



NEWSLETTER

Number 11

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID, INC. February March, 1971

A PLEA FOR JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND

A call for justice for the almost three million Palestinian Arabs – Christians and Muslims – and recognition of their right to self-determination was made on January 27 by three speakers at the Washington Cathedral.

Two of the speakers expressed doubt that the current peace talks under U.N. mediator Gunnar Jarring will be successful because the “participants have failed to recognize the inalienable rights” of the Palestinian Arabs. One speaker described this shortcoming as “the great weakness” in the Rogers Plan.

The occasion was a mass rally – the first of its kind in America – which focused on the plight of the Palestinian refugees, victimized by the creation of the state of Israel, and the ensuing Middle East crisis.

Wide-ranging ecumenical support was evidenced in the Sponsoring Committee, chaired by Rev. Edward L. R. Elson, pastor of the National Presbyterian Church. Two Republican Senators – Mark Hatfield of Oregon and Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma – were among the 50 national figures sponsoring the evening's program. Others included Dr. Cynthia Wedel, President of the National Council of Churches; Catholic Bishop Edward G. Swanstrom of New York; Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Church; Bishop Philip Saliba, head of the Antiochian Orthodox Church; Bishop Papken of the Armenian Apostolic Church; Erwin D. Canham, editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*; Rabbi Elmer Berger; Dr. Eugene Black, former President of the World Bank; Dr. Andrew Cordier, former President of Columbia University; Dr. Paul Dudley White; and author Moshe Menuhin.

Approximately 1,500 people heard speeches delivered by Christopher Mayhew, a British member of Parliament and former Cabinet minister; Dr. John H. Davis, former Commissioner-General of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and Miss Nomi Erteschik, an Israeli graduate student at M.I.T.

A settlement of the Middle East crisis, according to Mayhew, lies in an Israeli withdrawal from areas it occupied in 1967 and an acceptance of the recent suggestion for the placement of Big Four troops along the Arab-Israeli borders. Otherwise, he concluded, Israel will strengthen suspicions that “she is interested not in peace but in annexation.”

Miss Erteschik felt that as long as Israel remains an “exclusively” Jewish state, the return of the Palestinian Arabs to their homeland will continue to be blocked. She saw “permanent conflict” in the area if Israel “continues to be (an) exclusively Jewish state which by its nature discriminates against non-Jews.” An “essential” to peace in the Middle East is for the Israelis to come to “the realization that some kind of co-existence with the Palestinians” is necessary. She said she saw no danger to the “welfare” of her people in the “emancipation” of the Palestinian Arabs.

The third speaker, Dr. Davis, felt “it is time to declare categorically that the Palestinian Arabs have been and are victims of grave injustice and that it is time to do something about it.” He stressed that the grievance of the Palestinian Arabs must be made “a substantive item” in any agenda for a settlement of the Middle East crisis. Failure to accord the Palestinians the



Dr. John H. Davis and Mr. Christopher Mayhew, speakers at “A Plea for Justice for People of the Holy Land.”

right of self-determination will “foredoom” any peace effort. He found this a “major weakness” in the Rogers plan.

Dr. Davis then appealed for the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the respect of their “inalienable rights”.

Two Washington Church choirs – the First Seventh Day Adventist and the St. George Orthodox – and vocalist Laurice Peters sang during the program. The very Rev. Francis Sayre, Dean of the Washington Cathedral, gave the welcoming remarks. Col. Floyd Johnson, U.S.M.C. (Ret.), former deputy chief of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO) read the messages of support from various national leaders. Father Joseph Ryan, S.J., introduced the speakers. A prayer for peace was read by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf, Imam and director of the Islamic Center in New York, and benediction was given by Father Louis Mahshie of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church.

The following are highlights from "A Plea for Justice for People of the Holy Land."

MR. CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW, M. P.

The case for Israel is well understood in Western countries. The sufferings of the Jewish people throughout history, and above all in Hitler's day, are known and deplored by all civilized men. I wish that the plight of the Palestinian Arabs were as fairly heard and as well understood . . . We equate the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees with other refugee problems with which we are familiar: Biafran, Vietnamese, and in the last war, French, Belgian, and Dutch refugees. There is no parallel with the Palestinian refugees because it was taken for granted that the other refugees had the right to go home when the fighting ended. Not so the Palestinians . . .

In the last ten years my country has accepted well under a million foreign immigrants. Suppose we had experienced foreign immigration on the Palestinian scale, proportionate to population. Suppose we British had had to accept not one million, but twenty or thirty million foreign immigrants, and let us imagine that these immigrants came to Britain ultimately to set up their own state, to take over our capital city and the most developed parts of the United Kingdom. How would we British have reacted then? How would the Sussex farmers and the London dockers be reacting in vast refugee camps in Wales and the Midlands? Would they say, "Well, that's that. We can always resettle in Canada or Australia."? I know what they would say, and you would be the same. They would say, "No matter how long it takes, no matter what the sacrifices, London, Kent, Sussex, the West Country are British and will be British again." That is what my people would say. That is what every people in the world would say if they had to suffer the losses, the humiliations of the Palestinian Arabs. And let us not, therefore, think for a minute that their reactions are unnatural — on the contrary, seen against the scale of their suffering, their reactions are human and patient.

Mrs. Laurice Peters sings at "A Plea for Justice for People of the Holy Land." From left to right: Col. Johnson, Rev. Elson, Miss Erteschik, Father Ryan, and Father Louis Mahshie.



JOHN H. DAVIS

Conflict continues in the Middle East, year after year, because year after year a fundamental element of discord goes unresolved. This element of discord is the festering plight of the Palestinian people, both Moslems and Christians . . .

In the absence of peace, bitterness gets deeper, armaments get bigger, and the great powers become more and more involved and in a way that makes the danger of a holocaust ever more menacing. All of this transpires because neither the great powers nor the world community of nations will face the fact that three million Palestinian Arabs have been made a people without a country. They still live as refugees, or exiles, or subjects under occupation, or as citizens of a country that restricts their rights and opportunities . . .

Today a new peace effort is under way. Its plan is to engage the Arab states that border on Israel, particularly the United Arab Republic and Jordan, in discussions with Israel. But what about the Palestinian Arabs? Should not the voice of these three million human beings be heard? It is not right, it is not just, that their voices be muffled in peace talks since it is their destiny that is now in balance. The grievances of the Palestinian Arabs must be made a substantive item on the agenda . . .

SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD (R.-ORE.)

For centuries people around the world have looked to the Holy Land as a symbol and spiritual well-spring of three great religions. Recent history, however, added another characteristic to that part of the globe. The Holy Land and the area surrounding it has become critical to the economic and military security of most of the countries of the world.

Twenty-three years ago the state of Israel was founded, fulfilling a dream of a people who had been persecuted for centuries. Yet in the process of its creation and the events since that time 2½ million people were made homeless. And today 1½ million of these human beings live in refugee camps. Many injustices have been and continue to be perpetrated throughout the Middle East, but the plight of the Palestinians remains paramount.

The responsibility for this is shared by many, the United States not being a minor partner. Our policy toward the Middle East has been self-defeating and detrimental to all of the parties to the conflict. We have been like the blind man describing an elephant after having touched only the trunk. I have visited the Holy Land two times in as many years and believe the situation there to be not only tragic but the most dangerous facing the world today . . .

(This message was sent by Senator Hatfield to the public meeting at the Washington Cathedral January 27, 1971.)

Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 26, 1971

To have true peace in the Middle East there must be the kind of settlement which, if it blesses one, blesses all. There must be security and peace for Israel. There must be an end to the Arabs' deep feeling of injustice. And, by no means least of all, there must be right and decent provision for those Palestinians who have been progressively displaced through three different wars in the past 24 years.

This Wednesday there takes place in Washington National Cathedral a special service dedicated to furthering the cause of justice for these Palestinians . . . This is an admirable aim. It does not seek to penalize anyone, in this case Israel . . . It does, however, seek to call attention to the plight, the anguish, and the wrath of a proud, land-loving people who, for a variety of complex reasons, have been displaced. And it seeks to make this situation better known in the United States.

NAJDA

The San Francisco Bay area is the scene of many activities organized by NAJDA, "an educational and philanthropic association organized for better understanding of the people and problems of the Middle East." This busy group held a bazaar in October to raise money for emergency relief in Jordan. November 7 was the date of a symposium on "Arab Contributions to Western Civilization" during which approximately 100 people heard lectures on "Principles of Arab Art and Architecture" and "Islamic Values as Alternatives to Western Man". Dr. Laura Nader spoke on "Social and Technological Contributions of Arab Culture." Mr. Michael Adams, former Middle East correspondent for England's *Manchester Guardian*, was the guest speaker at a luncheon held at Omar Khayyam's restaurant in San Francisco.

NAJDA's February meeting was a program about Musa Alami and the boys school and farm which he has developed in the lower Jordan Valley near Jericho. Recently NAJDA has donated three vocational training scholarships to UNRWA and is supporting 6 children in occupied Jordan through the Project Ryaiat program. A cookbook which features recipes for Arab delicacies has been printed by NAJDA. The proceeds from the sales of this book go towards the scholarship fund. These activities, and other happenings in the Bay area, are reported in a bi-monthly newsletter. ANERA salutes this active organization whose purpose and goals we share. Mrs. Audrey Shabbas, President, NAJDA, P.O. Box 6051, Albany, California 94706.

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBIT

ANERA's travelling exhibit of drawings done by Palestinian refugee children (see Newsletter No. 10) is in the midst of a schedule that will take it across the continent and back again before the end of summer. A film company in New York is currently using the exhibit as the basis of a new movie. This impressive show consists of 35 drawings and is accompanied by an explanatory booklet which can be distributed to people viewing the exhibit. The only charge for use of the exhibit is underwriting shipping expenses involved in sending it on to its next destination. The exhibit's schedule is:

March 24-31 Muskingum College
New Concord, Ohio
April 16-30 University of California at Davis
Davis, California

ANERA GRANTS

\$3,000 University of Jordan (Amman)
\$3,000 American University in Cairo
\$2,500 American Univ. of Beirut/Beirut
College for Women
\$ 700 College des Freres de la Salle
(Jerusalem)
\$1,000 Arab Charitable Society (Zarka)
\$ 550 UNRWA vocational training
scholarship

Five of ANERA's most recent grants went to educational institutions, illustrating this organization's belief that support of educational programs for Arab refugees should be at the top of the list of priorities.

The University of Jordan, American University in Cairo, and American University of Beirut/Beirut College for Women will use their grants to aid students who face financial hardship due to the upheavals in Jordan last fall, during which many families lost the income which had enabled their sons and daughters to begin their university education. Without immediate assistance these students will be unable to complete their studies. American Friends of the Middle East will administer the grant to American University of Beirut and Beirut College for Women.

The Scholarship fund of College des Freres de la Salle will benefit from the ANERA grant. The College is a secondary school run by Jesuit Fathers in Jerusalem.

The Arab Charitable Society maintains a feeding Center in Zarka (north of Amman) which provides a daily meal for 250-300 children. Mr. Najib Mansour, brother of ANERA Wausau chapter head Shafeec Mansour, is the director of the center.

UNRWA's Vocational Training program received another scholarship from ANERA which will provide training for a young refugee.



Children at the Feeding Center in Zarka maintained by the Arab Charitable Society.

ANERA/SEATTLE

ANERA/Seattle has just elected a new group of officers. They are:

Mousa R. Murad, President
Mike Agather, Vice President
Bergith Kayyali, Secretary
Mushtaque Junejo, Treasurer

Recent projects undertaken by the Seattle organization have been a public program featuring a tape recording of the "Plea for Justice for People of the Holy Land," promotion of the Najda cookbook, and sales of Friends of Jerusalem Society Christmas cards.

PROJECT PROFILE:

Industrial Islamic Orphanage

The Industrial Islamic Orphanage is housed in an historic old building in Jerusalem. This building was constructed in 1867 as the site of the Ottoman Government offices. The Waqf (Islamic Society) who owns the property converted the building into an orphanage in 1922. Fifteen boys and five girls made up the first group of children housed there. As a result of the fighting during 1967, the number of orphans dropped from 337 to 150. Currently there are 250 boarders and 20 day students receiving industrial and academic training, and 450 day students who attend academic classes only. The latter program was initiated in 1968. All of the education and training is free. In addition, the orphanage offers the students food, clothing, and shelter. The vocational training program includes printing, binding, carpentry, painting, furniture building, sewing, and shoe-making. The workshops provide some revenue for the Orphanage, but this must be supplemented by support from outside sources if operating expenses are to be met.

In August 1970, ANERA made a grant of \$4,000 to the Industrial Islamic Orphanage. The Director, Mr. Ibrahim Jadallah, reported, "The money was used for buying suits, pajamas, and shoes for the orphans in the Institution. Your kind and generous aid encouraged me to accept sixty-five orphans at the beginning of this scholastic year. I hope that your aid to this orphanage will continue to enable us to carry on serving these orphans and prepare them for a decent life." The Industrial Islamic Orphanage, P.O. Box 19992, Jerusalem, via Israel.

AMER

In the past few months American Middle East Rehabilitation Division of ANERA in New York has sent valuable shipments of medicine and supplies to the Middle East. UNRWA has received three consignments valued at \$76,255 (U.S. wholesale), and two shipments worth \$4,166 have been sent off to the Palestine Hospital in Amman. These goods were donated by leading American pharmaceutical companies and will aid Palestinians needing medical attention.

AMER has also been helping UNRWA's Amman office with a medical library project. This UNRWA field office is gathering medical reference books for the use of doctors in the Middle East. If you know of any medical texts and/or anatomical charts which could be donated to this project, please send a bibliography of the books to AMER and you will be notified if the books can be used. (AMER, 777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 7 E, New York, New York 10017.)

DR. DAVIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ANERA President John H. Davis is currently in the Middle East, taking part in an international symposium on Palestine being held in Kuwait. Dr. Davis was asked to deliver an address focusing on the Palestine refugees and the reasons why they left their homeland. Among the other American participants in the symposium are Dr. W. T. Mallison Jr., Rabbi Elmer Berger, and Professor Alan R. Taylor. While in the Middle East Dr. and Mrs. Davis plan to visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan.

MIDDLE EAST INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

Many excellent books about the Middle East are sold at discount prices by Americans for Middle East Understanding (AMEU) in New York. Some of these books are not readily available in bookstores. For a complete list of publications write to AMEU, 475 Riverside Drive No. 538, New York, New York 10027.

ANERA has prints of two films available: UNRWA's "Aftermath" portrays the consequences of the June 1967 War for Palestinian refugees. A new film, "Until Such a Time", tells the story a student at UNRWA's Ramallah Vocational Training Center.

Both UNRWA and the World YMCA have produced sets of slides concerning the Palestinian refugees, each accompanied by a suggested commentary. They can be obtained from the ANERA office.

The new edition of Dr. John H. Davis' *The Evasive Peace* can be ordered from: New World Press, 132 East 44th St., New York, New York 10017 for \$2.95 a copy. Reprints of Chapter Five, "The Palestine Refugee Problem" are available from the ANERA office.

A study prepared by the American Friends Service Committee entitled "Search for Peace in the Middle East" is available from: AFSC, 160 North Fifteenth St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 for 75 cents.

Copies of the sociological survey of the Palestinian refugees, "River Without Bridges", can be ordered from: Palestine Books, P.O. Box 329 A; R. R. 1, Oxford, Pennsylvania 19363. Price: \$1.00.



Subhie Heelan

UNRWA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

When ANERA's AMER Division sends medical supplies to UNRWA, UNRWA credits AMER with Vocational Training Scholarships equal in value to the supplies. As a result of recent shipments to UNRWA, five Vocational Training Scholarships have been granted in AMER/ANERA's name. One of these went to Subhie Abdel Latif Heelan, a student at Ramallah Women's Training Centre.

In the fall of 1970 Subhie began an English course in the Teachers Training Section which she will complete in the summer of 1972. English was her best subject in secondary school. Her favorite hobbies are table tennis and drawing. The Heelan family has had two homes. They lost their first home in Haifa as a result of the Arab/Israeli hostilities of 1948 during which they moved to Nablus where Subhie was born. Mr. Heelan was a grocer, but he has been able to find work only as a laborer. His meager income is far from adequate to support his wife and nine children.



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