

REPORT OF UNICEF MISSION ON
BRITISH NORTH BORNEO

After discussions with the Commissioner-General for the British territories of North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei, and in particular with the Governor of North Borneo, the UNICEF representatives came to the conclusion that UNICEF assistance to North Borneo should not take the form of food for child feeding. The UNICEF representatives suggested that a child welfare and health program along the following lines would be appropriate :

"(i) The provision of salaries of a Nurse Midwife and a Health Visitor who could undertake the training of local people in health service work for mothers and children.

"(ii) Assistance with re-equipping Maternity and Child Welfare clinics.

"(iii) The provision of drugs, particularly sulphonamides arseno-benzols or other arsenical preparations, penicillin and paludrine.

"(iv) Assistance with feeding for five months, 3,500 of 7,000 war orphans whose fathers were massacred by the Japanese, by a grant equivalent to \$4.00 per head a month for the period of relief; the Colony to ensure that equivalent relief is given from local sources."

During the discussions the UNICEF representatives pointed out that the request for assistance in North Borneo should be supported by information concerning damage inflicted by the Japanese during World War II. It would also be appropriate for the responsible authorities to indicate the plans and activities of the Government on behalf of the children of North Borneo, so that the UNICEF program could be arranged as a supplement to these plans and to the resources of the area. For example, if the Fund provided salaries against (i) above "the Colony should contribute to the maintenance of the pupils and that if drugs were provided for the treatment of the yaws among mothers and children, the Colony should undertake to treat others infected."

It might be possible for child welfare trainees from Sarawak to make use of the training facilities which may be supported by the Children's Fund in North Borneo.

The Governments of North Borneo and Sarawak have been advised of the views of the UNICEF Mission and have been asked to submit revised requests for assistance through the British Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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