

hurricane, just like anybody else, are you expecting us to refuse because the U.S. doesn't like it?' Dick said, 'No, but I'm just warning you.' I said, 'Thank you very much, but if that's going to be their attitude....'

"Word came in that the three countries had all suffered about the same kind of damage. It would have been simply preposterous, and a complete betrayal of UNICEF, if we had just said, 'No, we will only give to the other two.' I thought, just to make a slight compromise, we won't put in separate projects as we usually did for emergencies or for anything else; we'll put in for the three countries in a lump amount. Nobody could tell how bad the damage was, except that it was terrific in all cases; and there was not time to make a real study before the Board documents had to go out. And I said, 'To heck with the United States! If they are going to object, they can object. But with our mandate for emergencies and for children in need, we can't say we don't like Cuba so we won't give them anything.' Oh, I was ready to resign.

"So we put out the Hurricane Flora paper, so many thousand dollars. Then we got to Bangkok.

"The United States was simply livid. How could we dare give aid to Cuba? I said, 'We don't have the same attitude towards Cuba as you do. If we are to help children in need, we can't take into account prejudices of every single member country of the United Nations. And we are not going to, because I think we ought to go out of business if we start taking dictation of that kind from anybody. We don't deserve to be in business.' Of course, there were a lot of people completely on our side, but we didn't want to involve them in this mess.

"It was a good thing that we were in Bangkok. If the meeting had been in New York, we might have had all hell broken loose. But out there, as far as the press was concerned, what was Cuba? What they wanted to know was what we were doing for Thailand....

"Anyway, the United States was walking around like mad, and Zena Harman from Israel and Dr. Dogramaci, our nice Turkish delegate, and several others came to me just with tears in their eyes, telling me that the U.S. was saying that, if they voted for this program (which involved only a small amount for Cuba), all U.S. foreign aid to Israel and Turkey and what-have-you would stop....

"Dr. Dogramaci asked me when the Hurricane Flora project was going to come up before the Board, and I told him I thought Thursday of next week and the Board was due to end on Friday. He came back to me and said, 'The contribution of Turkey to this discussion will be that there will be nobody in the Turkish seat on Thursday, because I have to leave on Wednesday night.' And Zena said, 'I can't get in touch with my embassy.... It's very difficult and I don't know if I dare take the responsibility of risking all U.S. foreign aid to Israel on this principle.' But finally she got through by phone and, to the credit of the government of Israel, they voted for this aid to Cuba. It was just absolutely breathless, the whole thing. It was perfectly awful."

There was, as Adelaide recounts, a happy outcome for which Canadians were largely responsible: