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Information on the activities of the International Children's Emergency Fund since December 2, 1947, has been received by the Department of External Affairs in the form of a progress report by the Executive Director of the Fund, of which Canada is a member.

Eight European countries - Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Finland, Hungary, Poland, and Roumania - started distributing supplementary meals during December and early January to children and nursing and pregnant mothers. The ICEF provides 250 to 300 calories of special protective foods, while the governments provide an equal amount in caloric value from home production. Similar help soon is to be provided in Albania, Greece, France and Yugoslavia. Before the end of the winter about 3,715,000 children and nursing and pregnant mothers will be receiving ICEF food.

The total resources of the Fund include \$3,500,000 set aside for China, and \$1,500,000 provisionally allocated for other Far Eastern countries. An ICEF mission has been established in China and is drawing up a feeding programme, and initial steps have been taken to enquire into the needs of other Far Eastern countries.

At present, shipments of food are being made from Australia, Czechoslovakia, Newfoundland, Norway, the United States and Canada, and it is expected shipments soon will be made from Denmark, Iceland, New Zealand, Poland, Switzerland and Uruguay.

A survey of milk supplies in four selected European countries shows that there is not enough available to meet even the bare requirements of children and nursing and pregnant mothers. The need for clothing and shoes is equally urgent. The Fund is enquiring into the possible purchase of textiles and leather from which receiving countries could make clothing and shoes. To implement such a programme on an effective scale would require an increase in the Fund's financial resources.

The Fund is co-operating with the World Health Organization to assist governments to control tuberculosis and venereal disease among children. Specific plans have been developed for using Danish, French and Swiss contributions -- as well as contributions which may be forthcoming from other governments -- for the training of physicians, nurses and social workers in child health and welfare.

On February 12, 1948, the resources of the Fund were approximately \$40,000,000. Canada has contributed \$5,000,000 directly to the Fund and \$200,000 to the National Council of the United Nations Appeal for Children which is designed to raise money for the Fund.

The Fund now has an experienced staff in each recipient country to work with governments, to study needs, to observe the operation of the programme and to ensure fulfilment of the principles established by the United Nations.

The Executive Director reports that first-hand observations during the initial months of actual feeding operations have demonstrated

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that supplies are fairly distributed and well protected; that pilferage is unknown; that warehouse arrangements, internal transport and the preparation and distribution of meals are being conducted with exceptional efficiency, and that the staff in the field are working with great devotion and confidence.

Despite generous contributions, the Fund is at present unable to reach more than a small fraction of the needy children in Europe and the Far East and does not have sufficient resources to maintain even this through 1948.
