



**Christmas, 1974—After 4 Thousand years of Living in The Holyland, three million of her people are now living in exile or under military occupation. One and one-half million of them are registered as refugees with the United Nations. Perhaps 1975 will be the year the Palestinians find themselves one step closer to home, one step closer to a lasting peace.**

## One Way Ticket

By WALID KAMHAWI, M.D.

(The following are excerpts from the story which appeared in Middle East International, July 1974.)

The door-bell of my house kept on ringing persistently in the quiet of Nablus on that chilly December night. I looked at my wrist watch, and it was just 25 minutes after midnight....

I got up and went to the overlooking balcony, and there they were—three military vehicles with Israeli soldiers around. My door had seen them before, as had the doors of thousands of Palestinians over the past few, but so long, years. The door opened, and in no time there were more than a dozen Israeli soldiers, carrying their Uzi submachine guns, with their fingers on the triggers, rushing into every corner of the house....

I was put into a military vehicle, with four soldiers surrounding me. I was blind-folded, and the convoy of military vehicles moved. They drove ascending that tortuous road from my hometown to Nablus to Ramallah and then Jerusalem, and down to Jericho... I did not need to see. Blind-folded, I felt the road, the towns and even the villages. It was my homeland ....

Suddenly, the vehicle was abruptly brought to a halt ... footsteps approaching ... and somebody was ordered to climb into the vehicle.... One of the Israeli soldiers asked another, "Is the other one from Nab-

lus? The answer was "Yes." And that soldier's comment was: "two Arabs are not enough of a price for the Nablus Military Governor." I immediately remembered that a hand grenade had been thrown at the Military Governor a few days before. The only explanation I could imagine was that they were going to take us somewhere, shoot us, and that would be the end. It took me very few minutes to get reconciled to the idea of death. I felt that my life was not more precious than the lives of the tens of thousands of my people who had died ... over the last thirty years....

The car went on and on in the stillness of that cold December night, and into the morning....

Suddenly, the cars stopped. We were harshly led from our vehicle into another one. We felt that there were other people already there. Once inside we were ordered to uncover our eyes. We took off the blind-folds and the eyes of each one of us went roaming about the others' faces—a mayor, a trade-unionist, two lawyers, three teachers, and myself, a physician. All of us were gathered from Jerusalem and the West Bank.... Most of us had never met before....

An officer climbed into the vehicle,

read a paper he held in his hands, and then we knew—the Israeli occupying authorities had ordered our expulsion from our homeland, because we "constituted a danger to Israeli security". It was so funny... that we, a doctor, a mayor, a trade-unionist, two lawyers and three teachers, were a threat to Israeli security, though none of us had carried a pistol in his life. No court, no trial, not even a charge brought against any of us....

The officer ordered us to come down. He made a cut in the barbed wire, and ordered us to cross the border to Jordan. Some of us tried to argue and to resist, but were forced at gun-point to pass through the barbed wire into Jordan....

We walked in the sand dunes of Wadi Araba, the Jordanian twin of the Negev desert. We looked around for any signs of life, but in vain....

We walked and walked, covering miles, and nothing was in sight, except for a mountain .... We sat somewhere in that nowhere. Time passed so reluctantly as we tried to figure out the right route to Jordan. We knew that any slight mistake might either lead us to a definite death somewhere deep in the heart of the Wadi Araba desert, or

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## Human Rights Day

At Washington's Annual Human Rights Day Luncheon, sponsored by the local United Nations Association, ANERA honored Dr. Howard R. Cottam, Consultant and former North American Representative, Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., for his work with the Palestinian refugees. A Director of ANERA, Dr. Cottam has long been actively concerned with the human rights of the Palestinian people. Dr. Cottam was able to know first-hand of the plight of the Palestinians in his former capacities as U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the U.S. State Department. In addition to his work with Palestinian refugees, ANERA honored Dr. Cottam for his efforts in promoting greater equality in the world-wide distribution of food. At the recent World Food Conference in Rome, Dr. Cottam spoke for the human rights of the hungry people of the world.

## Art Exhibit

ANERA's art exhibit, "Children's Testimony at a Time of War," is currently being circulated by U.S. OMEN in California. The exhibit consists of 35 crayon drawings created by Palestinian children living in Baqa'a refugee camp. Many of the drawings are of conventional children's subjects but many speak eloquently of the tragedy of war and the life of a refugee child.

"Children's Testimony at a Time of War" is matted and ready for display. Programs accompany the exhibit. Transportation costs are provided by U.S. OMEN and the group requesting the exhibit.

NEWSLETTER readers in California may obtain further information by contacting: Mrs. Mary Bisharat, 2110 Boyer Drive, Carmichael, California 95608.

## U.N. Week

*The week of January 20-26, 1975 has been designated as Visit the United Nations Week. A special program for the Week is to include, among other items, exhibits, films, attendance at U.N. meetings, and lectures by Secretariat officials on the work of the U.N. Visitors to the United Nations may also wish to visit ANERA's office in New York, located just across from the U.N.—American Middle East Rehabilitation, Suite 7E, 777 U.N. Plaza.*

### PALESTINIANS AT THE U.N.

On November 13, 1974, the U.N. General Assembly for the first time heard Palestinians participate in the debate on the Palestinian question. Subsequently, the General Assembly passed a resolution which asserted the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty. The resolution also provided that the Palestinians had the inalienable right to return to their homes and property from which they had been uprooted, and that a full recognition of Palestinian rights was essential for the solution of the question of Palestine. Information on the resolution and debate may be obtained from: Office of Public Information, United Nations, United Nations, New York 10017.

## IN MEMORIAM



Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Jr.

Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Jr., 79, the internationally acclaimed pediatrician and former president of American Middle East Rehabilitation, died on November 30 in South Carolina.

One of Dr. Holt's major concerns was the Palestinian Arab refugees; he served as president of AMER from 1961 to 1969 and then as the Honorary Chairman of the AMER Division Medical Committee until his death.

Following the June 1967 war in the Middle East, Dr. Holt traveled to that area to assess the situation so that AMER could more effectively direct its assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinians. Upon his return to the United States, Dr. Holt helped create ANERA to serve as the national coordinating agency for refugee relief and rehabilitation. AMER became a division of ANERA in 1971.

On March 4, 1970, having "contributed freely of his time and talents to help the needy Palestinian Arab refugees," Dr. Holt was presented with the ANERA Award for Meritorious Service to Mankind.

Loved and respected by all who were privileged to know and work with him, Dr. Holt was a fine man and a beloved colleague. He will be missed.

AMER and ANERA extend their sympathy to his widow, Olivia, and the family.

## Birzeit President Expelled

The most distinguished educator in the Occupied Territories, Dr. Hanna Nasir, President of Birzeit College, was expelled from his home in Ramallah by the Occupying Forces of Israel on November 21, 1974.

Dr. Nasir and four other prominent citizens of the West Bank "were detained, blindfolded, and driven to the Lebanese border, where they were told to walk across it carrying white flags" (The Christian Science Monitor, Nov. 22, 1974, page 8).

Israeli officials said Dr. Nasir's expulsion was the result of his leadership of a demonstration by college students on Nov. 18. The demonstration was in protest of Israeli oppression of the human and civil rights of the inhabitants of the Occupied Territories and in support of U.N. consideration of the Palestinians.

Eye-witness accounts testify that Dr. Nasir was not the instigator of the demonstration. Terence Smith, correspondent for *The New York Times*, "saw Dr. Nasir doing everything he could to avoid a confrontation between the marching students and Israeli soldiers..." (The New York Times, Nov. 22, 1974, page 13).

Dr. Nasir comes from one of the leading Palestinian families on the West Bank. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from Purdue University and is the father of three children. His father, Musa Nasir, served as President of Birzeit College and as one of Jordan's most distinguished foreign ministers. Dr. Nasir's grandfather founded Birzeit College in 1924 and was the Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem for many years.



**Birzeit College, West Bank—Dr. Hanna Nasir (at extreme left), talking with students at Birzeit College in May, 1973. As its President, Dr. Nasir has been invaluable in efforts to expand the facilities of Birzeit College. It is hoped that Birzeit will become the first four-year college for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, despite the loss of Dr. Nasir.**

## Birzeit College

Birzeit College is the first and only well-established accredited academic institution of higher learning in the Occupied Territories. Credits from Birzeit are recognized by the American University of Beirut, the American University in Cairo, and by universities and colleges in the United States.

Formerly, Birzeit College offered a two-year program of liberal arts and sciences, but it is now expanding to become the first four-year institution offering the B.A. and B.S. in the Occupied Territories. Its first students to receive the bachelor's degree will graduate in the spring of 1976.

In 1974, 6,700 high school students in the Occupied Territories were

awarded the Tawjih certificate, entitling them to university entrance. The need for expansion of higher educational facilities is dramatically apparent when that number is compared with the present 400-student capacity of Birzeit.

Birzeit College is largely funded by concerned American and international organizations. ANERA has long been a supporter of the College, contributing \$50,000 for scholarships over the past six years. ANERA is currently participating in a special fund-raising drive for the expansion of Birzeit. Increased assistance is especially needed now that Dr. Hanna Nasir, President of Birzeit College, has been exiled.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for Birzeit College in the amount of:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Checks should be made payable to ANERA and returned to: ANERA, 733 15th St., N.W., Room 900, Washington, D.C. 20005. Thank you.



**Dayton S. Mak**

## New Board Members

Dayton S. Mak is currently serving as Economic Consultant to the Middle East Institute. Prior to taking this position, Mr. Mak was President of the brokerage firm of Leo L. Mak, Inc., Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Mak has also served with the U.S. Embassies in Lebanon, Kuwait, England, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and West Germany.

Mr. Mak received his B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Arizona and his M.A. in International Relations from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He has also studied at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and at the University of Pennsylvania, participating in the Arabic Studies program at that institution.

Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1917, Mr. Mak is married and has one daughter. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. John W. Pendleton is Treasurer of Health and Educational Resources, Inc., in Washington, D.C. and is a writer and editor for Information Services, Inc. of Bethesda, Maryland. Mrs. Pendleton's professional career previously included work with *The New York Times*, *Life* magazine, and *The Reporter* magazine.

Margaret Pendleton's late husband, John, was an executive with ARAMCO for many years and served as chairman of ANERA's Projects Committee. The Pendletons lived in Saudi Arabia for ten years, where Mrs. Pendleton served in numerous capacities organizing volunteers to assist charities in the Middle East and hospitals in Saudi Arabia.

Mrs. Pendleton was born in Plattsburgh, New York in 1916 and received an A.B. from Vassar College in 1937. She has four children, three of them in college and lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

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alternatively, we might be shot by the Israeli patrol if we mistakenly crossed the borders back into Israel.... I we were to die in the wilderness of the desert, nobody would know. If we were to be shot by an Israeli patrol, the world would be told next morning that eight infiltrators had been shot down.

In the midst of these and many other thoughts, the sound of a vehicle erupted from the horizon. We jumped on our feet waving for that car, which turned out to be a Jordanian military vehicle. Soon, we were in Jordan, and soon the number of Palestinian refugees increased by eight. It was the lot of the eight of us to be uprooted, expelled and thrown into the desert on the very anniversary day of the Declaration of Human Rights, on the 10th of December, 1973.

**\*ANERA is a non-profit, charitable organization which seeks: to increase total assistance in cash and kind from American sources to Palestinian Arab refugees and other needy individuals in the Arab World; to be responsive in crises affecting civilian populations in the area, particularly displacement and casualties caused by war; and to increase American understanding of the Palestinian refugee problem.**



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