



# NEWSLETTER

Number 22

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID, INC.

Mar.-Apr. 1973



## MUSA ALAMI PROJECT LOOKS AHEAD

by JOHN P. RICHARDSON

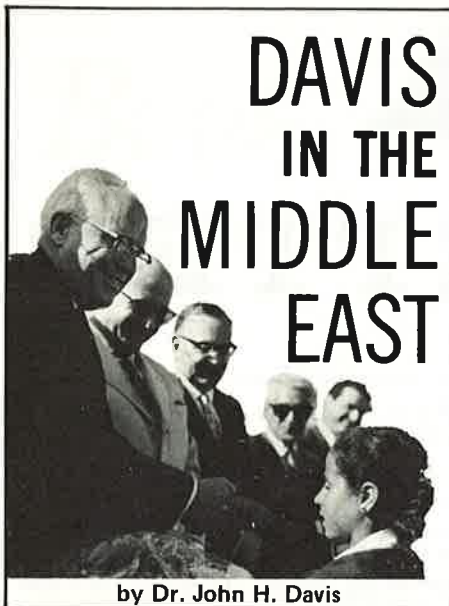
The many friends of Musa Bey Alami will be cheered to know that despite uncertainties, his school and home for orphaned Palestinian refugee boys at Jericho (West Bank) is looking to the future. Dr. John Davis, who visited Jericho recently, reported that 100 boys are now enrolled and studying diligently. Despite this encouraging note, however, Dr. Davis said upon return from the Middle East that the problems of functioning under military occupation have hampered the activities of the farm, which has traditionally provided the cash income that supported the school.

Damage to the project and its farm lands from the 1967 war and subsequent artillery exchanges across the Jordan River was significant. In addition to direct damage

to buildings and equipment were added extensive problems with unexploded shells and planted mines in the fields. Costs of repairs and maintenance must compete with costs of operating the school, and Musa Bey has emphasized, "The school must be given top priority as far as possible." While the miracles he wrought in the desert near the Dead Sea have brought the most publicity, Musa Bey has been proudest of the contribution he has made to the futures of the boys who have gained coveted places in the school. At the current time a source of grave financial concern is the project's electric generators. Should they give out, either replacement or hooking into the "high line" at Jericho would entail a major outlay of funds.

All of these difficulties have been exacerbated by the problem of operating under military occupation. The strategic location, resources, and development of the project have made it of more than routine interest to the Israelis, who find it difficult to reconcile the impressive achievements of the Center with the image they have attempted to create of a barren West Bank before their arrival.

In the present unsettled circumstances, the two alternatives under active consideration by Musa Bey Alami are 1) to carry on at the present level of operation or 2) to expand operations and revive earlier levels of activity, keeping in mind the increased cost of such a course. Mrs. Sue Deardon, a member of the British Committee supporting Musa Bey's work, feels that on humanitarian grounds alone the second alternative is necessitated; the cost of living in the new occupation economy is much higher than before, and an orphaned child is at an even greater disadvantage than ever. For the lucky boy who gains a place in the project at Jericho, there is reasonable assurance that the skills he learns there — as an agriculturist, electrician, carpenter, or other — will be rewarded with foreman level responsibilities upon graduation. Dr. Davis has observed that "the green fields near Jericho and the productive lives of the school's graduates are full testimony to the faith and labor of Musa Bey Alami". □



by Dr. John H. Davis

On March 1, 1973, I returned from a three-week trip to the Middle East. In the Arab areas occupied by Israel since 1967, Israel is extending itself in terms of roads, apartments for Jewish settlers and kibbutzim in strategic areas. One has the feeling that today Israel is in command of the situation and that each evening it intends to have her roots deeper into the occupied territory than was the case at dawn. Throughout occupied areas, Israel rules through a military government, which means Arab people there have no voice and little possibility of appealing decisions they don't like.

While tens of thousands of the Arabs under occupation work on Israeli projects, most are laborers. These workers are handled in a way that does not permit them to become an integral part of a developing Arab society. To a great extent throughout the occupied areas, subtle pressures are being applied to encourage the Arab population to leave. However, they are not leaving at anything like the rate of the increase in the Arab population through its high birth rate. Anyway, one gets the impression that today Israel is willing for occupied lands ultimately to become a part of the State of Israel and with an eventual exodus of the Arab population.

Among the many Arabs with whom I talked, I found little evidence that they are becoming reconciled to permanent Israeli rule. A common query was whether the United States will put pressure on Israel to withdraw, now that President Nixon has been re-elected. Also, the Arab press and the Arab leaders were keenly aware of America's growing energy shortage and its inescapable dependence on Arab oil for energy: they hope that ultimately American dependence on Arab oil may bring a change in its policy towards Israel with regard to withdrawal and refugee issues.

In the long run, the Arabs may be right. I suspect that America, prodded by Israel and Zionist influences, will continue for the present to resist a change in

policy. But can she maintain this posture on into the future against the new forces now taking shape in the form of critical fuel shortages, mounting balance of payment problems and higher prices for fuel as consuming states scramble in competition for scarce oil to meet their growing needs?

With regard to the Palestine refugee problem, little significant change towards a solution is in sight, nor will one be for so long as present Western policies toward the Middle East continue. The refugees see little hope for justice, which leads to a sense of growing desperation. Their restlessness will continue on as an unsettling factor until a solution to the problem comes forth which provides elemental justice to the Palestine people. Hope for a solution seems tied to the policy changes that may be forced on the West — particularly the United States — as the energy gap and its related problems of balance of payments grow larger.

Meanwhile the need for UNRWA services and for those of ANERA and the other voluntary agencies that assist the refugees will continue. A visit to the host countries, particularly the occupied area, verifies that for scores of individuals, most of them young, ANERA is providing hope by enabling them to get training that will make them employable, productive, and self-supporting during their adult lives. Thus the need for ANERA's existence is great. □

## *palestine heritage*

proverbs translated by kamal boullata

- The chaff of your own land is better than the wheat of the foreigners.
- If it were not for the watchman, the fields would have been heavy with fruits.
- When you lose the invaluable, you cannot regret losing the valuable.
- The woman without a man is like a garden without a fence.
- Do not drink from a well into which you throw a stone.
- A small room is room enough to accommodate a thousand friends.
- The death of a man in his youth is like his wedding night.
- How many times a little lamb precedes his mother to the slaughterhouse!
- A paradise without people is not worth stepping into.
- From the earth of your own land, paint your cheeks.

# AMER

AMER Commemorated its twenty fifth anniversary on March 21. American Middle East Relief, Inc. was established in 1948 as a voluntary, charitable corporation to aid the Palestine Arab refugees. During its first fourteen years, AMER was devoted primarily to direct relief of food, clothing, and other essentials of living. In 1963, the organization changed its name to American Middle East Rehabilitation. Since then AMER has been directing its efforts towards rehabilitating of refugees. AMER has made possible almost 700 vocational scholarships for refugee students. According to Mary Anne Kolidas, AMER's director, the organization is energetically working to provide a higher level of scholarships. A new brochure on AMER's work can be obtained by writing to 777 UN Plaza, New York, New York 10017.



# DOUBLE STANDARD ON THE MID EAST

by Robert Pierpoint

*During this period of its emotion over a series of tragedies in the troubled Middle East the United States appears to have lost its sense of fair play and justice and seems to be operating on a double standard.*

*When the Israelis a few weeks ago carried out a commando-type raid deep into Lebanon, striking at Palestinian refugee camps 130 miles from their own territory, and snuffing out 30 or 40 lives in the process, there was next to no outcry in this country. That event which caused perhaps a dozen innocents to die along with some Arab guerrillas whom the Israelis claim were Black Septembrists — that event was quickly overshadowed by the Israeli shooting down of the Libyan airliner. That did cause some official U.S. regrets although not expressed publicly at the level of the White House. Nor did any U.S. official ever indicate the U.S. might think twice before it dispatched more American-built Phantom jets to Israel of the type that had shot down the Libyan airliner. Indeed, the very next week President Nixon let it be known, after his talk in the Oval Office with Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, that more such Phantoms would soon be on their way.*

*Contrast these events with what happened after the Arab Black Septembrist massacre of Israeli athletes at Munich. The U.S., from President Nixon on down, expressed outrage, and the President ordered steps taken to see that no such terrorism could strike at Israelis in this country. After the murders by Black Septembrists in the Sudan of the two American and one Belgian diplomats, President Nixon expressed shock and a deep sense of grief as indeed most decent people everywhere feel. The President also declared that "the perpetrators of this crime must be brought to justice." Secretary of State Rogers suggested he thought the death penalty "quite appropriate" for this kind of crime, adding "I don't know any other way to deal with it." Rogers did not mention that a trial should be held first, although perhaps he assumed so. But the emotional response was escalated another notch by Sen. Hugh Scott on March 6. After a meeting with President Nixon to discuss domestic problems, standing at a White House podium, Scott was asked what he thought should be done to the Arabs who participated in the murders in Khartoum. "I hope they shoot them all and the sooner the better," was Scott's response.*

*No mention was made of a trial or of the possibility that if a fair trial were held it might turn out that not all the terrorists were guilty of the murders.*

*What this seems to add up to is a double standard in this country toward terror and murder. For so long Americans have become used to thinking of the Israelis as the good guys and Arabs as the bad guys, that many react emotionally along the lines of previous prejudices. The fact is that both sides have committed unforgivable acts of terror, both sides have killed innocents, both sides have legitimate grievances and illegitimate methods of expressing them. Perhaps the Arabs' action was more irrational — sheer terror. At least it was not backed by a relatively rational government which justifies its actions as necessary.*

*The Israelis have and utilize a formidable political and propaganda force in this country in the form of six million Jews. The Arabs, with only slightly less than a million descendants in America, are just beginning to organize a nation-wide counterforce. Perhaps this will help bring balance. In the meantime, the rest of us might apply more studied balance and fair play to the difficult problems of the Middle East. □*

Robert Pierpoint is a White House correspondent for CBS News.

The text of this CBS news commentary was carried in the Christian Science Monitor, March 9, 1973, and reprinted by permission.

For over two years, the Palestinian Children's Art Exhibition, a project sponsored by ANERA, has been touring the United States and Canada. It has been shown on university campuses, and in church and community centers.

Early in February the show had its debut in Washington, D.C. at the "Secondup" Gallery. The opening was attended by an appreciative gathering of friends of ANERA, and the show remained open to the public for two weeks, during which time it was viewed by local artists, teachers, children, housewives, Middle Eastern students, and others. The drawings in crayon and watercolors were a great revelation to many viewers, for the simplicity

of their art and their sense of tragedy are poignant and compelling.

Kamal Boullata, who helped organize the Children's Art Show in the United States, gave a poetry reading in the gallery while the show was on display. The poems included themes written by the Palestinian Children's poetry as well as other poems relating to the Palestinian experience.

Following the Washington showing, the exhibit moved to Dag Hammarskjold College in Columbia, Maryland. From there it is scheduled for Indiana University, Purdue University, the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), and Ohio State University. □

## CHILDREN'S ART SHOW



# Book Review

PALESTINE PAPERS, 1917-1922, SEEDS OF CONFLICT, compiled and annotated by Doreen Ingrams. New York: George Braziller, 1973. 198 pp. \$6.95.

Reviewed by Alan R. Taylor\*

Arnold Toynbee once explained the sympathy for Zionism in Britain and America as the product of a "characteristically Anglo-Saxon attitude of combining an unavowed yet patent Machiavellianism with a suspect yet sincere Quixotry." Though both tendencies may be apparent in the annals of decision-making in London and Washington, the pattern of British statesmanship in the years immediately following the Balfour Declaration was evidently more Machiavellian than it was Quixotic.

Mrs. Ingrams' compendium of official documents on Palestine from 1917 to 1922 provides a new insight into the intentions and techniques of British diplomacy with regard to Zionism. Though the collection is incomplete and some of the information in it already known, it represents the first clear examination of what went on behind the scenes in those crucial years.

The general thrust of these papers is that Britain's approach to the Palestine problem was essentially duplicitous in the initial phase. The motive behind a pro-Zionist policy was to promote Jewish support in the war, which was seemingly threatened by German overtures to Zionism. But once the policy was established, all other considerations were put aside. The Balfour Declaration established safeguards for the Arab majority in Palestine, but these were not taken seriously at Whitehall. Dr. Weizmann made it clear to the cabinet that the aim of Zionism was to establish a Jewish state with a population of four to five million Jews. This was fully understood by Lloyd George and Balfour, who informed the Zionist leader that in using the phrase "national home" in the declaration, "We meant a Jewish state."

Assurances were given to Arab representatives that the Mandate would protect their interests, but privately Balfour admitted that "in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country." This was later qualified to mean that the British Government had no intention of allowing self-determination for the Arabs of Palestine, and that in any event, the Powers had made "no declaration of policy which, at least in the letter, they have not always intended to violate."

The open declarations for Arab consumption were always correct and equitable, while the implicit understanding with Zionist leaders was that Palestine was to be transformed into a Jewish state. Sir Hubert Young, a senior

official in the Colonial Office, summed it up in a memorandum on negotiating with the Arab Delegation which came to London in the summer of 1921: "The problem which we have to work out now is one of tactics, not strategy, the general strategic idea, as I conceive it being the gradual immigration of Jews into Palestine until that country becomes a predominantly Jewish State. . . . But it is questionable whether we are in a position to tell the Arabs what our policy really means."

Lord Curzon and Edwin Montagu (the latter himself a Jew) were the only highly-placed officials to question this deliberate deception. Objecting to the text of the Mandate, Curzon, then Foreign Secretary, commented: "Here is a country with 580,000 Arabs and 30,000 or is it 60,000 Jews (by no means all Zionists). Acting upon the noble principles of self-determination and ending with a splendid appeal to the League of Nations, we then proceed to draw up a document which. . . is an avowed constitution for a Jewish State. . . . Arabs are only allowed to look through the keyhole as a non-Jewish community." But the objections to Britain's ethical position failed to carry much weight in the formative phase. Ultimately, the approach which Lloyd George and Balfour had fashioned became the guiding principle of the Mandate. When the inherent moral and practical weaknesses of this policy were recognized in the late 1930's, the momentum of Zionist activism had already begun to determine the outcome. So it is from this first British involvement with the Zionist movement that the world has inherited a bitter and agonizing legacy. □

*\*Alan R. Taylor is Associate Professor of International Relations at the American University in Washington, D.C. He is also author of Prelude to Israel and co-editor of Palestine: a Search for Truth.*



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