Director and Staff would be appointed by the Governing Committee."

4. The representative of the French Government prepared a series of technical papers relating to each of the proposed types of activity. These are reproduced in Annex I/A to I/F.

5. On June 20, the three members of the Special Committee\* of the Executive Board met with the following representatives of the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies:

for the Secretary-General of the United Nations	:	Mr. Martin Hill
for ILO	:	Mr. M. Osmay
for FAO	:	Mr. F.L. McDougall
for UNESCO	:	Dr. B. Drzewieski
for WHO	:	Dr. M. Eliot

6. The representatives of the Executive Board suggested that a basis be sought for the operations of the Centre for three years. This was a significant period in relation to the works proposed for the Centre, and would allow a practical start to be made and discussions to proceed in the light of the work of the Centre itself, on the desirability of making more permanent arrangements.

7. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the question of the establishment of the proposed International Children's Centre had been considered in May by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at the instance of the Director-General of the WHO, who had felt that the French proposal involved a risk of duplication of authority and of programmes with respect to international work on child health. The matter was naturally of concern to the Administrative Committee on Coordination in view of its responsibility for insuring coordination and, in particular, the full implementation of the agreements between the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies. A preliminary consultation took place within the Committee as to the interests of the various organisations concerned in regard to the proposed centre; and it was agreed that further consultations, at the technical level, between representatives of these organisations should be undertaken as soon as possible in order to assist in the examination of the French proposal as provided for in the resolution adopted by the Executive Board of UNICEF on March 9, 1949.

8. These further consultations had now been held. The representatives of the various organisations were not in a position to comment on the technical problems related to the proposed work of the centre which had been submitted that day by the representative of France. They felt, however, a lively

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\* The Chairman of the Programme Committee arranged for the Vice-Chairman to attend in her stead.

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desire to assist in finding a solution to the problem raised by WHO which might, at the same time, safeguard what they considered to be the essential objectives of the French proposal, the generosity and the importance of which they keenly appreciated.

9. With these considerations in mind the representative of the Secretary-General put forward, in agreement with his colleagues from the WHO and the other Specialised Agencies, the following suggestions relating to the structure and organization of the Centre, if established, it being understood that they did not commit their respective organisations, and, in particular, that formal acceptance by the competent authorities of the WHO would be required before such an arrangement could enter into effect:-

- a) While the work envisaged in the French Government's proposal for a United Nations Children's Centre would be of concern to the United Nations and a number of Specialised Agencies, it would be of primary concern to the WHO, the agency recognised as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work. For practical reasons, therefore, it would seem appropriate that together with UNICEF, WHO should have the responsibility for the general supervision of such a Centre. This responsibility is interpreted to mean general supervision of such a Centre and its programme during the period when Funds from UNICEF and technical assistance from WHO are being made available. This should be accomplished by the appointment by UNICEF and WHO jointly of a Technical Council to approve the appointment of the Director of the Centre, and to advise currently on and approve the programme of the Centre.
- b) It is consequently suggested that the facilities be offered by the French Government to UNICEF on the understanding that they would be given general supervision by a joint body constituted by UNICEF and WHO under agreement to be reached between them and the French Government. The established policies concerning the respective responsibilities of the two organisations would apply.
- c) The facilities of such a Centre would be at the disposal of the United Nations and all Specialised Agencies interested in its work. The United Nations and these Specialised Agencies would be represented on an Advisory Committee to assist in the determination of programmes and the supervision of the work of the Centre falling within their fields of interest. The members of this advisory Committee would be entitled to attend all meetings of the joint body referred to under (2) above, and would act as ex-officio members of it when matters of interest to their organisations were under discussion.
- d) The established procedure for reporting to the Economic and Social Council and for ensuring co-ordination would apply.

The representatives.

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The representatives of the Specialised Agencies considered that this formulation could be recommended to their respective organisations for their consideration and stated that they would, therefore, refer it accordingly. The French representative said that his Government would give the proposal sympathetic consideration.

10. The representatives of the Executive Board expressed their satisfaction that a basis for an agreement appeared to have been reached.

Recommendations:

The Special Committee recommends to the Executive Board:

- a) To accept the offer of the French Government on the basis of the formulation suggested by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as amended by the suggestions of the Director-General of WHO, and on the basis of the formal proposal of the French Government regarding their material and financial assistance to the Centre (Annex II).
- b) To instruct the Special Committee to continue their negotiations and arrive at a firm agreement with WHO and the French Government in accordance with the principles laid down, including equal representation of WHO and UNICEF on the joint body and including satisfactory arrangements for the direction of the Centre and its continuation in the event of the active operations of UNICEF closing within the period of three years contemplated.
- c) As a consequence of the acceptance of the French offer, to consider an allocation for the work of the Centre. For the consideration of the Programme Committee an estimate of contemplated expenditure by the Centre is given in Annex III.

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