LEBANON:  
EMERGENCY RELIEF

In June 1982, Lebanon was again invaded by Israeli military forces. This prolonged and extremely destructive action once more calls for a humanitarian response by the American people. As ANERA's friends are aware, ANERA has long provided relief to victims of conflict and war in Lebanon through local organizations which serve the population irrespective of religion or sect. We are now making a special appeal on an emergency basis to help meet this great emergency need. In these tragic times we urge you to send donations to ANERA earmarked for relief in this war-torn, unfortunate country.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPECIAL DONATION NOW.

BUILDING A FUTURE

President Truman, in his 1949 inaugural address, described his vision of the purpose behind a new American involvement in development activities: “Our aim should be to help the free people of the world through their own efforts, to produce more food, more clothing, more materials for housing and more mechanical power to lighten their burdens.” Over thirty years have passed since that speech and the term “development” has come to imply a myriad of efforts and perspectives; but the basic goal is still the same. One expert comments that “Development should mean that . . . each individual must have a wider range of choices available for realizing the fullest human potential.”

Before the Second World War, humanitarian efforts to help poor people around the world were solely the responsibility of the private sector. Faith in the benefits of industry and capitalism encouraged the hope that improved national economies would naturally lead to better conditions for poorer citizens; and faith in God and the church guided American missionaries to tend to the health and education of the most remote and impoverished. In 1923, Charles Hughes, then U.S. Secretary of State, responded to an inquiry about aid that “It is not the policy of our government to make loans to other governments, and the needed capital if it is to be supplied at all, must be furnished by private organizations.”

The transition from this attitude in 1923 to Truman’s in 1949 occurred in three rapid stages. Immediately after the Second World War, the U.S. government promoted the creation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to provide medical supplies, food and clothes to 40 countries that had suffered attacks from the Axis powers. By 1947, American fears about the spread of Communist influence inspired Truman and Congress to bolster and rebuild the European nations through the European Recovery Program, known as the Marshall Plan. This ultimate plan, the “aid to end aid” quickly expanded to encompass the broader goals expressed in Truman’s 1949 speech. Aid was extended first to South Korea and Taiwan, then throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The expansion of relief programs from Europe to the less developed areas of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East forced an immediate reassessment. Within a few years it was obvious that what Europe possessed in skilled manpower, industry, financial and other services, the “underdeveloped” world lacked by definition. Straight forward relief programs that worked well in Europe proved inadequate for even beginning to address the complex of needs confronting developing nations. Thus the distinction evolved between short-term relief programs, designed to alleviate immediate stresses as the result of war or natural catastrophe, and longer-term development projects that attempt to plan and construct the basic channels within a society to provide health and educational services, or improve income through agriculture or industry.

(continued on next page)
BUILDING, continued

Although the U.S. government has encouraged and funded a great variety of development projects around the world, private agencies, both religious and secular, have a long history of working among the world’s poor, greater flexibility, lower overhead, and often function as the workhorses of these development goals. Guarding their independence from U.S. foreign policy priorities, private agencies are free to work wherever they perceive the greatest need, and claim their success is due to “a scrupulous non-involvement in the internal political affairs of host countries.”

There may be as many approaches to Third World development as there are agencies involved. Some American agencies export both people and technological know-how to help develop systems for agriculture, roads, water distribution or industry; others bring young people to the U.S. for advanced training in technical fields. The “Green Revolution” promotes new varieties of grains that are healthier and more productive to countries suffering from food shortages. Some programs attempt to improve large scale industries and government bureaucracies to enhance services available to poor people; others focus their attention on community institutions or individuals—“grass roots” programs. The common denominator within all of these efforts is the attempt to identify a few key factors in the society that contribute to the overall distress of the population, and focus on resolving those problems, using available resources. For example, in an agricultural area where the majority of the labor force is moving to the cities to look for work, a development project would attempt to find the key factors that might help enhance farmer income from agriculture and thus halt migration to overcrowded cities. That may include improved well design for irrigation, new equipment, better seeds and fertilizers and access to rural credit. Equally important is the establishment of locally controlled institutions which can provide needed economic and social services.

On the following pages of this Newsletter, we will describe how ANERA projects fit into this “development picture”. ANERA’s philosophical and organizational changes since its creation in 1968 reflect many of the changes in the development world as a whole. Started as a relief program to answer immediate needs of Palestinians made homeless or impoverished by war, ANERA gradually expanded into a development agency to help Palestinian institutions establish and rejuvenate health, education, agricultural and municipal services. Our history as a private agency was also influenced by U.S. policy in the Middle East when the U.S. government first established development funds specifically for the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. A large part of the credit for ANERA’s transition from relief program to development projects goes to our Middle East Representative, Henry Selz, who is described in the following story.

ANERA REP RECEIVES AWARD

On May 17, 1982, Henry O. Selz, ANERA’s Middle East Representative received an Honorary Doctorate in Human Letters from Haverford College in Pennsylvania. In recognition of his lifelong work in Third World Development, the presentation of his degree was introduced with high praise. “A concern for others draws him to the lands of difficulty: beneath contention he finds the common longings for food, peace with justice, and a good joke. His commitment communicates to Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jew. Henry Selz is what we all might be if we had the courage to live our principles."

Born in Illinois in 1923, Mr. Selz completed one year of college at Northwestern University before joining the American Field Service as an ambulance driver in North Africa during the Second World War. He completed a B.A. in English at Harvard in 1948, and travelled to India and Pakistan to work for the American Friends Service Committee assisting the refugee exchange between the two countries. His continued work for the Quakers took him to Calcutta for over two years before he joined the staff of the U.S. AID (then called the International Cooperation Administration) in Washington, East Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In 1957, Mr. Selz began a sixteen year career with CARE, directing relief and development programs in Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria. His experience and sense of humor fill his conversations with entertaining stories. Working in Bangladesh in 1971 at the time of her independence from West Pakistan, Mr. Selz tells the story of planning for the projected six months it would take for the refugee populations to resettle on respective sides of the Bangladesh-India border. In two months, the refugees resettled themselves without using any of the planned crossing facilities. A notice was issued by the new government (continued on back page)
Agriculture

Malnutrition is common in large parts of the world today, due not only to chronic shortages of food, but also to unbalanced diets. As the population grows, the need for increased and more varied agricultural production becomes more and more crucial. One of the biggest challenges in development is to help farmers improve their production so that they are not only self-sufficient, but also able to provide a surplus, necessary to feed the ever-growing urban populations. This is especially true on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where although starvation is not prevalent, the quality of life remains poor.

While farmers share many similar problems in their efforts to improve production, the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories face a unique set of setbacks and restrictions. Much of the best land has been expropriated, leaving them with only hilly fields and rocky soil. They have no control over their water resources, vital to agriculture in an arid climate. Lastly, they have no central government to help in the planning, implementation, and financing of the large scale projects. In addition, agriculture is becoming a profitable occupation in the changing economy. This, along with the main goal of improved agriculture is to end hunger, provide a surplus, and increase the standard of living. More cross-mean increased income for farmers and their families, allowing them a better standard of living. The extra cash can be used for further improvements in agriculture, and for other small farmers in other ways. The greater availability of food, in turn, means increased income for farmers and their families, allowing them a better standard of living. The extra cash can be used for further improvements in agriculture, and for other small farmers in other ways.

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have received only a few years of school. They must cope with the challenges of raising a family without the benefit of a formal education. Several outreach programs through local women's unions have been established which offer literacy programs, instruction in nutrition and hygiene, and short-term vocational training programs in embroidery and sewing; all of which are designed to help Palestinian women provide better care to their young and bring in much-needed additional income.

Women have an important role not only as the heads of households while their men are away, but also as the bread winners and leaders in their communities. A once male-dominated field, nursing, is now attracting women to its ranks because of the establishment of the ANERA-supported Arab College of Nursing five years ago, which offers a B.S. degree in nursing. Women nurses fulfill a two fold need in the Occupied Territories by providing improved health care services for all, and secondly, employing the potential heads of households and enhancing the quality of life.

HEALTH

Try to imagine children playing next to an open sewer that runs down the middle of a busy, dusty street; or a young pregnant mother living in a shack that has no running water or electricity; or an agricultural worker dying from cholera because he drank contaminated water. Think of a child lying listless on his bed suffering from malnutrition and dehydration. As difficult as these scenes are to believe in our country, they are tragically familiar in the underdeveloped world. The lack of adequate health and community services do not only adversely affect the health of all concerned, but also the development of all sectors in such countries.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians suffer from many of the health problems noted above, but must face these difficulties without the aid of a central government. ANERA supports a large number of women’s unions, medical clinics and hospitals, as well as educational institutions which provide a wide spectrum of health services:

- Maternal and child health care
- Immunization against the major infectious diseases
- Prevention and control of locally endemic diseases
- Education concerning prevailing health problems
- Medical personnel (from laboratory technicians to nurses)
- Appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries
- Provision of essential drugs
- Proper nutrition
- Safe drinking water
- Basic sanitation

In the West Bank town of Nablus, the Arab Women’s Union founded the Ittehad Hospital in 1971 to help meet the medical needs of the 70,000 residents. This hospital is considered to be the best in the area because it offers complete and exemplary medical services including facilities for surgery, mother/child health care, medical tests, and outpatient clinics. With partial funding from ANERA, Ittehad recently expanded its facilities and services to include a new operating room and an intensive care unit. In addition, a training course for practical nurses was introduced in 1976 to help address the critical shortage of nurses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Institutions like Ittehad Hospital are important not only for the obvious benefits of improved health care. They have what developers refer to as a “social benefit”—it is a benefit to the community to realize a successful example of self-improvement, of quality health care provided by and for Palestinians.

ANERA’S AID TO LEBANON

Ambulances, first aid, blood banks, and training for nurses and technicians are all supported by ANERA’s aid to clinics and hospitals in Lebanon. Distributed by the Palestinian Red Crescent and Lebanese Red Cross Societies, ANERA’s aid reaches 12 hospitals and 41 clinics which provide emergency care in war time and routine health maintenance in peace.

In past emergencies, ANERA has helped provide food, clothing and tents for displaced people. Medical teams visit the camps twice daily. The ANERA medical division provides valuable contributions in the form of pharmaceutical and medical supplies; and rehabilitation centers provide artificial limbs and therapy for the wounded and handicapped.

The current statistics in Lebanon estimate 800,000 homeless and 40,000 casualties. By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the figures may be higher. Your help is crucial.

If you wish to express your concern about Lebanon, do not hesitate to write your Senators and Representatives: Addresses are:
of Bangladesh encouraging citizen responsibility. "Independence isn't something that happens every day," it read, "This is only our second in 25 years."

Pursuing a lifelong proclivity for war zones, Mr. Selz began his work for the AFSC as the Middle East International Affairs Representative just before the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. During his two year assignment with the Quakers, his office and apartment in Cyprus shifted from Greek nationality to Turkish as a result of fighting between the two countries in 1974. (As you read this, Mr. Selz is again visiting a war-torn country, this time Lebanon, for ANERA's relief efforts.)

His work for ANERA began in 1976 when he established the ANERA office in Jerusalem. Summarizing his view of development work in the Occupied Territories, as well as everywhere else he has worked, Mr. Selz explained: "The critical thing is to undertake projects whereby people secure some measurable control over their existence—either they produce something that wasn't produced before or they acquire a skill they didn't possess before."

ANERA has received special gifts in memory of the following people:
Walter Baggaley ■ The Bliss Family ■ Anna Christy ■ G. Drury ■ Najati Kabbani ■ Paul and Viola Kincher ■ Bishop Raphael ■ The Mother of H. Gerard F. Siems, II ■ Andree Vanalest

In addition, ANERA has received gifts in honor of the following people:
Hattie Lilly ■ Mrs. H. Gerard F. Siems, II.

Enclosed is a special gift for ANERA's Emergency Relief to Lebanon.

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

This issue of the ANERA Newsletter was written by ANERA staff members Ann Barhoum, Lucy Brown, and Alison Kelly.

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