



# NEWS LETTER

American Near East Refugee Aid\*

Number 40, October-December, 1976

## War in Lebanon

# Lest the cause gets lost...

Eighteen months of warfare in Lebanon have taken its toll on everyone...Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians, Arabs in general, and Arab-Americans in the U.S. It has been a complicated war, over-simplified in American newspaper and television accounts (for example, according to an article in *Le Monde* of Paris, July 27, 1976, no fewer than 29 local military and political movements have played active roles in the conflict).

ANERA hopes the war is now over so that reconstruction can begin in Lebanon and peace negotiations can go forward. This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of all those killed in Lebanon—Lebanese, Palestinian, Syrian and American.

The following article by Father Dr. Lutfi Laham, the Charge d'Affaires of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem, appeared in *Al-Quds*, an Arabic-language newspaper in East Jerusalem, and is printed, in part, as it appeared in *Swasia*, October 1, 1976.

No one can remain silent in the face of what has been happening in Lebanon for months. We have been hanging on to the faintest ray of hope that the war, the fire, and the destruction would come to an end....

We express our sorrow, sadness, and heart-felt pain over the tragedies, massacres, and bloodbaths that have been taking place in Lebanon, sparing no group or sect....We believe that the...conspiracy unfolding there has both the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples as its target. It is indeed sad to see how the Lebanese...have fallen into the trap...and plunged themselves into a bloody war....It is also heart-rending to see the Palestinians too taken in...

The war in Lebanon is not a religious war nor is it a Christian-Moslem conflict. Rather, it is an Arab conflict,...let those who are fishing in dirty waters cease abusing religion by dragging it into political and ideological disputes. It was not Christianity that committed the massacres and atrocities in Tel Zaatar, nor was it Islam that carried out massacres and atrocities in Damour.... In their essence, both religions are based on a universal call for love and brotherhood. Religion belongs to God, the homeland belongs to all....The Arab homelands belong to all their citizens be they Christian or Moslem...they are all of the same land, the same history, and the same destiny.

We herein renew our assertion that we are part of the Palestinian people, we are for them and with them in our common and just cause. Our sharpest weapon in our struggle is our spiritual values....It is these values...that we raise before every human being as a torch, lighting the way to truth, justice, and peace....

We, the Christians in the Holy Land of Palestine and in the entire Arab Middle East, have been striving for generations...side by side with our Moslem brethren for the prosperity of this land;...and, above all, like our Moslem brethren, we made great sacrifices for our Palestinian cause....

We, the children of this land in all our sects and religions, will remain the true witnesses of the religious values for which our land was the cradle....

We appeal to our Christian and Moslem brethren...not to heed tendentious rumors and incitements aimed at arousing divisive religious sentiments. We urge all to adhere to our long-cherished tradition of sharing the common homeland, living together, building it together, and working together in all walks of life...We call on all to spurn all fanatical sentiments towards each other...(The war in Lebanon) is being exploited by self-interested sides to discredit the principle of peaceful co-existence—coexistence in love and brotherhood which has been the mark

of relations among the various sects in this region throughout its history.

We call on all to pray for love, mutual faith in each other, mutual respect for feelings, and steadfast solidarity lest our cause get lost and lest Man dies in Lebanon and Love dies in the Land of Man.

\*ANERA is a non-profit, charitable organization which seeks: to increase total assistance in cash and kind from American sources to Palestinian 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.

## Palestinian Camps in Lebanon

According to the latest report of UNRWA's Commissioner-General for the year of July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976, there were 198,637 Palestinians in Lebanon who were classified as refugees. Of this number 96,815 registered refugees lived in the 15 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Because of budgetary restraints, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has a restricted definition of who is a Palestinian refugee. There are actually an estimated 320,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon with an estimated 3 million Lebanese.

UNRWA's ration, health, and educational programs to registered refugees, especially those living in North and Central Lebanon have been severely disrupted. As noted in the report, the courage and self-reliance of UNRWA employees, "especially its senior Palestinian staff," account for UNRWA's ability to function at all in Lebanon. Although it was difficult, UNRWA was able to maintain its health and education services "at a level of approximately 80% in areas outside Beirut" until operations completely halted in June, 1976. "...In Beirut itself, the level was not more than 20% from September, 1975, onwards." UNRWA's International Headquarters and the Lebanon Field Office were located in Beirut; due to the fighting, the staff was moved

to Amman, Jordan, with a smaller number going to Vienna, Austria.

Aside from the death and destruction caused by the war in Lebanon, the Palestinian refugees also came under attack by air and sea from Israeli forces during the year of the Commissioner-General's Report. Refugee camps near Tyre and Saida as well as other areas of refugee concentration in southern Lebanon were attacked on eight days in July, August, and September, 1975. In December, 1975, two camps in northern Lebanon and Nabatieh Camp in southern Lebanon were also attacked by Israeli forces. (Fortunately, there were no refugees in Nabatieh Camp as the camp was in the process of being reconstructed after it was destroyed by an Israeli attack in May, 1974) Forty-two refugees were killed, 101 wounded, and extensive damage to the camps resulted from these attacks.

No accurate figures are yet available for the number of dead and wounded Palestinian refugees or for the amount of physical damage sustained in UNRWA camps during the war in Lebanon. There was some damage to camps in northern Lebanon and extensive damage to refugee camps located in and around Beirut. The worst affected were Dbayeh, Dekwaneh (located in Tel el Zaatar), and Jisr el-Basha, which were all situated in the middle of fighting zones.

### SENATE HEARINGS

Humanitarian problems in Lebanon have received constructive attention from many individual Americans, notably, Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator James Abourezk. The Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Refugees held hearings in April and July 1976. The Subcommittee considered three areas in particular: American diplomatic initiatives on Lebanon, the role of the United Nations and the International Red Cross, and the special problems of Lebanese seeking safe haven in the United States. Free copies of the hearings (known as "Humanitarian Problems in Lebanon, Parts I and II") may be obtained by writing to: Subcommittee on Refugees, 132 Russell Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Mr. Harold D. Snell brings to the ANERA Board of Directors over 36 years of experience with the problems of labor management and 20 years of experience with the problems of manpower in the Middle East. Some of Mr. Snell's first professional experiences were as Executive Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Executive Vice President of the United Transport Service Employees/Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Mr. Snell began his involvement with the Middle East in 1955 as Regional Labor Advisor for the Near East, South Asia, and Africa, International Cooperation Administration. From 1958-1967, Mr. Snell served as the Regional Labor Attache at the American Embassy in Beirut with responsibilities for the Eastern Arab countries, Cyprus and Iran. After serving in the U.S. Department of Labor's International Bureau, Mr. Snell was appointed Director of the Agency for International Development's Mission to Kenya. Since returning from Kenya in 1971, Mr. Snell has been a member of the Foreign Service Grievance Board in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Snell was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1906. He and his wife, Wilma, reside in Washington, D.C.

Other new ANERA Board Members who will be featured in future issues of the Newsletter are: The Honorable James E. Akins, William C. Ballin, George A. Doumani, Murad Farah, Dr. Rosa Lee Nemir, Mrs. Frances P. Snodgrass, & Dr. Richard Ward.

## New Board Members



**Donald L. Snook**

Mr. Donald L. Snook is currently the Senior Public Affairs Advisor for Esso Middle East/Exxon Corporation in New York City. He began his career with the Exxon Corporation in 1966 as Public Relations Manager for Esso Standard Libya in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Republic. Within the corporation, Mr. Snook also was the Editor of the Exxon Background Series and Public Affairs Advisor for Esso Middle East.

Prior to joining the Exxon Corporation, Mr. Snook was in the Foreign Service, stationed at the American embassies in Cairo, Egypt, Damascus,



**Harold D. Snell**

Syria, and Tripoli, Libya. For a total of 18 years, Mr. Snook lived outside the United States with most of that time spent in the Arab World.

Born in Derby, Iowa, in 1923 Mr. Snook received a B.A. in Political Science from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, in 1949. He earned a Master's degree in International Affairs, specializing in the Middle East Area, from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in 1951. Mr. Snook is married and has three daughters. The Snook family lives in Westport, Connecticut.

## STAYING AFLOAT IN LEBANON

A recent letter from Dr. Albert Badre, President of Beirut University College, probably reflects the situation of many ANERA-assisted programs in Lebanon. Dr. Badre writes:

"During...this past summer, I re-read the Book of Genesis. As I read the account of Noah's obedience and the consequent salvation of life from the flood's devastation, I noticed for the first time an interesting feature of the ark. It had no means of steering. Noah had neither map nor sextant, no tiller, wheel, or rudder. The job of the ark was to remain afloat; the rest was up to God. ...We do not know when or how peace will come to Lebanon....We don't know many of the practicalities of how our campus and educational process will be able to function. The Board of Trustees and I are content that our present assignment is to keep this College afloat; the rest is up to God."

## HELP IS NEEDED

At the present time, communication with ANERA-assisted programs in Lebanon is still largely by word-of-mouth as normal communication networks are not yet restored. People are functioning as best they can under the circumstances. They need help.

**American University of Beirut**-The campus is intact physically but the student body and faculty are separated by the forces controlling different sections of the city. A.U.B. is continuing to hold classes as permitted and those students and faculty who can attend are doing so. Plans are underway for students and faculty in other parts of Beirut to meet in their sectors to hold classes. Since the economic life of the city has been brought to a standstill, many students are not able to pay fees that the university needs to keep functioning. A great need now is for scholarship funds to help the University continue operation.

**Association for the Resurgence of Palestinian Camps**-This is a community development program in Palestinian refugee camps primarily located near Beirut. There has been no word of the Association. Since many refugee camps in the Beirut vicinity have been the scene of actual battles, the camps themselves are in chaos. Presumably, facilities used by the Association for literacy programs and special programs for women and children will have been damaged and will need to be resupplied and repaired.

**Beirut University College**-As with A.U.B., the College is open and functioning. The faculty is working at half salary and the student body is greatly reduced. Financial aid to keep the College open is of primary importance.

**La Jeunesse du Marjoun and Marjoun National College**-These two organizations in southern Lebanon have received ANERA aid in the past to alleviate problems caused by Israeli bombing raids into Lebanon. Marjoun National College is a private high school and ANERA funds helped provide scholarships for needy students. As with other educational institutions, Marjoun National College will need increased scholarship funds to continue its programs as families in the area will have difficulty earning a living to pay for the education of their children. La Jeunesse du Marjoun is a community development organization. With its previous work in helping the community recover from Israeli bombing raids, La Jeunesse du Marjoun should have experienced people ready to assist the community in the aftermath of the Lebanese war. Funds for temporary housing and other programs to aid these civilians will be necessary.

**National Alliance of YMCA's**-The YMCA in Beirut is still standing, according to the most recent eye-witness reports. ANERA funds previously helped to sponsor a summer camp program in the mountains near Beirut for Palestinian refugee children. It seems likely that the Y's efforts will be directed toward rehabilitation and relocation of those people who suffered the most during the war.

**The A.U.B. Medical Students' Society, the Lebanese Red Cross, and the Palestinian Red Crescent**-These organizations, by all accounts, have been doing a remarkable job of attending the wounded under desperate conditions. ANERA will continue to send donations of medical gifts-in-kind and cash. Basic supplies such as bandages, sutures, and antibiotics are still needed. With the cessation of open conflict, attention will need to be given to preventing the outbreak of disease as well as to the continued treatment of the wounded.

## 8th ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

On September 25, 1976, the Eighth Annual Meeting of the ANERA Board of Directors was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. An informal dinner and discussion meeting at the College of Preachers, Washington National (Episcopal) Cathedral was held the evening of September 24 for Board Members and their spouses.

Thirty-six Directors from all over the United States serve on ANERA's Board. The Board Members are American men and women with personal and professional interest in the Middle East; most of the Directors are retired diplomats, academicians, religious leaders, medical doctors, and businessmen.

At the Eighth Annual Meeting, the Directors elected new Board Members, ANERA's Officers, Members of the Projects and Executive Committees, and Members of the AMER Division's Medical Committee; the Directors reviewed the past year's activity and approved ANERA's policies and budget for the coming year. In addition, the Board gave special attention to ANERA-assisted programs in the Occupied Territories and to the war in Lebanon and its effects on ANERA-assisted programs.

Dr. John H. Davis, ANERA's first President and Chairman, announced his decision to retire as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Davis was elected to the honorary position of Chairman of the Board Emeritus and a certificate of appreciation was presented to him, "...In honor and appreciation of your humanitarian labors on behalf of the Palestine Arab refugees, your leadership in the work of ANERA, and your efforts to alert the American people that peace in the Middle East cannot precede a just solution of the Palestine problem. ANERA presents this citation as a token of its respect and affection, in confidence that the work inaugurated under your direction will go forward in the years ahead..."

Yes, I want to help the people of Lebanon. Enclosed is my gift of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000

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Checks should be made payable to ANERA and should be sent with this form to the ANERA office. Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you for your help.



Newly-elected ANERA Officers, pictured at the 8th Annual Board Meeting—Photo 1, from left to right: Mrs. Parker T. Hart, Treasurer; Dr. M. Hadi Salem, Vice Chairman; the Honorable Evan M. Wilson, Chairman; Dr. John H. Davis, Chairman Emeritus. (Missing from the photo is Dr. Mansour Armaly, Vice Chairman) Photo 2, from left to right: John P. Richardson, President; Cheryl D. Stewart, Secretary; Sara C. Gentry, Vice President; and Joyce M. Stewart, Assistant Treasurer. (These Officers in Photo 2 also are members of ANERA's staff.)

### ANERA'S NEW CHAIRMAN

Retired diplomat and author, the Honorable Evan M. Wilson, was elected Chairman of the Board at the Eighth Annual ANERA Board Meeting. A graduate of Haverford College in Pennsylvania and Oxford University in Great Britain, Mr. Wilson entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1937 and retired in late 1967. At the time of his retirement, he had been serving for over 3 years as Minister-Consul General in Jerusalem, having remained there during the 1967 June War. Some 29 of his 30 years of diplomatic service were spent involved with the Middle East. In addition to Jerusalem, Mr. Wilson served in Beirut, Cairo, Tehran, and in India, Mexico, and Great Britain.

Mr. Wilson was born in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, and is married to Leila F. Wilson. The Wilsons have two daughters, Leila Wilson Brown and Martha Wilson, and currently reside in Washington, D.C.

Since his retirement, Mr. Wilson has continued his active interest in the Middle East. He has been a Member of ANERA's Board of Directors for 8 years and served as the Chairman of the Pro-

jects Committee for the past 5 years. Mr. Wilson has been invested and decorated in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and is listed in *Who's Who in America*. He is also a Board Member of the Middle East Institute, International Student House (both in Washington, D.C.), American Colony Charities (Spafford Children's Hospital, Jerusalem), and St. George's College in Jerusalem.

Mr. Wilson is the author of *Jerusalem: Key to Peace* and numerous pamphlets and articles on the Middle East. He has just completed a second book which will analyze American policy toward the Palestine question.

In looking at the year ahead for ANERA, Chairman Wilson made these remarks to the Board of Directors: "...It is appropriate for ANERA to shift its emphasis to assistance for economic development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, since the problems there affect all of the Palestinian population, not the refugees alone....As far as a (political) settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute is concerned, I am sure that all of us want to see a lasting solu-

tion of the conflict that will involve Israel's withdrawal from substantially all of the territories which it occupied in the 1967 war and that will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Palestine Arabs....I think we have to conclude that the prospects for a settlement of the dispute in the near future are not good and there does not seem to be any possibility of an early Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas. In terms of ANERA policy, I think this means that while we should continue to think of moving into a primarily developmental phase as soon as the Israelis withdraw, we must at the same time recognize that our programs in the Occupied Territories will have to go forward in the context of a continued Israeli military presence....In conclusion, I would like to say simply that, in my opinion, ANERA gives evidence of continuing flexibility and competence in administering its programs. I think this fact should enable your new team to face the coming year with confidence. The next few months will not be easy, but with your help we believe that we can do the job."



AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

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**The Honorable Evan M. Wilson**  
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