



## WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST---

### WIDESPREAD CIVILIAN SUFFERING REPORTED

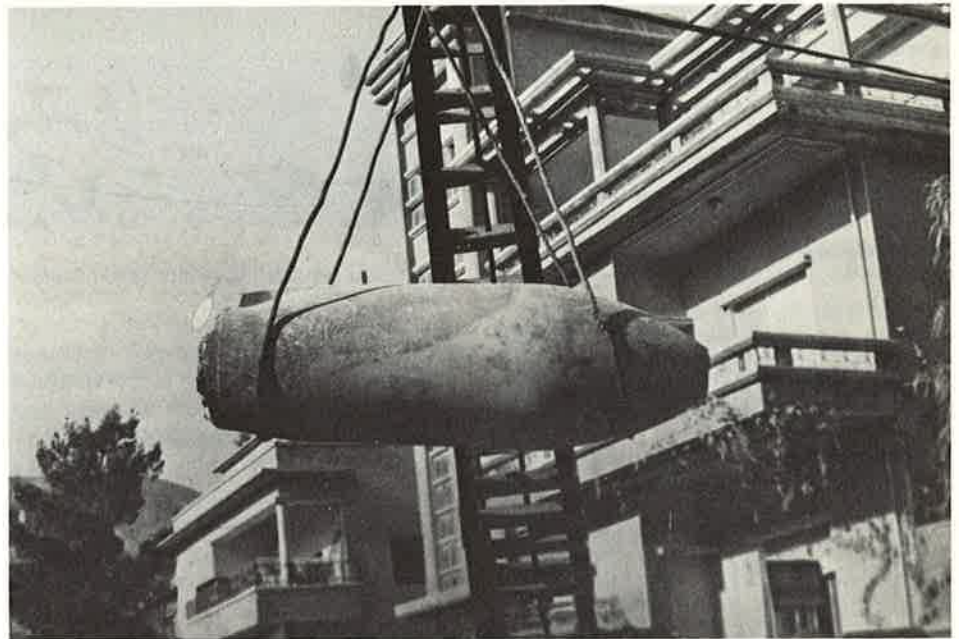
"The American people are virtually ignorant of the extent of civilian casualties and displacement of populations as a result of the 1973 October war in the Middle East," said John P. Richardson, President of ANERA, upon return from a two-week survey to the Middle East.

The purpose of Mr. Richardson's trip to Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon was to gain first-hand information on the extent of civilian suffering in the war.

Mr. Richardson reported that more than 100,000 Syrians, Egyptians, and Lebanese have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict. Close to 10,000 Arab civilians were killed and wounded in Israeli attacks on towns and villages. Relief and rehabilitation costs may run well over \$100 million. "The greatest problem of displacement of populations is in Syria and Egypt. In Syria, 20,000 villagers are still denied return to their homes by the Israeli army; in Egypt, the homes of thousands of residents of cities along the Suez Canal have been destroyed." Mr. Richardson quoted relief officials in Syria as saying that their greatest needs are for food, blankets, and temporary housing; in Egypt, officials said that their greatest needs are for medical and surgical equipment to treat casualties and to outfit hospitals destroyed in attacks.

In addition to extensive damage to buildings, Mr. Richardson saw evidence of the use of anti-personnel devices, primarily phosphorous and Vietnam-type bombs which spray steel ball bearings. A United Nations vocational-training institute outside Damascus was hit with more than 100 of the latter devices.

A complete copy of Mr. Richardson's report can be obtained from the ANERA office.



An unexploded 1000-pound bomb being removed from Abu Rumanah, a residential section of Damascus, Syria, October War of 1973.

### ANERA RECEIVES \$2.2 MILLION

On behalf of the Gulf Oil Corporation, Mr. Nestor Ortiz, Foreign Representative for Gulf and Vice Chairman of the ANERA Board, presented ANERA with a check for \$2.2 million on November 26, 1973, at a joint meeting of ANERA's Executive and Projects Committees. In his transmittal letter to John P. Richardson, President of ANERA, Mr. James E. Lee, President of the Gulf Oil Corporation (and a new member of ANERA's Board) wrote:

"The Gulf Oil Corporation is deeply concerned about civilian casualties and physical destruction which have resulted from current fighting in the Middle East. In view of ANERA's stated preparedness to assist in the relief ef-

fort, and in view of your organization's respected work in the Middle East, we are enclosing a check in the amount of \$2,200,000.00 as a donation to ANERA from the Gulf Oil Corporation...."

To date, ANERA has made the following monetary allocations for civilian relief efforts: \$2 million to the Popular Committee to Aid Victims of the War for supervised distribution in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt; \$55,000 to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society; \$45,000 to the Syrian Red Crescent Society; and \$5,000 to the Lebanese Red Cross.

ANERA expresses its gratitude to the Gulf Oil Corporation for its generous contribution.

## WILL YOU HELP?

The October War of 1973 has left injured, homeless, and destitute victims who need help.

ANERA continues to accept and distribute monetary contributions from individuals and corporations. These contributions are tax-deductible and may be sent to the ANERA office.

Lists of available medical supplies for donation may be sent to: AMER, 777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 7E, New York, New York 10017.

Blankets, shoes, and clothing may be sent to several organizations including: Mr. Robert A. Fallath, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, 330 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017; Mr. George Oye, Director, Material Aids Program, American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 23rd and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

The time for compassion is now.

## ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST- AN AMERICAN REFLECTION

By Lillian Harris\*

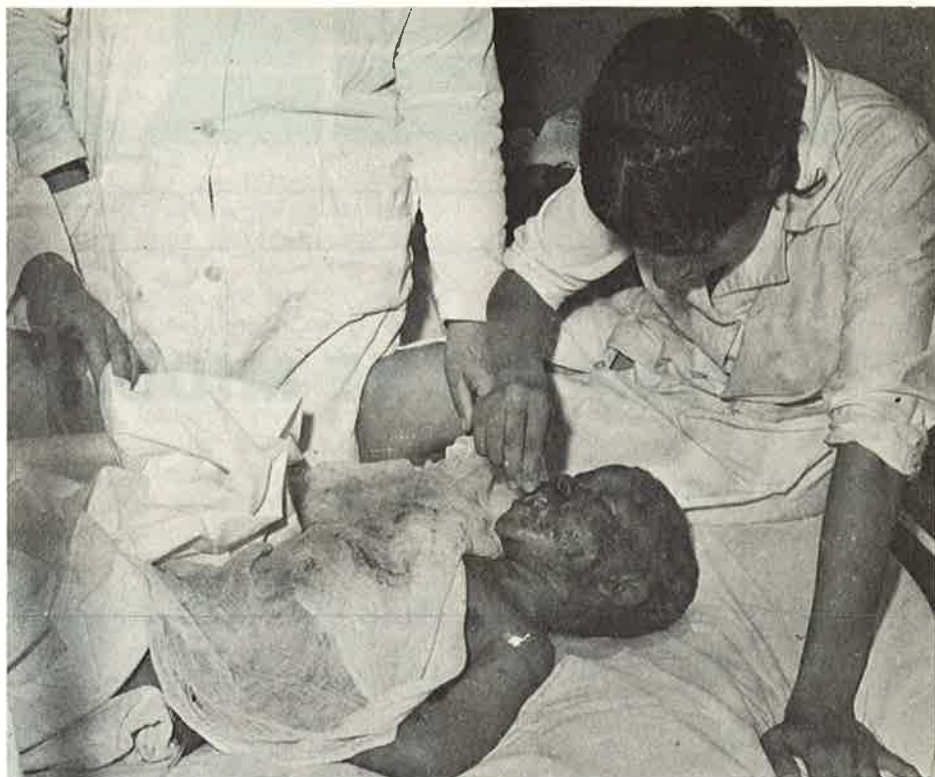
When I had been gone from the Middle East for exactly one year, the area's chronic disease flared into the 1973 Middle East War. War in the Middle East brings hope, fear and frustration.

When the war was a week old, I tried to picture the situation in the Middle East. I decided the camps in southern Syria would be empty, those who had fled to that area in 1967 now long on the road north with their bundles and children.

In South Lebanon, Rashadiyyah camp squats among the orange groves just north of Tyre. Had those refugees of 1948 moved north, too?

As for Gaza, I knew its heartbeat would have slowed to a steady drum of expectation; the people would be listening for the eruption out of the desert. By night behind closed doors, Palestinians would dare to hope again. Yet by day, the ancient caravan route which bisects the Strip would flow with vehicles and men going south to war.

Undoubtedly, in the East Bank camps the Palestinians waited as well. What did they feel as they faced the possibility of another move East?



The most devastating reality of the October War-a young Egyptian girl receives medical attention, October, 1973.

"Push them into the sea?" a young Palestinian in Baqaa once remarked to me. "They have pushed us into the desert." On the windswept Baqaa plain, refugees in the 1967 emergency camps have planted miserable looking little trees in the allotted cubicles of space between their huts. Must the Palestinians be those who plant trees for others to enjoy?

At Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., student volunteers set up a table to collect money for ANERA. A professor recounted that he lingered nearby to see if anyone gave. No one did while he waited so, he said, "I gave a dollar, but, you know, people looked at me so funny." Both in his imagination and in reality it isn't popular to be "for the Arabs"-whatever giving money to feed and house refugees has to do with that.

Every time war breaks out in the Middle East someone says this time will be the last. Judging from the present ceasefire lines, such hope again misplaced. At Georgetown a group of students with more than ordinary insight posted signs which read, "Israel-Our Next Vietnam?"

For the Palestinians, whatever the future, the past is always present. And for all the Middle East, Ralph Hodgson's one line poem: "The past comes back in the mouth with blood."

\*Ms. Harris spent four years living and working in the Middle East; for two of those years she was employed by UNRWA. Ms. Harris is now a doctoral student in Asian Studies at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

## VOLUNTEERS VALUED

During the October War in the Middle East, the ANERA office was flooded with requests for information and with offers of assistance. The help of all those who volunteered their services is greatly appreciated. Those receiving special thanks include: **Mrs. Pat Ameen, Mrs. Sally Ortiz, Ms. Marjorie Wan, Ms. Marietta Sharp, Mr. Kamal Boullata, Kathy and Dennis Muldoon, Ms. Zohara Kalamadeen, Mrs. Linda Rugg, and Dr. John Ruedy.**

In addition, the **Georgetown Student Near East Relief Fund** collected \$350.00 at Georgetown University for ANERA relief efforts. Special thanks for assistance are extended to **Mike Dunn** and **Bruce Hardcastle** (President of the organization), and to all the members.



## THIS WINTER AMERICANS ARE GOING HOME TO COLD HOUSES-THE PALESTINIANS ARE JUST WAITING TO GO HOME.

### PALESTINIANS MAY GET SENATE HEARINGS

The Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees of the Senate Judiciary Committee is considering holding hearings on the Palestinian refugees. Significantly, while other refugee populations have testified before this Subcommittee, the Palestinians have never been heard; they were mentioned in a report of the Subcommittee ("U.S. Assistance to Refugees Throughout the World", November 3, 1969) as part of a world-wide refugee picture.

Dale de Haan is Counsel for the Subcommittee and has just returned from a trip to the Middle East. The Senate members of the Subcommittee are: Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), chairman; John McClellan (D-Ark); Philip Hart (D-Mich); Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii); and Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. (R-Maryland). Readers from states represented by a senator on the Subcommittee may wish to write to that senator (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) concerning the possibility of hearings on the Palestinian refugees. Readers whose states are not represented by a senator on the Subcommittee may wish to write to Mr. de Haan (c/o Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees, 132 Russell, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510). If possible, ANERA would appreciate receiving copies of correspondence on this subject.

### U.S. FOREIGN AID-MORE FOR THE PALESTINIANS

With President Nixon's recent approval, the U.S. Foreign Aid Bill for fiscal year 1974 has now become law. A portion of this bill consists of an amendment originally submitted by Representative Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana) which designates an extra \$2 million to UNRWA for vocational training for the Palestinian refugees. This increase brings the total U.S. Government contribution to UNRWA for fiscal year 1974 to \$25.5 million. In fiscal year 1973, the U.S. gave \$23.5 million to UNRWA (\$474.5 million in economic and military aid was given to Israel).

Senator James Abourezk (D-South Dakota) also submitted an amendment which would have provided \$36 million in additional funds for the Palestinian refugees. Although the amendment passed the Senate, it did not pass the Joint House and Senate Conference Committee and therefore was not included in the final version of the Foreign Aid Bill sent to the President. Senator Abourezk will re-submit his proposal at a later time. ANERA will keep its readers informed of action in this regard.

ANERA *Newsletter* readers from the states of South Dakota and Indiana who wish to express their support of the proposals on behalf of the Palestinian refugees may write to: Rep. Lee

Hamilton, c/o House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and to Senator James Abourezk, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Readers from other states may wish to contact Mr. Michael Van Dusen, Staff Consultant, House Near East and South Asia Subcommittee, 2177 Rayburn, Washington, D.C. 20515; Mr. Van Dusen was most helpful in promoting Rep. Hamilton's amendment. If possible, ANERA would appreciate receiving copies of correspondence on this subject.

### ANERA IN THE NEWS

One of the most rewarding and surprising results of the October War in the Middle East was the number of informational requests ANERA received from the media.

On October 20, 1973, an article about Sara Gentry, appeared in *The Washington Post*; Ms. Gentry was also interviewed for a television program broadcast in Egypt in December, 1973.

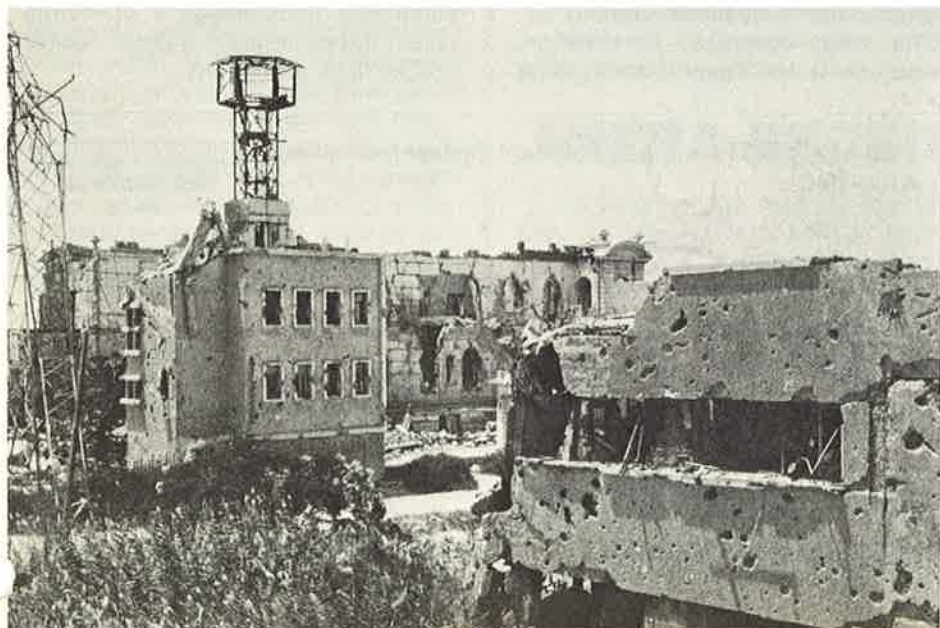
John P. Richardson, President of ANERA, appeared on Washington, D.C.'s WMAL-TV December 16, 1973, as part of a four-person panel discussing the Middle East crisis. He was also heard over radio stations WTOP, WMAL, and WAMU-FM in the Washington area.

Mr. Bertram Cooper, Treasurer of the ANERA Board, was interviewed in the Savannah (Georgia) *Morning News* concerning ANERA's relief efforts.

In addition, stories about ANERA appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Miami Herald*, and *The Boston Globe*. If *Newsletter* readers elsewhere noted stories about or references to ANERA, ANERA would appreciate receiving this information.

### RECOGNITION

- At the Annual Human Rights Day Luncheon sponsored by the Washington Area United Nations Association, ANERA honored **The Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr.**, Dean of the Washington Cathedral. A Director of ANERA, Dean Sayre has been in the forefront of efforts to strengthen human rights. He served for three years as Chairman of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, making an extensive tour of Palestinian refugee camps in the Middle East. His Easter Sunday Sermon of 1972 urged fulfillment of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and, consequently, was a subject of great controversy.



Destruction in the Suez Canal Zone, Arab Republic of Egypt, October, 1973.

## THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

by John P. Richardson  
President of ANERA

(Reprinted from *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 9, 1973)

The Palestinian refugees comprise the majority of the Arab population of Palestine who fled or were expelled from what became Israel in 1948.

UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) defines a Palestinian refugee as a person "whose normal residence was Palestine for a minimum of two years preceding the conflict — and who, as a result of the conflict, lost both his home and livelihood." A UN mission in 1949 estimated that 750,000 Palestinians fit that definition. Since then the figure has swollen with the children born to the original refugees and as a result of the 1967 war.

Today, of the estimated 2,700,000 Palestinians in the world, 1,510,000 are registered as refugees with UNRWA, the UN agency created in 1950 to tide the refugees over until a political settlement to their dilemma could be found.

UNRWA-registered refugees are distributed as follows:

East Jordan	550,000
West Jordan	280,000
Gaza	325,000
Lebanon	185,000
Syria	170,000
Total	1,510,000

At least half of the Palestinians not registered as refugees with UNRWA have remained in their original homes. Nor does the UNRWA figure include

large numbers of Palestinians who possessed the skills, funds, or relatives elsewhere to permit successful relocation outside Palestine. These Palestinians have become an intellectual and managerial elite in the Arab world, contributing to the development of the entire area, particularly the oil states at a time when they lacked trained local manpower.

Those refugees who became eligible for, and ultimately dependent on international assistance had been for the most part peasant farmers in Palestine. They found themselves as refugees in countries already burdened with surplus farm labor.

Fewer than 40 percent of registered refugees live in UNRWA's 63 "camps," residential areas where UNRWA services are available. UNRWA food rations are frozen at the level of 830,000 recipients, despite the presence of 350,000 children technically eligible but unable to be added to the lists until the removal of current recipients, usually through death or through the achievement of income above the UNRWA ceiling. UNRWA services cost approximately 10 cents per refugee per day — including housing, food medicine, and education.

One of UNRWA's most important contributions to the Palestinians has been its educational system, which has assisted the transition of the Palestinians from predominantly rural to a predominantly urban-oriented people. UNRWA provides 250,000 children and young adults with nine years of formal schooling, plus vocational training in seven centers, and further academic study for highly-qualified students.

The "host countries" of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt (prior to 1967)


have contributed almost \$200 million to the refugees through UNRWA and direct services, primarily in land, security, education, and sanitation. Other Arab states have contributed \$20 million, with a recent and marked upward trend. Many international service organizations (including virtually all the major American religious and secular agencies) help supplement UNRWA's programs.

A number of proposals for resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem have been put forward since 1948. The basic document is still United Nations Resolution 194 (III) of December, 1948, which included a key phrase calling for the right of the Palestinian refugees to repatriation — contingent only on willingness "to live at peace with their neighbors" — and for compensation for properties lost, destroyed, or belonging to those choosing not to return.

This resolution, consistently reaffirmed by the United States and accepted by the Israeli Government as a precondition to UN membership, remains unimplemented.

Other proposals, built around the idea of resettlement of the refugees in the Arab states with major international economic assistance, have been put forward by American and other sponsors. These proposals have failed largely because of Arab concern that they reflect a Western desire to resolve the problem at Arab expense.

Perhaps the most significant change in the refugees themselves has been their markedly increased sense of nationalism since 1967 in the face of a continuing preponderance of international forces arrayed against realization of their aspirations.

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

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