



NEWSLETTER

Number 19

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID, INC.

Sept -Oct 1972

ANERA BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

On Monday, September 18, the ANERA Board of Directors met for its fourth Annual meeting in Washington D.C. at the Cosmos Club. Twenty Board members were present. Highlights of the agenda were election of Board members, committee assignments, ANERA's future program, reports from various organizations, and approval of the proposed budget.

Election of Board Members, Officers and Committee Assignments

On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the following Directors were re-elected to the Board for three year terms: Daniel Bliss, Edward L. R. Elson, Peter R. Chase, Stanley E. Kerr, Virgil C. Crippin, James F. Sams, and Floyd M. Johnson. Lawrence Michelmores was elected to serve his first three year term on the Board. (see profile) New officers of ANERA are:

John H. Davis, President
John P. Richardson, Executive Vice-
President & Secretary
Margaret Pennar, Vice-President
David G. Nes, Vice-President
Bertram C. Cooper, Treasurer
Joyce M. Stewart, Assistant Treasurer

The Executive Committee was enlarged to six members and now consists of Bertram C. Cooper, John H. Davis, David G. Nes, Nestor C. Ortiz, Margaret Pennar, and Evan M. Wilson.

AMER Division Activities

Mary Anne Kolidas, Director of the AMER Division, reported that next month a shipment of pharmaceuticals worth \$44,500 will leave New York consigned to UNRWA. During the past fiscal year UNRWA has credited AMER with seven two-year vocational training scholarships in return for AMER shipments of pharmaceuticals to the agency.

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Laurence V. Michelmores

The newest member of the ANERA Board of Directors is Dr. Laurence V. Michelmores, former Commissioner-General of UNRWA (January 1964-May, 1971). He is now retired and living in Washington, D.C. His education included an A.B. degree in political science from the University of California (Los Angeles), M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in government from Harvard University, and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Michelmores has worked in several U.N. Agencies including the Secretariat, UNICEF, and UNRWA. ANERA President, Dr. John H. Davis (Dr. Michelmores's predecessor at UNRWA) comments, "I think that ANERA is fortunate in having Dr. Michelmores on the Board in view of his extensive and recent familiarity with the refugee problem. We are particularly grateful that he is also willing to serve on the Projects Committee, where this first-hand experience will be most valuable."

ANERA ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

For those who wish to have a summary of ANERA activities during the past fiscal year, we have just published an annual report in the form of a pamphlet. This report will be mailed upon request, free of charge.

MUNICH AND THE PALESTINE REFUGEES

By
John P. Richardson

The violent deaths during the XX Olympiad in Munich on September 5 formed a searing impression of the Games that time will not dispel. Despite a greater-than-normal intrusion of national political rivalries into these Games, the dominant image American television viewers received was of the finest athletes in the world competing against each other, sharing victory and defeat irrespective of nationality and ideology. Yet, as in Poe's short story, "The Masque of the Red Death", violence and destruction insinuated themselves into the party and ultimately triumphed over joy and life.

Interpretations of the Munich tragedy by the press and politicians have focused abhorrence on the *act* and have written a new definition of "original sin", Middle-East-style, from it. An editorial on September 12 in the *Washington Post* was typical: while condoning Israeli air attacks on civilians in Lebanon because of "an emotional if not also political requirement in Israel to make an impressive show of strength after Munich", the editorial omitted any reference to the fact that Munich was only the latest link in a chain of Middle East violence whose roots lie in the upheaval in Palestine in 1948, during which the Palestine Arab people were made a people without a country.

Force majeure has dictated a rough *status quo* in the Middle East since 1948; Israel expands and grows stronger, and the Palestinian refugees remain in the limbo which began when their return to their homes was blocked when the fighting stopped. Yet neither the passage of time, nor military superiority, nor an indifferent (and even antagonistic) world attitude will change the basic human factor in the Palestine issue. Until their future as a people is determined, the mass

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BOOK REVIEWS

STORM OVER THE ARAB WORLD

By

Fisher & Bassiouni

Storm over the Arab World is one book which presents a complete picture of the many different aspects of the Arab World. It was written by Eugene M. Fisher, a writer and editor interested in the Middle East, and M. Cherif Bassiouni, professor of Law at De Paul University, Chicago. ANERA board member David Nes has written of this book:

"An amazingly comprehensive and detailed chronicle of Twentieth Century developments from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic. Arranged conveniently both as to countries and key issues, those chapters dealing with the Zionist conquest of Palestine, modern Egypt and the background of the 'June 1967 War,' are particularly revealing. United States efforts to achieve a settlement during the past three years and their failure in the face of Israeli intransigence, brings the authors' chronicle up to the present moment in Arab history."

(Follett Publishing Co., Chicago, 1972, 371 pp. \$8.95).

THE DISINHERITED: JOURNAL OF A PALESTINIAN EXILE

By

Fawaz Turki

Reviewed by Bertram C. Cooper

This small book cracks the barrier of silence which for a generation or more has stifled the Palestinian voice. While the Western press flooded the market with such titles as *Israel's Struggle for Survival, Hope and Fulfillment* and many many others, relatively little has been published about the Palestinians other than scholarly studies, legal briefs, UNWRA reports, and the sterile, statistical prose that finds few readers outside the small circle of specialists. The Israelis have recruited such eloquent spokesmen as Billy Graham and, more recently, Messrs. Collins and Lapierre whose best seller *O Jerusalem* subtly presents the Israelis' take over of the land to which they had a tenuous, remotely historical claim in terms of a real success story. They came, they saw, and they conquered — with the generous support of Western money, arms, and conscience-laden sympathy. The Palestinians, on the other hand, those who were driven from their homes and cities for whatever reason, who were prevented from returning to their homes when the shooting stopped, have had few such articulate advocates in English. That is, until now.

Fawaz Turki's memoir is notable on

several counts. In the first place, it is a good book — stark, intelligent, honest, well-written. Its integrity is unquestionable. Born in Haifa in 1940, Turki was barely eight years old, a third-grader in the American system, when his family fled from their home. He grew up in refugee camps, on the streets of Beirut, in schools and in college. In his account of those years, Turki never lets the pathos of his narrative obscure the mind, the spirit, and the hard intelligence that was being fused into maturity. The account of his early years makes the conclusions of his maturity credible.

A phenomenon of the Palestine diaspora is the emergence of a Palestine national, cultural consciousness. "If I was not a Palestinian when I left Haifa as a child, I am one now", he writes. Further: "Mine is an existential problem having to do with the yearning for my homeland, with being part of a culture, with winning the battle to remain myself, as a Palestinian belonging to a people with a distinctly Palestinian consciousness." When this sort of motivation moves into man's psyche, he fights. Nothing has borne this out more vividly than the history of European Judaism of the last two hundred years!

In many minds, the Middle East struggle is a remote, power abstraction, a bloody game of claim and counter-claim. In the 156 pages of this book that abstraction is transmuted into the real in the person of Fawaz Turki — and millions of his brothers. His book should be mandatory reading for any student of history and humanity. It must be read by that saving remnant who honestly strive to understand the forces that are shaping history on more than a local, provincial scene.

Available from AMEU, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027.

(Monthly Review Press, 156 pp. \$5.95).

PROJECT PROFILE

Dar al-Awlad

Mrs. George Antonius founded Dar al Awlad school for boys in 1948 in Jerusalem. The first class consisted of twelve boys, but the enrollment has now increased to 390, including boarding and day students. Instruction is given in kindergarten — 12 grades. The school is now being run by Basil Sahhar. It is still housed in the Antonius' former home, a four story stone building in East Jerusalem, just outside the old city. (Mr. Antonius was the author of the classic *The Arab Awakening*.) ANERA has made grants to the school over the years totaling \$9,500. (Dar al Awlad, Herod's Gate, Jerusalem, via Israel).

ANERA Board meets — cont'd. from page 1

ANERA Program Emphasis

The Board approved the following additions to ANERA's basic relief and educational programs: 1) Build a more comprehensive library of reference materials concerning the refugees. 2) Become a more active Washington liaison center for organizations concerned with the refugee problem. 3) Expand contacts on Capitol Hill and monitor legislation relating to refugee affairs. 4) Broaden the ANERA Newsletter coverage to include activities of other refugee-related organizations.

Reports by Founding Members and Chapters

Pal Aid International — Chicago (Ribhi Kalla): Pal Aid is now involved in helping Palestinian immigrants in the Chicago area adjust to life in America. Mr. Kalla presented ANERA with a contribution of \$750 on behalf of Pal Aid.

United Holy Land Fund — Detroit (Karim Ajluni): Mr. Ajluni reported that the Arab-American Relief Agency has disbanded, and its former members are now working with the United Holy Land Fund.

United American Arab Appeal — Boston (Sam Hassan): United American Arab Appeal has also been disbanded, its funds turned over to ANERA for allocation to projects in the Middle East, and its members are now working with the American Arab Association and the United Holy Land Fund.

U.S. OMEN — San Francisco (Joe Asfour): The four U.S. OMEN chapters are very active all over California. The organization continues to provide scholarships and medical supplies to agencies in the Middle East.

Musa Alami Foundation — Washington D.C. (Dr. Davis): The farm and training school in Jericho is still going strong, and a Foundation Board meeting will be held in New York the middle of October. (Since the ANERA meeting the Musa Alami Foundation has received a generous grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.)

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with consideration of the audit of ANERA accounts prepared by the firm of Ernst and Ernst, approval of the proposed budget for the current fiscal year, and other business matters.

Munich (continued from page 1)

of refugees will remain in their sad status, producing the desperate bombers and gunmen whose acts bear less and less relationship to a political program. The Palestine refugees have no representatives in the halls of power; they have no presidents and ambassadors to negotiate for them. Thus they are ignored and despised by the power-brokers of the world. For all of the attention being given these days to resolving major "contradictions" in international politics, it is puzzling indeed that after 25 years so much effort is still expended in focusing attention on every aspect of the Palestine issue but its most central one: the existence of the Palestine refugees and the continued gross denial of their rights in their own homeland.

MORE ON MUNICH

The following is an edited transcript of an interview during which ANERA Executive Vice-President John P. Richardson was questioned by Kati Wetzel of National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" program broadcast nationally on September 7.

Q. "Who are the Palestinian refugees?"

A. The Palestinian refugees are the people of Palestine who left their homes during the 1948 and 1967 Palestine wars and who were not permitted to return to their homes by Israel once fighting stopped. Most of the villagers and farmers found themselves as surplus workers and farm laborers in countries that were themselves underdeveloped. These people who are the dependent refugees I would characterize in most cases as being people "beyond frustration". They are not beyond caring what happens to others in an individual sense, except if they feel that the others are those who contributed to the wrong done to the Palestinian people.

Q. "What do the guerillas hope to accomplish ultimately by these acts of violence?"

A. At the maximum the guerillas would hope to play a role in undoing what they feel to have been the great wrong of the creation of the State of Israel at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people.

Q. "What is the connection between these guerilla movements and the legitimate Arab governments?"

A. I think that the Arab governments are in an extremely awkward position and one which is not adequately appreciated elsewhere. Certainly the thrust of the reaction from all parts of the world to

this situation in Munich has been to eliminate all distinctions among Arabs. I think this is a tragic and inaccurate approach. At the same time, the Arab states — in relationship to the Palestinian question — feel there has been a massive affront to their own Arab peoplehood — the dispossession of the Palestinians, the implanting of Israel in their midst. So on the official level, through the Arab League, primarily, they support the Palestinian movement. When it gets down to specific cases, there is often a great disparity between what they say for public consumption, both at home and abroad, and the extent to which they control the movements of the commandos

Q. "In other words this tragedy might increase the momentum for seeking a solution to the Palestinian problem?"

A. That moves into something else. There are two different things. One has to do with the degree of Arab national control, within their own states, of commando movements. The second, at least as I see it from your question, has to do with the question of Middle East settlement. I think that more than anything, what the Munich tragedy and others prior to it demonstrates is that peace treaties and negotiations — and concepts about them — which focus on things called "secure boundaries" and "peace treaties signed by all parties", are hollow starting points. It is the human problem, the feeling of non-peoplehood of the Palestinians, which is at the heart of the matter. Two years ago Mrs. Meir was quoted as saying "there was no such thing as Palestinians". I think that any attempt at peace in the Middle East which does not directly treat the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is going to be doomed, and we will just have a continuing legacy of this kind of tragic situation around the world.

UNRWA SCHOOL OPENS

The UNRWA Information office has relayed good news to ANERA that the UNRWA school in Karameh, Jordan opened as scheduled on September 2 with 217 students enrolled in seven elementary classes. As the year progresses, the school population will increase. Because the school, and a clinic are now open, this once-deserted town is being reoccupied by its former inhabitants who had fled due to the uncertainty of life along the 1967 Jordan-Israel cease-fire line. (See story on Karameh in ANERA Newsletter No. 17) ANERA's previously-announced grant of \$5,000 to UNRWA will provide a year's schooling for 100 grade school students in Karameh.



Mary Anne Kolidas
Director of ANERA's AMER Division

How does a young lady with a B.A. degree in English literature from the City College of New York become involved in the affairs of the Middle East? In the case of Mary Anne Kolidas, it was the June war of 1967 that prompted her to volunteer her services in the relief efforts organized by AMER and the Holy Land Center. In October, 1967 she was hired by AMER as an Administrative Assistant. In April, 1969 she assumed responsibility for all AMER operations as Executive Secretary. When AMER and ANERA merged in January, 1971, Miss Kolidas became Director of the AMER Division. In this capacity she makes appeals for pharmaceutical donations, records and acknowledges their receipt, and handles all the arrangements for their shipment to the Middle East. She is also ANERA's official representative to the Non-Governmental Organizational council at the United Nations, and other New York-based groups. The fact that AMER is such a smooth-functioning, productive organization is due in large part to the efforts of Miss Kolidas.

After office hours, Miss Kolidas' activities include teaching Sunday School and pursuing an interest in Middle Eastern history. This summer she visited Turkey and Greece. Since her ancestors came from Greece, the latter part of the trip was particularly meaningful.

ANERA NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

After a summer vacation break, the ANERA Newsletter is once again on a bi-monthly schedule. If you have any comments or suggestions about articles for the newsletter, please write to the ANERA office. Reader reaction is always appreciated!

JERUSALEM REVISITED

By Evan M. Wilson

The visitor returning to Jerusalem after an absence of nearly five years finds many things unchanged and some things changed. The leading change in the appearance of the city is the unsightly new housing construction on the surrounding hillsides. The Israeli military presence is muted but it is there. The status of the holy places under exclusive Israeli control does not appear to be the dominant issue at present. Rather the chief concern of the churches is the continuing exodus of the Christian Arab population, a trend that if not arrested will have profound effects on the social structure of East Jerusalem, as it means the gradual disappearance of the educated middle-class leadership, of which Arab Christians make up a large proportion. These people now feel they have no future in Jerusalem.

Economically the Arab working class is enjoying an unprecedented prosperity with thousands of Arab laborers being employed at far higher wages than they previously earned. Municipal services have been consolidated and improved, and the energetic Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, is doing all he can to help all the citizens of the city.

On the West Bank of Jordan similar developments are taking place. There is the same prosperity for the laboring class, and there is considerable trade across the

Jordan with the East Bank. The Israeli military presence is again in the background although there is no sign of any Israeli withdrawal

The suggestion has been made in certain Arab circles on the West Bank that there be a five-year period of trusteeship under the United Nations for the West Bank and Gaza, followed by a referendum in which all Palestinians would participate. But the Israelis with their present attitude toward the UN are hardly likely to agree to this.

In summary, there are no signs that an over-all settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute is in sight, nor are there any signs that the Israeli Government has any intention of withdrawing for the foreseeable future from the occupied areas and certainly not from East Jerusalem. In the future some kind of home rule for the West Bank and Gaza, with a continuing Israeli military presence, can be expected.

As far as Jerusalem is concerned, it is evident that internationalization, even of a limited part of the city, is out of the question. The most that can be expected would seem to be the setting up of Jewish and Arab boroughs, several in number, with a system of *concordats* with the various religious denominations governing the holy places. Meanwhile the steady process of Judaization of the city will continue and Jerusalem will become less and less the international religious and world center that it has been.

Mr. Wilson was American Consul General at Jerusalem from 1964 to 1967.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS

Once again it's time — past time — to purchase Christmas cards. ANERA has a large supply of cards on hand produced by the Friends of Jerusalem Society in Beirut. Proceeds from the sale of these cards will be used to finance the Society's projects on behalf of Palestinians living in the Occupied Territory. For a brochure and further information, contact the ANERA office.

UNRWA STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

UNRWA now has a program of elementary school sponsorship, similar to its vocational training scholarship program. Any interested donor can sponsor a year's elementary schooling for one child for \$50.00. The donor then receives a class photo with his student's picture encircled and academic progress reports from the head teacher. For the current school year 10 schools have been chosen to benefit from this program. These schools are located in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jordan, and Lebanon. For more details on this scholarship program, contact either the ANERA office or UNRWA.



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