Help for Blind
And Children
Is Urged by Lie

He Proposes Permanent
U. N. Programs to Assist
Nations With Problems

By Peter Kihss
LAKE SUCCESS, March 24.—
Secretary General Trygve Lie formally proposed two new United Nations programs today to seek a better life for the world's individual citizens. One would be a permanent U. N. Children's Fund, geared chiefly to technical assistance to national efforts. The other would be a plan for rehabilitating the blind, topped by a pilot demonstration project.

The new children's program would take over from the stopgap U. N. International Children's Emergency Fund. With $144,000,000 in voluntary contributions since September, 1947, that agency has been providing mass or demonstration feeding to 7,000,000 children in twenty countries, and medical aid in fifty more nations, including testing of 20,000,000 youngsters for tuberculosis alone.

Both the children's plan and the project for the blind were submitted to the U. N. Social Commission, which convenes here April 3. While there is no specific deadline for the present fund, its money for mass feeding will last only until this winter, and the United States, among others, has insisted that the "emergency" must give way to some other plan.

Children in Want

Of the world's 800,000,000 to 900,000,000 children under the age of fifteen, Mr. Lie estimated that more than 60,000,000 live in so-called under-developed countries. Of these, he reckoned perhaps 80 per cent suffer in some degree from malnutrition and lack of medical care and educational facilities.

Mortality of children in such countries is five to ten times higher than in the advanced countries. Mr. Lie said—as high as 500 out of every 1,000 in much of Asia and other regions falling to live to the age of fifteen. He called this "a graver waste of human resources than the most destructive wars."

While Mr. Lie said special emergencies might call for quick and large scale relief, he declared the U. N.'s main task should be "strategy aid to encourage and help governments themselves to raise the standard of living and care for children in their own nations and to become increasingly self-sufficient." He warned against letting the U. N. raise "false hopes" on relief.

Proposes Special Fund

Mr. Lie proposed "a special International Children's Fund, contributed voluntarily by governments and peoples." At the top would be a policy-making and allocating body of government representatives—either the Economic and Social Council or some board responsible to it. Acting in an advisory capacity would be a committee of officials of U. N. and its specialized agencies. Actual administration would be by a director in the U. N. Department of Social Affairs.

The Secretary General foresaw "limitless" possibilities for aiding children through a combination of demonstration projects, technical aid, supplies and grants. If emergencies occurred, he suggested special relief programs might be financed out of the U. N. budget, or extra drives might appeal to non-governmental sources of income, or surplus commodities might be invoked.

Mapping a program of work for the blind, Mr. Lie noted possible World Health Organization programs against specific diseases, continued International Labor Organization industrial safety work, efforts to lift customs duties on materials for the blind and possible International Refugee Organization preliminary rehabilitation of blind displaced persons.

Most dramatically, however, he suggested a pilot project in a selected region, which would start with a home-teaching and visiting service, carry on through a rehabilitation center and then a vocational training center and provide for job placement.

The U. N. and its agencies would pay salaries for an international staff, he said. Initial international cost might be $48,000 with annual expenditures of $51,500 for this beacon activity.