

ANERA ALLOCATES \$111,130 FOR REFUGEES, ANNOUNCES PROJECT GUIDELINES

American Near East Refugee Aid is today announcing \$111,130 in grants and gifts to Palestinian refugee projects for education, child welfare, and medical care. Among this first series of ANERA allocations are medical supplies valued at \$76,130 for **Salt Hospital** on Jordan's East Bank. The supplies were collected by Pal-Aid International of Chicago and donated by that organization to ANERA as a Founding Membership contribution. ANERA is underwriting \$5,000 of the costs of shipping the supplies to Jordan, with Pal-Aid contributing the remainder.

Twenty \$500 vocational training scholarships for refugee youth have been presented to **UNRWA** in ANERA'S name. Representing American Middle East Rehabilitation's Founding Membership in ANERA, the scholarships were generated by gifts in kind valued at \$10,000 from American Middle East Rehabilitation to UNRWA. Each scholarship covers the cost of tuition and living expenses for one student for a year. ANERA has also given \$5,000 to the **University of Jordan** for loans to needy refugee students attending that institution.

A grant of \$4,000 from ANERA to the **YMCA** in Jericho will enable that vocational training center to complete construction of living accommodations for students who now find it necessary to commute to the center from greater distances than before the June War. The **YWCA** in Jericho has also been awarded a \$4,000 ANERA grant to support vocational training projects in cooking, sewing, child care and related subjects.

The **Children's Care Society** of Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, will use a \$3,000 ANERA grant to sustain and expand its programs of assistance to destitute and orphan children. Founded in 1944, the Society currently operates a feeding center for 500 children, a children's clinic, a sewing center, and a series of summer recreational clubs.

A grant of approximately \$2,000 to **Mubarrat Um-El-Hussein** will enable this orphanage and school to purchase needed equipment. Formerly known as the Jordan Orphanage, the institution each year provides housing and education for some 200 orphaned boys.

Dar Al-Awlad of Jerusalem, a home and school for orphaned boys and boys from broken homes, has been awarded a \$1,000 ANERA grant for use in the purchase of classroom and other furniture, and for repair and conversion of existing facilities. Founded in 1948 by Mrs. George Antonius, the institution has an enrollment of 210 students.

ANERA grants of \$500 have also been awarded to **Rawdat El-Zuhur**, a Jerusalem organization which provides care and training for destitute young girls, and the **Arab Women's Union** in Nablus for support of the child care and refugee welfare activities which that organization conducts.

In considering grant applications, ANERA focuses principal but not exclusive attention on the following project categories:

1) **Education and rehabilitation projects** that provide increased individual opportunities through vocational training and higher education, including assistance for libraries and teaching aids.

2) **Child welfare programs**, including support for orphanages, schools, and other children's care centers.

3) **Medical care projects**, ranging from assistance in the procurement of hospital equipment to the shipping of needed medical supplies.

ANERA assigns priority to projects providing direct services to Palestine refugees, but also considers worthwhile projects of benefit to needy Arab individuals other than refugees, particularly if their plight is related to the refugee situation itself. In allocating grants, ANERA will employ as guidelines the urgency of the situation and the impact achieved by a given project in relation to funds spent. Both large and small organizations are eligible grant recipients.

TRAGEDY (Continued from page 1)

miserable and appalling conditions in temporary accommodations to the east. Continuing Israeli military occupation of Arab lands and the absence of any present indication as to when that occupation will be terminated today remain, in the words of the United Nations Secretary General, "a major factor and a possible obstacle" to the immediate alleviation of suffering that would be accomplished by the return of refugees and displaced persons.

In an address before the General Assembly's Special Political Committee last fall, Secretary General U Thant reminded his listeners of the "considerable measure of responsibility" borne by the United Nations for the plight of the Palestinians, and declared that the international community could not abandon this very large group of people "without dealing a harsh blow to international morality and to the conscience of humanity which the United Nations must always seek to reflect." Noting that the plight of the Palestine refugees should "arouse the most active compassion of all the governments and peoples," he called upon the United Nations to "live up generously and without hesitation to its humanitarian duty towards them." His call is yet unanswered.

The impact of drastic assistance cutbacks will fall unavoidably upon the refugees themselves. But the adverse effects of such cutbacks in further undermining Middle East stability may well be felt beyond the borders of refugee camps and shelters, as Palestine youth in increasing numbers join a resistance movement born of 20 years of waiting.





NEWSLETTER

A National Coordinating Agency for Arab Refugee Relief

TRAGEDY STALKS THE PALESTINE REFUGEES

The prospect of drastic cutbacks in Arab refugee assistance threatens tragedy for some one and a half million uprooted Palestinians in the 12 months just ahead. Faced with a 1969 deficit of \$4 million in funds needed merely to maintain assistance at existing levels, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) will be forced to initiate major cutbacks in refugee assistance if additional contributions do not materialize by July 1, 1969. The numerous voluntary agencies operating refugee assistance programs in the area are also confronted by higher costs and tighter budgets and must receive substantial voluntary contributions in order to continue programs at previously existing levels. Over the years, the Arab host governments have themselves put more than \$125 million of their own resources into education, health services and other assistance programs for the refugees but, as stressed by Secretary General U Thant, their burdens have been greatly increased since 1967 by the mass influx of Palestinian refugees and newly displaced persons from Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

The magnitude and severity of projected UNRWA cutbacks for 1969-70 were detailed by UNRWA Commissioner-General Laurence Michelmore in an address before the General Assembly's Special Political Committee last November:

1) Elimination of rice, sugar, peas, beans, and soap from the basic ration, reducing its contents to flour and cooking oil only. (According to the Commissioner-General, UNRWA food rations are presently issued to only about two-thirds of those persons potentially eligible to receive them.)

2) A cutback of 35 per cent in the supplementary feeding program, which provides hot meals, milk, and vitamin preparations to children suffering from malnutrition and to older persons who are ill.

3) A reduction of 10 per cent in UNRWA medical services, causing further magnification of risks to the health of the population. (At their present, critically low expenditure level of about 2¢ per day per person, such UNRWA services represent for most refugees the sole source of medical care.)

4) A reduction of 10 per cent in environmental sani-

tation services, which include at the present time insect control, the maintenance of latrines, and other measures designed to reduce health hazards in the camps.

5) Elimination from the regular budget of all funds for construction of shelters, camp roads and supplementary feeding facilities, and for improvement and expansion of health and sanitation facilities. (This absence of funds is particularly critical in light of the grossly inadequate living conditions that prevail in the emergency tent camps of Palestinians again made homeless in 1967.)

6) A 50 per cent cut in UNRWA's university scholarship program, which last year allocated more than 700 scholarships and provided the principal opportunity for gifted refugee youth to obtain a college education.

7) Suspension of all UNRWA financial subsidies to Governments and to private schools for the education of Palestinians, particularly at the secondary and preparatory level. (Although the main burden of these educational costs is borne by the Arab host governments themselves, with UNRWA subsidies covering but a relatively small proportion of actual costs, suspension of UNRWA subsidies may in fact necessitate the elimination of such training for the thousands of refugee children who attend Government and private schools each year.)

Return of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to their own homes and camps in the West Bank and other areas would immediately ease UNRWA's grave financial crisis and alleviate the hardships of a people who, in the words of Secretary General U Thant, have for twenty years had "no homeland, no future, and not even a detectable glimmer of hope on their horizon." Stressing that such an immediate return has been repeatedly endorsed in resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Conference on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the World Health Assembly, Commissioner-General Michelmore pointed last November to the striking "incongruity" of UNRWA's being forced to "improvise and expend limited resources" on emergency tented camps in east Jordan, while some of the Agency's "best camps, schools, clinics and other facilities stand idle" on the occupied West Bank and their former Palestinian inhabitants eke out "a bare subsistence" under

(Continued on page 2)