

25 years of service
ANERA

Newsletter

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 104 Winter 1994

LEGACIES

1994 - Turning Point On A Well-Traveled Road

While the Peace Accord signed in September between the PLO and the Israeli government marks a political turning point, resolution of the most basic issues—justice, dignity, respect, and economic opportunity—remains all the more urgent. For Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip the full benefits of peace have yet to

be received. Other than freedom of expression—with Palestinian flags, political slogans, and photos openly displayed—the army, the curfews, and most of the repression remain. Unemployment is still over 60% in Gaza. The physical infrastructure—the roads, sewers, much of the housing—is run down and inadequate. Clearly, ANERA's work is far from finished.

As ANERA marks 25 years of supporting humanitarian and development programs in the Middle East, we wanted to remember some of the individuals who have been working for many years to help the Palestinian refugees of 1948 and 1967. Their contributions to peace have been invaluable, and should serve as inspiration to the hard work that lies ahead. ♦

The grey, cold mist enveloping the suburban Washington high rise apartment complex is a far cry from the hot, bright summer day in Beirut Lebanon, 27 years ago, when Edna Davis' husband, Dr. John Davis, brought home a bell. A heavy, wrought iron bell made by refugee students in an UNRWA (United Nations Refugee Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) vocational training class, "this bell

will be rung when Palestine is free," he explained. Edna thought that they would only wait a few years. Now, at the beginning of 1994, her wait is over.

Actually, she and her son rang the bell on the night of September 13, 1993, when Yassir Arafat and Yitzak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn. We want to tell the story of the bell to the ANERA audience, because this is not her only legacy of a hoped-for peace. Dr. Davis, who died in 1988, was the

When Palestine Is Free



former head of UNRWA and also one of the founders of ANERA in 1968 (see accompanying story.)

The bell is enormous, taking up an entire corner of a room while sitting on a deceptively fragile-looking Syrian table of golden inlaid wood and ivory. Surrounded by the warmth of her antique Middle Eastern treasures, Edna's face glows when she remembers the days in Beirut. "I've always hoped that the bell would ring, but I knew it was going to be

hard because there were such bad feelings between those two groups." John and Edna first went to the Middle East in 1959, 11 years after the establishment of the Israeli state sent 400,000 Palestinian refugees fleeing into Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. "John grew up in Missouri you know, and he had been working with FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organization, a UN agency based in Rome) when Mr. Hammarskjöld just

called and asked if he could help with the situation with the refugees. It was such a surprise. Anyway, we sailed to Beirut in March, and John brought so many books to study on the trip over. I think he was mostly concerned about the refugees."

When asked what she remembers about that time, and her impressions of the Middle East, she paused. "I remember it was so depressing to go to the refugees' houses — they had nothing.

(Con't. on page 2)

WHEN PALESTINE IS FREE

(continued from page 1)

The rooms were so sparse and empty, maybe some pads in the corner that they used for sleeping at night. You went away with such an empty feeling."

Upon their return to the United States, John and Edna both worked hard to tell about, and more importantly, help find solutions to the problems they had seen. Dr. Davis wrote a ground-breaking book, *The Evasive Peace*, published in 1968, which was one of the first to deal with the

You never get over wanting to help

Palestinian side of the conflict. Then he helped to form ANERA.

"I would say our years with UNRWA and ANERA were the most rewarding, because we were helping people, you know, even if maybe you could only help solve small daily problems. You hated to leave because you could come back to your normal life here. You never get over wanting to help. I do hope these peace efforts work to become a Palestinian state. We always knew that in the end something would have to happen, we just didn't know it would take so long." ♦

The Ultimate Gift To ANERA

A bequest to ANERA will perpetuate your contribution to just peace in the Middle East into the future. Bequests are an important part of the support for ANERA's work for a lasting peace. Please consider us in your will. For more information about ANERA's planned giving program or about a gift from your estate, contact Nina Dodge, director of major gifts.

ANERA

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At ANERA we are concerned about the proliferation of junk mail. However, mail is a very economical way to reach new people. For this reason we occasionally trade our mailing list with similar humanitarian organizations, although we never rent or sell our names. If you wish to have your name removed from this list, please let us know in writing.

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LEGACY OF PEACE

During September 1993, the world witnessed a momentous and historical event when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the Declaration of Principles that hopefully will lead to peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The Foundation for Middle East Peace, an institution with which ANERA has had a long relationship, decided to recognize some key individuals who have contributed over the years to the process that has helped the parties reach this agreement. Accordingly, we through we would share with you, our friends and supporters, its award announcement which appeared in February, 1994, in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Concerned Americans Create ANERA

ANERA began in the aftermath of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war to provide emergency assistance to Palestinian refugees streaming east across the Jordan River. Although many people played key roles in the process of creating ANERA, there is little disagreement that without two men—Orin Parker and Jim Sams—ANERA might not exist today. Mr. Parker made the institutional resources of American Friends of the Middle East (AFME, now AMIDEAST) available as a clearinghouse and coordination point for many activities going on around the United States, and Jim Sams put his law practice virtually "on hold" for the better part of a year while he helped channel the energy—and concern—of that summer into constructive directions.

The first major event in ANERA's creation was a meeting in Washington, D.C., held at AFME, of leaders of the dozen or so most active Middle Eastern groups which focused on establishing a national organization to assist Palestinian refugees. A larger conference held in Detroit in October 1967 approved a plan of action that included encouraging grassroots organizations to contribute financially to the new entity. ANERA

was officially born as a tax-exempt, charitable corporation in February of 1968; its articles of incorporation were signed by Reverend Edward L. Elson, Harry N. Howard and James F. Sams. In sum, ANERA's birth and early growth were strongly influenced by its deep roots in a basic humanitarian response with wide, popular ramifications.

A key event in ANERA's ability to professionalize was an early 1968 matching grant of \$100,000 from NEED (Near East Emergency Donations), which had raised large sums from the American business community in the summer of 1967 and given most of it to UNRWA. With former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower as honorary co-chairmen and James Linen of Time, Inc. directing its activities, NEED's support of ANERA sent a signal that corporate America was prepared to join hands with grassroots groups in bringing the new entity into existence.

Another milestone was the agreement by Dr. Davis to become ANERA's first president and chairman. Author of a book on the Arab-Israeli conflict, he epitomized the mix of humanitarian concern and pragmatism for which ANERA strives. ♦

TEN HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE

A great many individuals qualify as major players in the search for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Some are widely known and one or two may even receive Nobel Prizes. But credit for progress toward Israeli-Palestinian mutual recognition and Middle East peace belongs as well to countless lesser-known Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans, who, among others, have labored for those goals. To symbolize the contribution of this legion of activists, the Foundation for Middle East Peace has chosen ten men and women to receive a special Foundation peace award. In recognition of their distinguished service in the cause of peace, for their courage and determination over many years, the awardees will each receive \$5,000.

MAHMOUD ABBAS (Abu Mazen)

The Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committeeman has emerged as a top PLO leader by negotiating the Oslo agreement with Israel and reaching out for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

HANAN ASHRAWI

The articulate spokesperson for the Palestinian negotiators at the Washington peace talks whose portrayal of PLO purposes in the peace process has greatly improved the worldwide image of the Palestinian people.

MORDECHAI BAR-ON

The former Knesset member and chief of Israeli armed forces education now chairs the New Israel Fund and is an energizing force in Israel's growing peace movement.

YEHOSHAFAT HARKABI

The retired general who directed Israel's Military Intelligence and Strategic Research has led in recommending acceptance of the PLO as his country's negotiating partner.

FAISAL HUSSEINI

The head of the PLO's dominant West Bank faction is widely acclaimed for his moderate leadership of Palestinians and his work in advancing the peace process.

SARI NUSSEIBEH

The Palestinian philosopher whose detailed model for a two-state solution to the conflict now includes a set of blueprints for Palestinian self-government.

MATTITYAHU PELED

The retired Israeli armed forces general who pioneered in proposing and working to achieve Israeli reconciliation with Palestinians as his country's best means of assuring its long-term security.

GAIL PRESSBERG

The U.S. Jewish community leader who co-directs Peace Now's Center for Israeli Peace and Security has championed support in the United States for a future two-state solution.

NABEEL SHAATH

The Cairo businessman and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide in numerous negotiations has used his authority wisely in pursuing moderate Palestinian objectives.

DEDI ZUCKER

The Knesset member and proponent of human rights for Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel is a vigorous advocate for just treatment and a fair peace.

The Foundation's purpose in honoring the recipients is to give public recognition to their work and to encourage them and others to build upon the recent mutual recognition. Many issues await resolution: territorial boundaries, the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel, and the fate of Palestinian refugees from the five wars since 1948. It will take more courage and determination of the kind the award recipients have shown before the remaining issues are resolved and peace can be achieved.

Merle Thorpe, Jr., President

FOUNDATION FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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LEBANON: *The Long Road Back*



The 50th anniversary of Lebanon's independence from the French Mandate came and went quietly in 1993 as hundreds of thousands of Lebanese continue to focus on rebuilding their country and their lives after 15 years of bloody civil war. Three years after the guns have fallen silent, Lebanon is still struggling to regain even a fraction of the economic and social prosperity enjoyed prior to 1975 in this country once dubbed "the Switzerland of the Middle East". Although deep wounds are beginning to heal, the road to recovery will undoubtedly be long and difficult.

The most significant redevelopment effort to date has been Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's announcement of "Horizon 2000," the multi-billion dollar plan to rebuild the heart of Beirut's financial and commercial infrastructure, replacing bombed out neighborhoods with gleaming high-rise businesses complexes and shopping malls. But even in the best case scenario, such a monumental endeavor will take years, if not decades, to be fully realized.

For the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, conditions are increasingly critical. Of the approximate 350,000 Palestinian refugees who fled to Lebanon since the creation of Israel in

UNRWA



ANERA helps...

■ **Emergency Relief:** Since 1968 ANERA has provided both financial assistance and in-kind pharmaceutical donations to the Lebanese Red Cross, the backbone of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations during the war. This summer the Israeli military bombed villages in south Lebanon and displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians. ANERA donors quickly responded to calls for help, enabling \$15,000 worth of pharmaceuticals and financial assistance to be sent for emergency relief.

■ **Health Care:** ANERA supports the American University of Beirut Hospital, the largest health care provider in Lebanon. During 1993 alone, AMER, the medical division of ANERA, sent over \$25,000 worth of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and medical books and journals to upgrade their facilities.

■ **Education And Training:** The number of children killed throughout the war is estimated at over 40,000. Hundreds of thousands survived with spinal cord injuries, amputations, or other traumas. Through our scholarship sponsorship program, hundreds of ANERA donors help support rehabilitation efforts at Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Institute in Beirut. Their donations help provide edu-

cation, physical and mental therapy, meals and a caring home to thousands of children and young adults injured by war.

■ **Rural Development:** ANERA assists over 100 Lebanese farmers in the Turbol Cooperative in the Bekaa Valley through income-generating projects. During the most severe years of fighting, the cooperative obtained experimental seeds from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas located in Aleppo, Syria. With assistance from ANERA, they multiplied these high-yield barley and wheat seeds, marketing them to nearly every farmer who wanted them. Their perseverance and ingenuity has helped bring the "green revolution" to Lebanon.

■ **Refugee Services:** ANERA assists the Association for Development of Palestinian Refugee Camps which was founded in 1968 to provide income-generating projects, revolving loan programs, and social welfare programs to individuals and families in need residing in refugee camps. The Association sponsors diverse projects ranging from kindergartens, to centers for the care of the elderly without family due to war. One of the Association's most successful projects is its support of embroidery centers which employ women who earn money for their craft, while passing down beautiful, traditional patterns to younger generations. ♦

1948, most still reside in decrepit shanty refugee camps in the south. Moreover, due to the destructive camp wars and massacres of the 1980s, an estimated 6,000 Palestinian families are now essentially refugees from refugee camps, squatting in bombed-out buildings around Beirut. While the recent Israeli-P.L.O. peace accords have sparked hope and optimism among many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Lebanon's Palestinians remain dubious and frustrated that the details of the accords have all but ignored their plight.

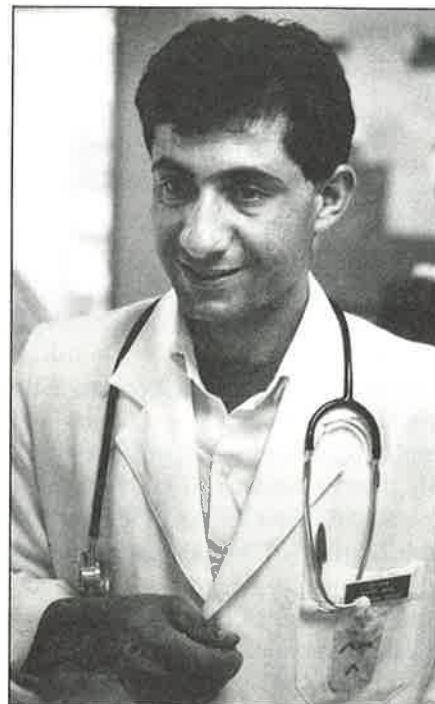
The truth is that thousands of people in Lebanon, Lebanese citizens and Palestinian refugees alike, are struggling. Most live in deplorable conditions, prices of food and housing are sky-rocketing and basic services are in dire need. Many teachers, doctors, and other professionals, surviving for years on reduced incomes, have not been paid in months. Thousands of people remain affected, physically or mentally, by the horrors of war.

For over 25 years, ANERA has supported various organizations in Lebanon through education, health care, and income-generating projects to relieve some of the suffering, and return

pride and prosperity to the Lebanese people and others living within the country's borders. For today as well as the foreseeable future, the need for such assistance remains enormous. In light of the recent political changes in the region, ANERA President Dr. Peter Gubser has expressed that he is "delighted to shift ANERA's concentration in Lebanon from one primarily of humanitarian relief, as it was during the war, to one focusing on the goal of fostering growth and reconstruction through grassroots development, irrespective of religion or national origin."

ANERA will concentrate on three vital areas. Our first priority will be building human potential through education and training. Our second goal is to help improve the standard of health and health care services. Finally, ANERA will assist grassroots projects by transferring technology to farmers so that they may better compete in both local and international markets. Through these efforts, ANERA hopes to achieve its primary goal in Lebanon of relieving suffering and fostering self-sufficiency among the poorest people in society.

ANERA's efforts in Lebanon, like all of our work, would be impossible with-



William Carter

ANERA helps to improve the standard of health and health care services throughout Lebanon.

out the generosity and concern of people like you. As Lebanon rebuilds, and the prospects for a more peaceful Middle East unfold, ANERA will continue to support as many organizations and social services as financially possible. ♦



UNRWA

YES, I want to join ANERA's 25th Anniversary Campaign

___ \$10,000 and above: Builders

___ \$2,500 to \$9,999: Benefactors

___ \$1,000 to \$2,499: Sponsors

___ \$500 to \$999: Sustainers

___ \$250 to \$499: Creators

___ Please send me more information about the 25th Anniversary Campaign

Contributions of \$250 or more will be recognized by category in ANERA's Annual Report (FY94) and listed in an album of contributors to be placed in Jerusalem and Gaza and at the conclusion of the 25th Anniversary Campaign. In addition, all contributors of \$500 and above will receive a 25th Anniversary plate of traditional Jerusalem pottery.

YES, I want to help ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon

___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$75 ___ \$50 ___ \$35 ___ \$25 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Scholarship:

I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship (\$100 per child) for a:

- Palestinian child
- Lebanese child
- School where need is greatest

Sponsors receive a photo of the child and a letter from the school during the year.

G4.8

In Memory

ANERA sadly announces the recent loss of three of our closest friends and supporters, and life-long advocates of Middle East peace. All three men will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to their families and friends.

Merle Thorpe, Jr., 76, former Chairman of ANERA's Board of Directors, died of cancer February 13 at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Highly successful at law and investment, Mr. Thorpe established the Foundation for Middle East Peace to support the publication of books and promote appearances by leading Israeli and Palestinian figures promoting peace and mutual recognition.

Mr. Thorpe was also well known for defending the rights of shareholders in

the United States. Using his legal and securities knowledge, he was a pioneer in challenging management where he determined it had egregiously used its position for its own gain at the expense of shareholders. Mr. Thorpe also served on the board of WETA, Washington's public television station.

Mr. Thorpe was a special person who always gave of himself and truly made a contribution to the betterment of peoples' lives in the United States and the Middle East.

Dr. Hamilton Southworth, long-time ANERA supporter and board member, died of pneumonia in January at the age of 86. Dr. Southworth, an internist and medical researcher, will best be remembered for his tireless contributions to the fields of medical ethics, antibiotics research, and his involvement with the administration of the Presbyterian

Hospital. He had a special concern for the Middle East, and Lebanon in particular, and served on AMER, ANERA's medical committee, for over a decade. We are fortunate to have had the dedication and involvement of such a caring and knowledgeable man.

Nicholas Andronovitch, a founding member of the Musa Alami Foundation of Jericho, died at the age of 86 on December 15th at Danforth, Maine. Colonel Andronovitch was posted to Jerusalem as a military liaison officer at the U.S. Consulate General in 1943 and was stationed there through the 1948 War. Along with his close friend Musa Alami, founder and long-time president of the Arab Development Society in the West Bank, he was active in promoting the society's goals of educating Palestinian orphan boys and developing the barren land of Jericho into productive farmland.

In Honor of...

Matt Abdo ■ Hanan Ashrawi ■ Jean Atallah's birthday ■ Anne Marie Baba ■ Mrs. William Blaker ■ Leila & Rima Bordcosh ■ Jesus Christ ■ Domenica Defano ■ Frank Drummond ■ the marriage of Alia and Samir El Dabagh ■ Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Ferris ■ George Fox ■ Roy & Ray Graham family ■ Vessarios G. Inigas ■ Rasha & Rami Khouri ■ Ibrahim Matar ■ Mrs. Frank Morris ■ Vanessa Redgrave ■ Karim & Zeena Sawabini ■ Dr. & Mrs. Wadi Sawabini ■ A.C. Schumacher ■ Dale Shaheen ■ Mrs. Najla Showker ■ Ellen Siegel ■ Dr. & Mrs. Michel Slim ■ Mr. & Mrs. Ward K. Warner ■ The Wojdowski Family ■ Christmas ■ Gaza Strip ■ The Jordan Information Bureau ■ The Palestinian Cause ■ Peace ■ Rabin-Arafat Peace Accords

In Memory of...

Musa Alami ■ Bill Anderson ■ Fred Assad ■ Simon Tarlette Atallah ■ Sybil Totah Belmont ■ Hanna Ibrahim Bisharat ■ Arthur S. Bolles ■ Frank E. Brown ■ Alfred H. Clifford ■ John Davis ■ Rev. Harry G. Dorman Jr. ■ Khadija Gharbaoui ■ Richard Gehrenbeck ■ Heinz & Else Kappes ■ Nabiha Karoub ■ Mead A. Kelsey ■ Mrs. Wardeh Karim Khouri ■ Fayez Kouatly ■ Dr. C.L. LeFebvre ■ Betsy Gilmore McNeil ■ Shouhdy Boutros Mishriki ■ Fleming Stanley Moore ■ Monsignor John J. O'Sullivan ■ Edward S. Quade ■ Mr. Joseph Rapa & son Joseph Joe ■ Mary Stoddard ■ Emily Nahed Stuman ■ Farid & Theodora Tabri ■ Melda Wallace ■ Lorraine Weiner ■ Mrs. Olivia Whitney ■ David Whitmore ■ Ernest K. Ziegler



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