

Saudi Arabia and the USSR. In favour of the institution of a world children's day it was stated that it would help to affirm the concept of responsibility to children, a concept which was implicit in the United Nations Charter and had been developed not only in the resolutions relating to the work of UNICEF but also in the work of many other United Nations bodies. A world children's day would also draw attention to such important questions as the place of children in society, and governmental, social and community responsibilities towards them. It would deepen world fraternity and understanding between children themselves and help to give them a better appreciation of the international ideas proclaimed in the Charter, and would assist in heightening their own sense of constructive participation in society. Also, it would draw attention to the activities and financial needs of UNICEF and other organizations working on behalf of children. Adoption of the draft resolution, it was maintained, would result in a gradual transfer of the observance of world children's day from the national to the international level.

There was some discussion as to whether one particular day should be observed by all countries or whether individual governments should set aside a suitable day. The representatives of Israel, Syria and the USSR, for example, considered that each country should be given the freedom to choose the most appropriate day; this, in their opinion, would be the most practical method. The representative of Uruguay stated that what he had in mind was a single Universal Children's Day. That did not mean that the date was to be set at the Assembly's ninth session. The feeling of the celebration, on whatever date it fell, should be universal, embracing all the children in the world, not merely those of the country in which it was held; otherwise, there would be no point in the United Nations intervening, when a great many countries already had their own children's days. The representative of India stated that a single set day would have been desirable but it was not feasible; each country could have its own world children's day, international in feeling and in scope.

The part played by certain non-governmental organizations, particularly the International

Union for Child Welfare, in promoting the idea of a world children's day was recognized with appreciation. Denmark, Norway and Sweden submitted an amendment to the Indian draft resolution designed to avoid establishing another world children's day in competition with that already inaugurated by the Union. While stating that the amendment would also apply to the joint draft resolution, the sponsors withdrew it in view of subsequent changes in the joint draft and statements made by the Director-General of UNICEF. The representative of Sweden believed that the world children's day should not be a holiday, but that the best way of helping children would be to raise funds for UNICEF by donating one day's pay. A number of representatives, including those of Afghanistan, Poland, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, thought it inadvisable to mention a specific organization by name in the draft resolution and an amendment by Afghanistan to delete the reference to the International Union for Child Welfare was adopted by 28 votes to 7, with 18 abstentions.

Costa Rica submitted amendments to the joint draft resolution to provide, among other things, for an annual meeting of Member and non-member States, preferably on world children's day, to pledge contributions to UNICEF. This, he said, might provide UNICEF with additional security. The part of the Costa Rican amendments referring to the pledging conference was, however, rejected by 25 votes to 14, with 14 abstentions, by the Third Committee.

The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted oral amendments proposed by Afghanistan, Australia, France, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Uruguay. The joint draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by the Third Committee by 47 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, and by the General Assembly on 14 December by 48 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

By this resolution the Assembly recommended that, with effect from 1956, a Universal Children's Day should be instituted in all countries, as a day of world-wide fraternity and understanding between children and activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of children and furthering United Nations efforts for children. The Assembly suggested that the day be observed