

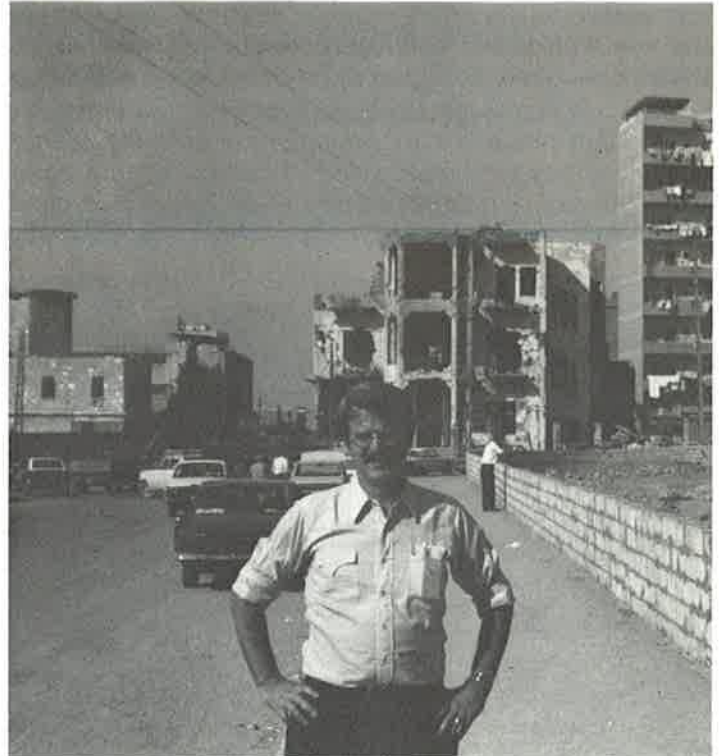
REPORT FROM LEBANON

Dear ANERA Supporter:

Traveling to Lebanon a couple of months after the termination of hostilities, one is struck not only by the pure physical destruction, but also by the energetic desire of the people to reconstruct their lives and their country.

Beirut was both worse and better than I expected. Southwest Beirut and the Museum crossing area suffered very considerable damage from bombing, shelling, and rocketing. Many buildings have been so severely damaged that they have collapsed or will have to be torn down. Raas Beirut or the area around the American University of Beirut and the immediate neighboring districts, while having received damage, were less harmed than I had imagined. Selected buildings had received direct hits and light damage was widespread, but this section of the city was bouncing back rapidly.

Beirut apartment buildings



Peter Gubser in Lebanon, November 1982

With respect to Palestinian camps, destruction varied considerably. I personally visited Sabra-Shatila in Beirut and Rashadiya next to Tyre in the far south. The former, according to a construction engineer who lives in the area and whom we know well, lost about twenty percent of its housing units. About sixty to seventy percent (including the twenty percent destroyed) were damaged in some way — this varied in degree from easily repaired holes to destruction of all but two standing walls. The latter is important, however, because if a family builds two more walls, then they do not have to live in a tent. In Rashadiya, at least fifty percent, and perhaps as much as seventy-five percent, of the housing was destroyed. According to the residents, many homes were blown up by Israeli troops after the camp was captured as the soldiers systematically destroyed all bomb shelters. Ein El-Hilwe camp, outside Sidon, was not so lucky; it lost almost all of its housing. However, people were still living in the extant residential units in Rashadiya and, reportedly, in Ein El-Hilwe as well — and the camp schools are once again full of children.

In Beirut, too, the people were back or rapidly returning via the newly opened airport or overland from rural Lebanon or neighboring Middle Eastern countries. While political uncertainty prevailed and people were unsure of the future, nevertheless they were energetically cleaning up and attempting to start anew. Lebanese government and international efforts were apparent and noteworthy. But also, appropriately for the free-enterprise country of Lebanon, major forces in these efforts are private. The most significant one is Mr. Hariri, a Shia Muslim from the south, who owns a large construction company with world-wide interests. His equipment and personnel were very much in evidence, cleaning up the city with heavy bulldozers, trucks and manpower. It was commonly said that some of his work was being funded by Saudi Arabia, which decided to work through him because he and his company have both the energy and capability to organize and undertake such a large task. The day I left Beirut, I saw the first Beirut municipal



Destruction in Sabra . . .



. . . and supplies for Shatilla.

school projects. In addition, as international and bilateral assistance advisors noted, the revolving loan funds will reach a segment of the population which is not encompassed in programs of other organizations to repair basic infrastructure and rebuild housing.

In summary, ANERA will be participating in the sorely needed reconstruction of a country which has just emerged from severe travail. To do this, we owe a debt of gratitude to all the ANERA supporters in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East. It is your support which makes our efforts possible.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Gubser
President



Reconstruction of sewage pipes begins in Beirut

reconstruction, ANERA will assist two indigenous institutions in establishing revolving loan funds to help artisans and shopkeepers who suffered during the war to get back into business. In this manner, ANERA will participate in restarting the war-damaged Lebanese economy through income generating projects. To complement these projects, ANERA will also assist two major vocational training schools which suffered very considerable damage to rebuild their programs. Not only are there numerous needy candidates for these schools, but also a Lebanon being rebuilt will have immediate need of their newly gained skills.

These four projects are specifically aimed at population groups and regions worst affected by the war of the summer of 1982: namely, the Lebanese Muslims and Christians of south Beirut and south Lebanon as well as the Palestinian refugees in and around the camps in those two regions. In addition, ANERA's projects fit into the overall reconstruction efforts of the Lebanese government. While in Beirut, I had a long talk with Dr. Adnan Mroueh, Minister of Social Welfare and Health, who concurred with the thrust of our efforts and specifically recommended the vocational



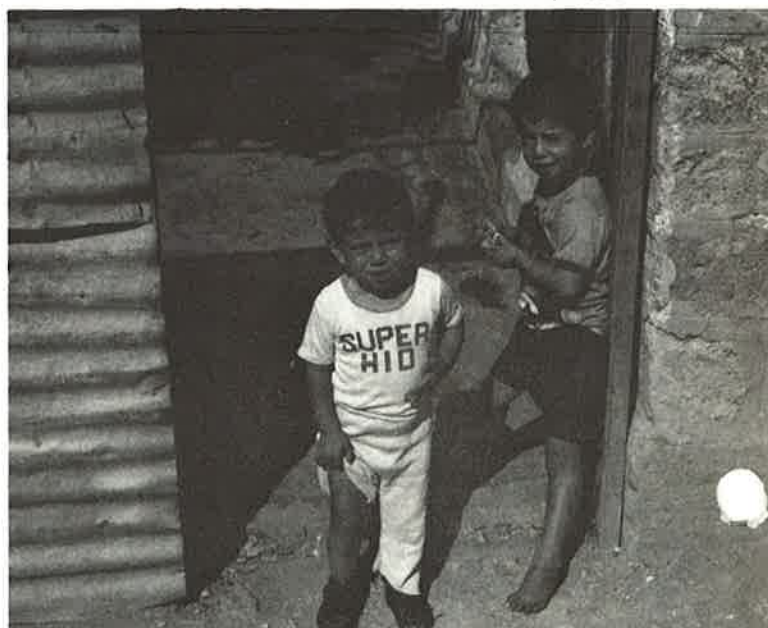
Beirut bounces back.

street cleaners and garbage collectors at work.

The major purpose of the trip was to review old projects and identify new ones in the reconstruction phase. In the former connection, I visited both the American University of Beirut Hospital and UNRWA. Indeed, the former had received in late July during the height of the siege ANERA's \$250,000 donation of antibiotics and other medicines which had been put to use immediately. I should note that this hospital was definitely the major or central hospital caring for the wounded of Beirut throughout the summer of 1982. UNRWA equally had procured with ANERA assistance electric generators for use in emergency clinics in or next to the Palestinian refugee camps in south Lebanon. They were installed and operating by mid-summer. Thus our major actions during the invasions had proved effective.

As to reconstruction or rehabilitation efforts, we will embark on two kinds of projects. First, using the model of U.S. government disaster relief low-interest loans for

Children greet visitors in Rashidiya . . .



. . . while students return to school.



ANERA's PROJECTS IN LEBANON

Revolving Loan Funds: ANERA has granted \$65,000 each to the YMCA and the Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps, both serving Beirut and south Lebanon, for the provision of loans of \$500 to \$5,000 to artisans and small businessmen who are too poor to qualify for bank credit.

Vocational Training: Grants of \$10,000 each were made to the Benevolent Cultural Association of the Supreme Shi'a Council located in south Beirut, and to Al-Bir wa Al-Ahsan in Tyre, to support their vocational training programs for men and women.

ANERA has received special gifts. . .

In memory of: Anna Abbott ■ Irene Anderson ■ Marie Sawabini Barakat ■ Garreth Barrett ■ Jarir Kheerallah Bosch ■ Stephanie D. Brown ■ John Kenneth Davis ■ Joseph N. Debbas ■ Harry Douglas ■ the parents of Mr. and Mrs. Said H Jabara ■ G. Williard Jones ■ Abraham Joseph ■ James Kelso ■ Anthony Craig Mansour ■ Mrs. Alvah L. Miller ■ Mrs Anna P. Oleinikoff ■ Lewis and Ruby Parrish ■ Karl Rothmund ■ Shay Sheheen ■ Anne R. Whitman.

In honor of: ANERA staff ■ George Barakat ■ Mr. and Mrs. Stephen E. Borgeson ■ Rt. Rev. and Mrs. John B. Coburn ■ Rev.'s Michael and Ann Coburn ■ Dr. John Davis ■ the 50th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George Fodor ■ Joseph Gerson ■ Dr. and Mrs. James H. Klein ■ Inez Leonard ■ Dr. Jirius Mansur ■ Jamillah Naaman ■ Mrs. Anwar Sadat ■ Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Shire's 54 years of marriage.

In birthday tribute to: Judith Crespo ■ Anita Pakrasi ■ Herth Seehorst.

ANERA wishes especially to acknowledge the many gifts given in memory of the Palestinians and Lebanese who died during the war this summer and in honor of those currently working to rebuild their lives in Lebanon.

Enclosed is a special gift for ANERA's Projects in Lebanon.

_____ \$15

_____ \$25

_____ \$50

_____ \$75

_____ \$100

_____ \$500

_____ \$1000

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Contributions to ANERA are tax-deductible and should be sent with this form to the ANERA office. Thank you for your help.

Text and photographs by ANERA President Peter Gubser.

ANERA

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