



NEWSLETTER

Number 14

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID, INC.

Aug. — Sept. 1971

THE REFUGEES' FUTURE

John P. Richardson

Prospects for the dependent Palestinian refugees are bleak—regardless of where they are living at this time. The refugees constitute a distinct social and cultural group—under occupation or in exile—tragically similar to the “Diaspora” (Dispersion) of the Jews after they were driven from Palestine by the Romans. Unless and until the Palestinians establish a politically sovereign state, they will unavoidably remain subject to the political rule of others.

Short of this desirable solution to the problem of the refugee Palestinians, there are certain steps which could improve their lot. Former UNRWA Commissioner-General Michelmores pointed out in a special report on October 2, 1970 that there are comprehensive living facilities lying vacant on the West Bank for over 70,000 people. These virtually-deserted homes, schools, hospitals, and training facilities in Aqabet Jaber, Ein Sultan, and Nimeweh, near Jericho would be a vast improvement over the hastily-constructed, overcrowded, emergency facilities on the East Bank. United Nations Security Council Resolutions of June 14, 1967 and November 22, 1967 specifically called for the return of the West Bank 1967 refugees. With the exception of a limited family reunion program in late summer, 1967, the Israeli government has refused to permit the refugees to return to their homes, citing the “security risk” which the returnees would represent.

UNRWA's growing financial distress is a matter of the gravest concern for all refugees receiving its services. The budget deficit which threatened operations for 1971 is critical, and an even greater shortfall appears unavoidable for 1972. In

(Continued on page 4)



The Mount of Olives and Dome of the Rock — Jerusalem

JERUSALEM

The following article was excerpted from testimony presented before a Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on July 28, 1971 by Dr. James Kritzeck (Notre Dame University) and Rev. Joseph L. Ryan, S.J. (Cambridge Center for Social Studies).

The conditions created in Jerusalem and the annexed territories have produced results and a trend which are particularly uncheering and unfavorable to Christians, as well as to Muslims. To speak only for ourselves, we were approximately 25,000 in Jerusalem (alone) at the time of the creation of the State of Israel. We are fewer than 10,000 now, in a city that has grown, depending upon where you want to stop it, to between 200,000 and 300,000, and intends, according to the Minister of Housing, Mr. Zev Sharef, to expand to 400,000 very soon. Mr. Sharef explained his Government's extensive new urban development

and housing plans as an attempt to make Jerusalem “an emphatically Jewish city This is a plan with a Jewish goal . . . this is a Zionist exhibition.”

All of these conditions have been ceaselessly protested by Christian leaders everywhere. In 1967 Pope Paul VI, speaking to the College of Cardinals, deplored the exodus of Christians from the Holy Land and remarked with sadness that the number of Christians “has diminished . . . and continues to diminish daily.” In his 1970 Christmas letter the Melkite Archbishop of Galilee, Joseph Raya, wrote at length of the oppressive conditions in the Holy Land which were causing a most serious exodus of his flock. In an anguished appeal “for all to hear” he described the forced emigration as “a fatality, a disease that is eating at the heart of a whole people . . . a distressing stampede.”

On March 1 of this year three Oriental bishops sent an urgent appeal to Pope

(Continued on page 4)



FAYROUZ's TOUR

This October people all over the United States will have a unique opportunity to enjoy Arabic entertainment. The Forum for Arab Art and Culture, San Francisco, is sponsoring a concert tour by Fayrouz and La Troupe Populaire Libanaise. Fayrouz (an Arabic adaptation of the Persian word for Turquoise) was born in a small town on Mount Lebanon and began performing at an early age. After studying at the Lebanese Conservatory of Music, she appeared regularly on Assi Rhabani's popular radio show in the late '50's. She became well known after appearing at the Baalbeck festival in 1957. Today she rarely performs, except at Baalbeck or for the benefit of her Maronite Catholic Parish. Her many devotees treasure their recordings of Fayrouz's singing. The program for the concert tour is being prepared by the Rhabani brothers, Assi and Mansour. Excerpts from Khalil Ghibrans's *THE PROPHET* and new songs written especially for the tour will be included. These performances by Lebanon's most famous singer will provide America with a glimpse of the best in Arab culture. Any proceeds from the tour will be donated to Palestinian refugee relief.

SCHEDULE

New York, — September 29
Carneigie Hall

Boston — October 3
Symphony Hall

Montreal — October 6
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier
Place des Arts

Detroit — October 8
Masonic Temple

Chicago — October 9
Orchestra Hall

Cleveland — October 10
Music Hall Public Auditorium

Pittsburgh — October 11
Carnegie Hall Institute

Houston — October 14
Jesse H. Jones Hall

Atlanta — October 17
The Atlanta Memorial Art Symphony
Hall

Los Angeles — October 23
The Shrine Civic Auditorium

San Francisco — October 24
California Masonic Memorial Temple

For more information write:
Forum for Arab Art & Culture
P.O. Box 354
San Francisco, Calif. 94101

ON THE MOVE

This fall three members of the ANERA Board of Directors are moving to the Middle East, where they will be able to provide ANERA with current views of refugee needs and conditions. ANERA Treasurer and Legal Counsel James Sams has become a partner in a Washington-based international law firm and will establish its Middle East operations. Orin Parker, AFME's Vice-President-Director of Overseas Operations, will reside in Beirut as well. As a result of the change, Mr. Parker has resigned from the ANERA Board but will remain involved with the refugee issue. Author Kennett Love will be busy for two years teaching Journalism at American University in Cairo, studying Arabic, writing two books, and duck-hunting.

ANERA's ART EXHIBIT

Our travelling exhibit of drawings done by Palestinian children shortly after the June War has been displayed recently in the Art Center, Cedar Rapids Iowa, and the Bethesda Menonite Church in Henderson, Nebraska. During the last two weeks of September it will be shown at the First Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In October the drawings will be in the Public Library of Wausau, Wisconsin. Any group interested in arranging a display of this unique exhibit in a location where it will be seen and appreciated by many people should contact the ANERA office.

PROJECT PROFILE

*Association for Resurgence of
Palestinian Camps*

The Association for the Resurgence of Palestinian Camps is providing important services to the people of Chatila camp, outside Beirut. Founded in the autumn of 1968 by a group of Lebanese and Palestinian women headed by Hugette Caland, the Association now runs a two-year kindergarten program for 160 children, a clinic, library, tutoring services for high-school students, literacy courses, and a needle-work program attended by 200 girls. These activities take place in a new building in the camp. In a recent letter to ANERA, Mrs. Caland wrote, "... We have a rather serious deficit in our budget, especially since the number of refugee women and children who receive assistance from us is steadily increasing." ANERA granted \$5,000 to the Association in August, 1971.



Kindergarten class sponsored by Assoc. for Resurgence of Palestinian Camps in Chatila Camp, Beirut.

RECENT ANERA GRANTS

- \$5,000 Musa Alami Foundation
- \$1,000 National Alliance of
Lebanese YMCA's
- \$2,500 Dar Al Awlad
- \$ 550 UNRWA Scholarship

The Musa Alami Foundation of Jericho supports the vocational training school and farm near Jericho directed by Musa Alami. During a recent visit to the United States, Mr. Alami reported that the farm now houses 100 orphaned boys. Operations have been cut back due to lack of funds and difficulties arising from the occupation of the area by the Israelis. The farm currently produces only dairy products, and because of limited markets, is not self-supporting. The ANERA grant will be used to meet operating expenses.

The latest ANERA grant to The National Alliance of Lebanese YMCAs will permit 32 refugee boys to spend two weeks at the YMCA's Camp Faris this summer.

Dar Al Awlad is a school and home for boys in Jerusalem. ANERA's grant will be used to meet current operating expenses.

The latest UNRWA vocational scholarship is the sixth awarded as a result of contributions made to ANERA in memory of the late Garry Owen.

UNRWA TRAINING CENTER EXPANDED

On July 15 UNRWA inaugurated a \$1 million extension of the UNRWA/ UNESCO Wadi Seer training centre for Palestine refugees, near Amman, Jordan. This extension, which will double the centre's capacity to 800 young men in trade and technical courses, was made possible through a donation from the Federal Republic of Germany. Another \$2 million to cover running costs of the centre until 1973 will also be provided by West Germany. In presenting the funds to UNRWA Commissioner General Sir John Rennie, Alois Schlegl, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Jordan, spoke of the concern of the German people to prepare Palestine refugees for a better life and equip them to contribute to development in the area.



Mothers and their children at the Infant Welfare Center in 'Jebel Hussein Camp, Amman.

AMER GRANT PUT TO USE

Before merging with ANERA, American Middle East Rehabilitation donated \$30,000 to UNRWA for construction and maintenance of an infant health center and rehydration nutrition center for refugee children. These centers were built in the Jebel Hussein Camp in Amman, Jordan. \$17,000 of the grant was allocated for construc-

tion and equipment, and the remaining \$13,000 was set aside for the operating expenses of the Rehydration/Nutrition Center for the next five years. The Infant Health Center provides medical care for infants from birth through the age of two, and malnourished, dehydrated children are treated at the Rehydration/Nutrition Center.

PROJECT RYAIAT

There is a way to provide support for the Palestinian people on a meaningful, individual basis. Through Project Ryaiat you can become a "foster parent" sponsoring a child living in Palestine, writing to the family and learning how your donation is helping them remain in Palestine. Preventing more people from becoming refugees has been one of the major purposes of Project Ryaiat since its creation in January, 1969. The suggested level of support is \$10 per month (tax-exempt). The entire donation goes to the child, since Project Ryaiat is run by volunteers. The children are selected with the cooperation of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Jerusalem. Currently 190 children are being sponsored through Project Ryaiat. One of these children is Elias Shamesian, age 10, who lives in Jerusalem with his widowed mother and four other children. The family must find permanent housing and additional income to supplement the mother's salary as a cleaner in the Armenian Patriarchate. For more information, write to: Professor Rejae-Busailah, Project Ryaiat, 1705 South Main St., Kokomo, Indiana 46901.

RAMALLAH FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP

At its thirteenth annual convention in Jacksonville, Florida in July, the American Ramallah Federation voted to create a special scholarship worth \$600 to be awarded annually to a deserving, needy student of Palestinian Arab origin studying at the American University of Beirut. This scholarship is named in honor of the late Dr. Fuad Shatara, brother of Farid Shatara, the first President of the Federation. Mr. Naim Kawwas, Secretary of the Federation, said "The creation of this new scholarship, in addition to the annual support we in the Federation provide to students from Ramallah, is tangible demonstration of our deep concern for all Palestinian students whether they be from Ramallah or from some other section of our beloved Palestine." Since 1961 the Ramallah Federation has been assisting students from Ramallah to continue their education in many schools, including AUB. ANERA salutes the efforts of the American Ramallah Federation to provide additional educational opportunities for the Palestinian people.

light of this stark situation, with its extensive human and political implications, many suggestions have been made about alternative possibilities for providing refugee services. Such suggestions have included "turning over" medical and educational functions to a combination of host governments and/or other international agencies. It is worth noting that the host governments already are deeply involved in refugee programs, particularly education. At the same time, the U.N. agencies most frequently suggested for handling part of UNRWA's burden — UNESCO and WHO — lack UNRWA's broad operational mandate in the field. Palestinian attitudes toward UNRWA reflect many contradictions: UNRWA sustains the "refugee" concept of Palestinians at a time when a sense of "peoplehood" is growing; yet Palestinians are aware that UNRWA has contributed materially to keeping the Palestinian people physically and culturally linked in the days since 1948. Thus while politically articulate individuals and groups are insisting on a greater Palestinian policy voice within UNRWA, they realize that the disappearance of UNRWA would make the refugees much more vulnerable to the political vagaries of the countries in which they reside.

At this point in history any proposed change for the Palestine refugees is regarded with suspicion, particularly if it is put forth by the United States. Yet

UNRWA's financial crisis may not be solvable, and an atmosphere conducive to public exchange of views must be developed if the voiceless ones, the dependent refugees, are to have any hope of a better future.

ANERA would welcome thoughtful comments on the above topic

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

For the fourth successive year ANERA will be selling Christmas Cards produced by the Friends of Jerusalem Society in Beirut. This year's selection will include some designs which were offered in past years. Local groups are urged to place their own orders directly with Beirut, and brochures are available from the ANERA office. Friends of Jerusalem Society, P.O. Box 6425, Beirut, Lebanon.

This year send something different along with your Christmas Cards. The ANERA office has copies of the pamphlet "A Plea for Justice for People of the Holy Land", containing the text of speeches delivered by Christopher Mayhew, M.P., and Dr. John H. Davis in January at the Washington Cathedral, concerning the situation of the Palestinian people. This booklet would be an excellent way of saying "Merry Christmas". Available from the ANERA office, 10¢ each.

Paul VI to speak out against Israeli actions in Jerusalem, referring specifically to the unsightly and menacing construction of Jewish housing ringing the city and threatening "to strangle the old center of our Holy places into a suffocating grip . . . Thousands of Arab Christians and Muslim families will soon . . . have either to die or to emigrate, as so many others have, leaving our Holy Places, like museums, without Christians." . . .

As recently as June 25, Pope Paul, again addressing the College of Cardinals, pointed out the need to protect not only the Holy Places but also the Christians and indeed everyone else, so that they can live there in "freedom and normality." His vision of Jerusalem, he explained was that of a sacred city where all peoples of all faiths could feel at home. He stated, "It is in the interest and hence is the duty of all that this city enjoying as it does a unique and mysterious destiny, should be protected by a special statute, guaranteed by an international safeguard." . . . Finally, we recommend that our Government and citizens make the contribution which is uniquely theirs to make to peace and justice in the Near East by admitting the injustices that have been done to the Palestinian people, and by recognizing that their rights, which must be respected if there is to be peace in the area, have important applications to the matter of Jerusalem and the Holy Places."



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

900 Woodward Bldg.
733 15th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dr. John H. Davis
President

Dr. Norman Burns
Vice President

Dr. Daniel Bliss
Vice President

John P. Richardson
*Executive Vice President
and Secretary*

Bertram C. Cooper
Treasurer

Nonprofit Organization
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Permit No. 43958
Washington, D.C.