



NEWSLETTER

Number 13

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID, INC. June - July 1971

ANNUAL ANERA BOARD MEETING

Sixteen ANERA Directors convened at the National Lawyers Club in Washington, D. C. on May 11, 1971, for the Third Annual Meeting of the Board. ANERA President John H. Davis opened the meeting with a summary of ANERA's activities since the last meeting of the Board. He stated that two areas in which the Arab refugees need immediate aid were education and health services. Because of UNRWA's precarious financial situation, cutbacks may have to be made in educational programs, such as vocational training, which are the refugees' one means of gaining the skills which can make them self-supporting. In addition to ANERA's support of the UNRWA vocational-training program, the AMER Division solicits medicines in response to UNRWA's needs. Vocational training scholarships are provided in AMER/ANERA's name with the cash UNRWA saves through AMER's medical shipments. Dr. Davis concluded, "In 1971-72 I recommend that ANERA continue to concentrate its efforts on raising cash for vocational scholarships for Palestinian refugees and expanding gifts in kind, which have the effect of improving health services in a manner that augments educational scholarships."

ANERA Executive Director John P. Richardson gave a report on the activities of ANERA during the past year including direct mail campaigns, informational programs, grants, and the successful completion of the AMER/ANERA merger.

The Board then moved on to the next item of business: re-election of seven current members of the Board whose terms had expired, and election of five new members of the Board: Floyd M. Johnson, David G. Nes, John G. Nolan, Nestor C. Ortiz, and Francis B. Sayre

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Sir John Rennie

*UNRWA LEADERSHIP CHANGE

On May 15, 1971, Dr. Laurence Michelmore resigned as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, a post he had held for six and a half years. Having worked with the United Nations in various capacities since 1946, Dr. Michelmore replaced ANERA President John H. Davis as UNRWA's Commissioner-General on January 1, 1964. Dr. Michelmore's years as head of UNRWA covered a turbulent period on the refugee front, including the Six-Day War in 1967 and last fall's civil war in Jordan. In the face of these problems, Dr. Michelmore acted with diplomacy, efficiency, and deep human feeling for the people whom UNRWA was created to help.

The new Commissioner-General of UNRWA is Sir John Rennie of Great Britain. After graduating from Glasgow and Oxford Universities, Sir John served in the British Foreign Service, filling posts in East Africa and Mauritius. Since October, 1968, Sir John has been Deputy Commissioner-General of UNRWA. This experience makes him uniquely qualified to fill the demanding position of Commissioner-General. ANERA looks forward to continuing its close relationship with UNRWA and its Commissioner-General.

INCREASED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA PROPOSED

An effort is currently underway to have the United States contribution to UNRWA increased by \$1.5 million. Leading this movement is Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R.-Oregon). Dr. John H. Davis, President of ANERA, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in favor of the increased funds, and his testimony was placed in the Congressional Record of June 10th by Senator Hatfield. During his appearance before the Committee Senator Hatfield said: "Since 1967, U. S. contributions to UNRWA have fallen off significantly. Prior to 1967, we contributed 70% of UNRWA's budget. Since that time, the ratio has dropped to 56% in spite of increasing numbers of refugees to 1.5 million. Last year, I introduced an amendment with the cosponsorship of the senior Senator from Vermont (Mr. Aiken) and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Refugees (Mr. Kennedy) which would have increased U. S. contributions to the level prior to 1967 earmarking these funds for educational and technical training needs. UNRWA has made significant strides in gaining financial support from various countries in the past year. By introducing an amendment for between \$1.5 to \$2.5 million, I am hopeful that UNRWA's deficit will be negligible, and that one small step toward defusing the critical situation in the Middle East would be accomplished."

At the conclusion of this testimony, Senators Aiken (R.-Vt.), Cooper (R.-Ky.) and Pearson (R.-Kansas) expressed support for Sen. Hatfield's proposed amendment to the Foreign Aid bill.

Senator Hatfield deserves and needs support in this effort from all citizens concerned about peace and justice in the Middle East.

INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

FLOYD M. JOHNSON, JR.

Col. Floyd M. Johnson Jr. (U.S.M.C. Ret.) has had extensive experience in the Middle East, serving as Naval Attache in Baghdad from 1956-1958 and as Deputy Chief of Staff of the U. N. Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine under General Odd Bull from 1966-68. Col. Johnson grew up in Texas and attended Rice Institute in Houston, earning a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1942. After graduation he entered the Marine Corps and saw action in both World War II and the Korean War. In 1969 he retired from the Marine Corps and settled in Lorton, Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, currently spending the summer in Italy, will take part in an archeological "dig" on Cyprus, and hope to visit some Arab countries before returning home.



Floyd M. Johnson

JOHN G. NOLAN

As President of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, Msgr. John G. Nolan directs the Vatican's relief efforts among the Arab refugees in the Middle East. He is also the National Secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Assoc., which trains native priests and sisters and supports mission activity in 18 countries surrounding the Mediterranean. Msgr. Nolan studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Catholic University, Washington, D. C. and holds advanced degrees in history from Fordham University. After being ordained in 1949, he taught in Albany, New York. In August, 1957 he was named a Knight Grand Cross in the Equestrian order of the Holy Sepulchre. In addition to his other duties, Msgr. Nolan is Associate Editor of *The Priest* and serves on the Board of Directors of Americans for Middle East Understanding.



John G. Nolan

NESTOR C. ORTIZ

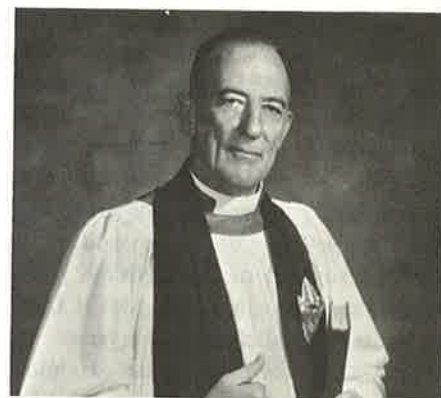
Mr. Ortiz obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Economics at the University of California. He initially worked for the Treasury Department and then transferred to the State Department. After having been posted in South America, Mr. Ortiz served in the Middle East with the U. S. Foreign Service as Petroleum Attache to the Chiefs-of-Mission in our Embassies in the area from 1952-55. As part of his duties, he travelled widely in the Middle East and became well acquainted with the Palestine refugee problem. Since 1958 he has been the Foreign Affairs Representative of Gulf Oil Corporation in Washington, D. C.



Nestor C. Ortiz

DAVID G. NES

David G. Nes is a retired Foreign Service Officer now writing newspaper articles and lecturing on the situation in the Middle East. His articles have appeared in the *Baltimore Sun*, *London Times*, and *New York Times*. After graduating from Princeton and attending graduate school at Harvard, he served in the Army and then became a Foreign Service Officer. In the course of a distinguished career, Mr. Nes was assigned to posts in Glasgow, Paris, London, Tripoli, Rabat, and Saigon. Immediately before the June War of 1967, Mr. Nes was Charge d'Affairs in Cairo and tried to warn the State Department about the impending crisis. Mr. Nes was subsequently awarded the State Department's Superior Honor Award, and retired in 1968. Mr. and Mrs. Nes have four daughters and live in Owings Mills, Maryland.



Francis B. Sayre

FRANCIS B. SAYRE

Dean Francis B. Sayre was educated at Williams College, Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his career he has served as a Chaplain in the Navy and Industrial Chaplain for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio in Cleveland. In 1951 he was elected fifth Dean of the Washington Cathedral, Washington, D. C. In his current position he oversees continuing construction of the cathedral building. Dean Sayre first became interested in the welfare of the Palestinian refugees during his tenure as chairman of the United States Committee for Refugees from 1959-1960. In this capacity he travelled extensively in the Middle East and saw conditions there first-hand. Dean and Mrs. Sayre have four children and live in Washington, D. C.

HEAD OF PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY VISITS U.S.

During May Dr. Mahmoud Hijazi, President of the P.R.C.S., made a speaking tour of the U. S. His itinerary included Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Los Angeles, and New York. At a dinner in San Francisco on May 18, Dr. Hijazi described the work of the P.R.C.S. Formed in 1969, the Society operates four hospitals, four blood banks, and 37 ambulances. These facilities are staffed by 42 doctors and 214 nurses, some of whom are Arab-Americans serving on a short-term basis. The P.R.C.S. gets its funds from U.S. OMEN, NAJDA, United Holy Land Fund, and the Palestine Red Crescent Assoc. ANERA has made two cash grants to the P.R.C.S. and AMER has sent several shipments of medical supplies to the Society. At the end of the evening, Dr. Hijazi was presented with cash donations from several Bay area groups and individuals. Dr. A. D. Issa, President of the United Holy Land Fund which organized the entire tour, reports that it was a great success in terms of raising money and spreading the story of the P.R.C.S.

The following letter was received in response to a Resolution passed by ANERA's Board of Directors at their annual meeting on May 11.

Dear Dr. Davis:

Secretary Rogers has asked me to thank you and the members of the Board of the American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc., for the support expressed in the Board's resolution and your letter of May 12. The Secretary's recent trip to the Near East was a clear demonstration of our intention to continue efforts to achieve a settlement along the lines of Security Council Resolution 242.

We have made clear that the welfare and interests of the Palestinian Arabs are among the central elements of any solution. The Board can be sure both of our sensitivity to this fact, and of our firm adherence to the position that a peace settlement must take into account the legitimate interests of the Palestinians.

Sincerely,

Alfred L. Atherton, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern and
South Asian Affairs

THE SILENT PALESTINIANS

This editorial appeared in the New York Times of May 26, 1971.

Secretary of State Rogers' effort to promote a disengagement along the Suez Canal as a first step toward a Middle East settlement has tended to divert attention from other key issues in the Arab-Israeli dispute. One of these concerns the future of two-and-a-half-million restive Palestinians. The Palestinian cause has also been eclipsed lately by the defeat and dispersal of Palestinian guerrilla forces in Jordan and because of deep divisions within the Palestinian leadership.

It would be a serious mistake, however, to conclude that the disruptive potential of the guerrilla movement has been permanently destroyed or to imagine that any agreement negotiated in the Middle East can endure if the aspirations of the Palestinians as a people are ignored. . .

It is unfortunate that during his recent visit to the area, Secretary Rogers apparently ignored petitions for a hearing from West Bank Palestinians who have courageously rejected the noncompromising position of the guerrilla leaders but who do not accept King Hussein as their spokesman either. Their plea for Palestinian self-determination on the West Bank under international supervision, free from pressure from Israel or Jordan, deserves the sympathetic hearing in the United States and the United Nations that it has already received in some quarters in Israel.

AMER DIVISION NEWS

The value of the AMER Medical Committee, headed by Dr. Gerald Dorman, was clearly demonstrated in the recent successful campaign to fill a request by UNRWA for an electro-cardiograph machine. Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh of UNRWA's field office in Amman is setting up a rheumatic fever unit which requires such a machine. With the help of Dr. Paul Dudley White, a member of the Medical Committee, both a machine and a donor were quickly located. The EKG unit will soon arrive in Amman where it will become an essential part of UNRWA's health service.

Good friends of AMER/ANERA in the Boston area are conducting a fund-raising campaign which has netted \$1345 to date. This effort on behalf of the Arab refugees is greatly appreciated by AMER/ANERA.

PROJECT PROFILE: MAKASSID SOCIETY HOSPITAL

The Al-Makassid Al-Kahiriyah Society was founded in Beirut in 1878 to combat illiteracy and provide additional educational opportunities. It is one of the oldest philanthropic institutions in the Arab World. The Society began operating in Jerusalem in 1956, running 3 out-patient clinics, 2 in Jerusalem and 1 in Ramallah. In 1961, the Society leased 3 acres of land on the Mount of Olives as a site for a 250 bed hospital. By 1965, the Society was running 5 out-patient clinics, 4 schools for adult education, a social center and programs providing scholarships and financial support for orphans. Work on the first 50-bed wing of the hospital had also begun. The hospital was opened with only 65 beds in August 1967, in order to prevent Israeli confiscation of the building because it was not in use. The hospital offers medical services in surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology-obstetrics, x-ray, a consultation clinic and four out-patient clinics. Two-thirds of the beds are free and free x-rays are available. Mr. Mahmoud Y. Hibbiyyeh, General Director, writes: "We face shortages of money, understanding and sometimes restrictions but we intend to go on giving all we can to the helpless people of our nation." In December, 1970 ANERA's grant of \$10,000 was used to purchase a new operating table. P. O. Box 19481, Jerusalem via Israel.

POETRY PROFITS BENEFIT REFUGEES

Solomon R. David, a retired Lebanese orthopedic surgeon living in Houston, Texas, recently donated \$300 to ANERA in memory of his late wife, Victoria. Mrs. David was deeply concerned over the welfare of the Palestinian people. This contribution represents proceeds from two volumes of Arabic poetry published by Dr. David, an ANERA member. Classical Arabic poetry is one of Dr. David's hobbies, and we are grateful that the Palestinian people will benefit from his dedication.

HOLT ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP

Former AMER President, Dr. and Mrs. ~~E. Emmett~~ Holt celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on June 26. ANERA has donated a \$550 UNRWA vocational training scholarship in recognition of the event and the Holts' long service to Palestine refugees.

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(introduced on page 2). The following individuals were elected to serve on the Executive Committee until the next Annual Meeting:

John H. Davis	David G. Nes
Daniel Bliss	Orin D. Parker
Norman Burns	James F. Sams
Bertram Cooper	

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Projects Committee until the next Annual Meeting:

Evan M. Wilson (Chairman)	
Norman Burns	Floyd M. Johnson
John H. Davis	Stanley E. Kerr
Harry N. Howard	James F. Sams

ANERA Treasurer James F. Sams gave a report on ANERA's financial situation and presented a proposed budget for fiscal 1971/72, which was approved by the Board.

AMER Director Miss Mary Ann Kolidas described the activities of the AMER Division and the effectiveness of the AMER Medical Committee in soliciting gifts in kind.

Representatives of several organizations reported on the work of their groups. Among those making such reports were: Joe Asfour (U. S. OMEN - San Francisco), Ribhi Kalla (Pal Aid - Chicago), Hugh Auchincloss (Holy Land Center - New York) and Henry Fischer (Americans for Middle East Understanding - New York). Means of closer cooperation and coordination between the different organizations and ANERA was discussed.

The Board passed an amendment to the ANERA By-Laws setting the date for the Annual Meeting at the third Monday in September so that the audit prepared at the end of the fiscal year would be available.

It was moved that appropriate resolutions be sent to Secretary of State William Rogers and Senator William Fulbright expressing the Board's approval and support for their respective efforts to bring a just peace to the Middle East. Having completed its business and set ANERA on course for the coming year, the Third Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned.

UNRWA FINANCIAL STATUS

Two separate efforts to alleviate UNRWA's financial deficit have been partially successful. Before these campaigns got underway it was feared that UNRWA would face a \$5 million deficit in its budget for the current year which totalled \$47.5 million - 47% of which was slated for educational programs. Thanks to activity led by Ambassador Mansour Khalid (Sudan) and Dr. Nuri Eren (Turkey), several donations have been received which have lowered the projected deficit to "manageable proportions", according to Dr. Eren, with the result that educational programs will be maintained. However, many of these grants will not be repeated, so next year UNRWA will probably face a budget crisis all over again. Recent important contributions include \$2 million in food supplies from the World Food Program, \$200,000 from Sweden, \$10,000 from Iran, \$500,000 from Japan, and \$140,250 from Norway. These are special contributions made in addition to regular annual payments to UNRWA. A constant effort is essential if UNRWA is to remain financially viable and able to provide valuable services to the refugees.

Please enroll me as an ANERA member

Annual Memberships

- Regular Member \$10.00
- Participating Member \$25.00
- Contributing Member \$50.00
- Supporting Member \$100.00
- Annual Patron \$1000.00

Life Membership

- Patron \$5000.00
- Founding Member \$10000.00

Amount enclosed as a non-membership contribution to the work of ANERA \$ _____

Please send further information about ANERA

(Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Check Money Order Cash

Please make your check or money order payable to: ANERA

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANERA ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES



**AMERICAN NEAR EAST
REFUGEE AID, INC.**

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*Treasurer and
General Counsel*
- John P. Richardson
*Executive Director
and Secretary*

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