



NEWSLETTER

Number 6

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID, INC.

April - May 1970



Mrs. Margaret Pennar



Dr. Stanley Kerr



Dr. Gerald Dorman

FOUR NAMED TO ANERA BOARD

Four new members were elected to the ANERA Board of Directors at the Annual meeting of the Board last February 9th. They are **Mrs. Margaret Pennar, Dr. Stanley Kerr, Mr. Dahl Duff, and Dr. Gerald Dorman**. This brings to twenty-three, the number of persons serving on the Board. Mrs. Pennar was elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Loy Henderson. Mrs. Pennar, a resident of New York, was born in Cairo, U.A.R. where she was editor and assistant to the Public Affairs Office of the United States Information Service's Press and Publications Section. In 1950, she came to the United States to work with the voice of America's Arabic Service as a translator, writer and announcer until 1955. She has since become an American citizen.

Mrs. Pennar is now a free lance radio reporter in Arabic and English and a member of the faculty of Columbia University, where she teaches in the Department of Near East Languages and

Cultures. She has been active in volunteer Middle East relief and informational work for a number of years, serving as a Vice President of AMER. Mrs. Pennar is married and has one child.

Dr. Kerr's experience in relief work dates from 1918, when he first became associated with Near East Relief (now the Near East Foundation), with whom he worked in Marash, Turkey from 1919 to 1920, and again in 1922. He then served as the organization's Treasurer in Beirut from 1922 to 1924, and later as Director of the Boys' Orphanage at Hahr Ibrahim. He has also served as a Vice President of AMER.

From 1925 to 1964 Dr. Kerr taught at the American University of Beirut. He served as Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and retired in 1961 as Emeritus Distinguished Professor (of Biochemistry), but remained as Visiting Professor in research until 1964.

Dr. Kerr has been decorated twice by

the Government of Lebanon. He holds the Order of Merit, Republic of Lebanon and is a Chevalier Order of Cedars, Republic of Lebanon.

Dr. Kerr is married, and lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Dahl Duff brings 19 years of experience in Middle Eastern affairs to the ANERA Board. Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, he is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma in 1936, with a B.A. in History and Journalism.

He served in the army in both Europe and the Pacific in World War II.

In 1946, he became district editor of Oil & Gas Journal in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He became involved in Middle East matters in 1951 when he was appointed International Editor. Mr. Duff first toured the area extensively at that time.

In 1955, Mr. Duff joined The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and was transferred to the Middle East Advisor's

(continued on page 3, col. 2)

A BOOK REVIEW

Jerusalem: Key to Peace, by Evan M. Wilson. 217 pp. \$5.95. The Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C., 1970.

The Hon. Evan M. Wilson, former American Consul-General in Jerusalem has joined Dr. Davis, Mr. Finnie, Mr. Love, and Dr. Howard as members of the ANERA Board of Directors who have published books about the Middle East.

Mr. Wilson's experience with the Arab-Israeli problem dates from 1943 when he was appointed to the Palestine desk in the State Department. During 1946 he served as secretary to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. Subsequently he was assigned to London, the State Department Policy Planning Staff, and served a tour in Beirut before taking up the post of American Consul-General in Jerusalem in 1964.

The book is divided into eight chapters, and an extensive appendix containing many of the important documents and reports relating to the problem.

Mr. Wilson begins by reviewing his experiences in Jerusalem and describing the city as it was during the three years preceding the June 1967 War. He then moves on to discuss the people of Jerusalem both Arab and Israeli. He points out particularly the almost total lack of knowledge and understanding between the two peoples. With Consulates and friends in both the Israeli and Jordanian sections of the city, Mr. Wilson and his wife were in an excellent position to see this first-hand.

The chapter entitled "Background" is an excellent summary of the history of the formation of the State of Israel. This is followed by a chapter dealing with the United Nations' role in the problem. Mr. Wilson relates his observations of the obstacles placed in the way of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) by both Arabs and Israelis.

The events leading up to the June 1967 War, the war itself, and the consequences of the war for Jerusalem are treated in detail. The book traces the crisis as it developed between the Israelis and Jordanians, how the Israelis successfully captured the Old City, and their incorporation of the Older City into Israel.

The last parts of the book discuss the problems of the Holy Places and present the author's proposals for solving the problem of the status of the city.

In summary, *Jerusalem: Key to Peace* is a balanced account of that city's role in

(continued on page 4, col. 1)



Mrs. Milton J. Stickles, Jr., Executive Vice President of MEET presents a letter to Dr. Davis describing the items in the portable exhibit (extreme left) which MEET presented to ANERA. Also pictured (l. to r.) are Mrs. Fouad Major, Chairman of Exhibits for MEET and Mrs. Violet Asha, Chairman of Public Relations and Newsletter Committee.

MEET HELPS ANERA

One of the most active of the volunteer organizations promoting a better understanding of the Arab Middle East among Americans is Middle East Exhibitions and Training, Inc. (MEET). Recently, MEET completed a project which will be of great assistance to ANERA.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Fuad Major, MEET's Chairman of Exhibits and Vocational Training, MEET designed and built a portable exhibit of Palestinian crafts and vocational training. The ANERA staff will be able to use the exhibit to reinforce what they say in lectures and discussions about the need for vocational training.

The exhibit was presented to Dr. Davis by Mrs. Milton J. Stickley, Jr., Executive Vice President, representing MEET on Wednesday, March 25th, in a ceremony at the ANERA offices in Washington (see photo). Also representing MEET were Mrs. Major, Mrs. Violet Asha, Chairman of MEET's Public Relations and Newsletter Committee, and Mrs. Major's daughter Adibe.

The exhibit itself is largely the work of Mrs. Marcia Fakhoury, MEET's Chairman of the Craftsman Training and Registry Committee who has since moved to Chicago. It is built into an artist's case. It includes table runners made by the Arab Development Society (this vocational training center for boys is an ANERA grant recipient), needlework from Beit Jala, a fluted turquoise glass dish from Hebron, and olivewood fork and spoon set from Bethlehem, an apostle candle with twelve wicks from Jerusalem, a mother-of-pearl brooch and earclips from

Bethlehem, and a glazed ceramic tile from Jerusalem. There are also photograph cut-outs of Palestinian young people engaged in educational and vocational training.

Portable exhibits are not new to MEET. The organization maintains its own exhibits which it loans to university groups, museums and other organizations interested in Middle Eastern life and crafts. There are five exhibits available: *Arab Accents in Fashions* is an exhibit of drawings and costumes from many parts of the Arab world. *Arabian Motifs* is an exhibit of patterns of Arab designs carried out in jewelry, textile costumes and glass. *Introducing Arab Life* is designed to bring the patterns of everyday Arab life to young people. *Palestinian Crafts* is similar to the exhibit given to ANERA. *Arab Accents in Interior Design* is a collection of fabrics and other items like those found in Arab households.

MEET gathers items for its exhibits from many sources. Prime sources are tax deductible gifts, and loans of items from private collections. Items are selected which fulfill MEET's standards of design, workmanship, and reliability of source. The collecting of items from each country in the Arab Middle East is supervised by a chairman. Mrs. Orin T. Parker serves as Country Chairman Coordinator. The Exhibits Registrar is Mrs. Marshall Berg. Inquiries about availability of exhibits should be directed to Mrs. Berg at 1911 Martha's Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307.

MEET was organized in 1961 and

(continued on page 4, col. 1)

AMER

(Editor's note: The following is a short summary of the 22-year history of American Middle East Rehabilitation (AMER), which is becoming a division of ANERA. The ANERA Newsletter will carry reports of AMER activities regularly.)

American Middle East Rehabilitation, Inc. (AMER), founded in 1948 under the name of American Middle East Relief, is the oldest, non-sectarian, American voluntary agency providing help for the Palestinian refugees. From 1948 to 1963, AMER devoted itself largely to direct relief work by sending food, clothing, and blankets to the Middle East. Then, in 1963, AMER changed the "r" in AMER from "relief" to "rehabilitation" and focused its attention on providing vocational training scholarships, through UNRWA, for the Palestinian refugee youth. Through the UNRWA scholarship program, young people are trained in technical skills so that they will be able to find jobs and become productive members of society. More than 600 scholarships have been awarded in AMER's name since 1963.

Today, AMER's principal activities are to supply UNRWA with a large proportion of its annual requirement of drugs and medical supplies, to grant vocational training scholarships, and to support special projects designed to meet critical medical and health needs in the Middle East. One such project, last year, was to equip two rehydration/nutrition centers in which dehydrated and malnourished refugee children receive special medical care.

AMER has always enjoyed the trust and support of leaders of the community. Past presidents include Prof. Philip K. Hitti of Princeton, Dr. Bayard Dodge, former president of AUB, Miss Virginia C. Gildersleeve, a U.S. representative at the San Francisco convention for the establishment of the United Nations, Millar Burrows of Yale, Harold Minor, the former Ambassador to Beirut, and C.D. Mercer, a Massachusetts businessman. Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Jr., the renowned pediatrician and nutritionist, served as president from 1963 to 1968 and was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Daniel Bliss, grandson of the founder of AUB. Other posts have been filled by Karl S. Twitchell, discoverer of oil in Saudi Arabia, Mitchel E. Hadad, investor and Arab-American community leader, and Mrs. Malcolm E. Peabody of Cambridge, Mass. These dedicated people have all helped to guide AMER, and to make it a

respected organization both in the United States and the Middle East.

U.S. OMEN

U.S. OMEN, an ANERA Founding Member, is winding up another successful year of providing support for Palestinian refugees. During the current fiscal year the California based organization has already raised and distributed more than \$130,000 in cash and gifts in kind.

Founded in 1961, U.S. OMEN is dedicated to aiding the Palestinian refugees and other needy people throughout Asia and Africa. There are now U.S. OMEN chapters in Los Angeles (the original chapter), San Francisco, Torrance, and Sacramento, California.

In the year following the June 1967 War, U.S. OMEN contributed \$462,000 in cash, clothing, medical supplies and scholarships to the Palestinian refugees and other victims of the conflict.

During this year, U.S. OMEN has contributed \$30,000 in cash grants, \$50,000 in medical supplies, \$50,000 in used clothing, a complete dental clinic (\$3,000) and 82 tons of Metrecal, a food supplement. U.S. OMEN established a scholarship fund to aid Palestinian refugee students threatened with having to drop out for lack of funds in their last year of study. The program was to be started with \$2,000 capital, but a special appeal brought in \$5,000.

At their annual meeting last November, the Board of Directors of U.S. OMEN re-elected the following officers to one year terms: Mr. Elie Khoury, National President; Mr. Joseph Asfour, Vice President; Mr. Isam Qubain, Second Vice President; Mr. George Shibley, Secretary and General Counsel; Mr. Bahidj Sabouni, Treasurer.

In addition to their fund raising activities, U.S. OMEN Chapters hold monthly meetings which serve as both business meetings and as forums for speakers.

ANERA's AMER Division will be cooperating with U.S. OMEN by helping them to arrange shipping for gifts in kind from the east coast. U.S. OMEN will help AMER on the west coast.

(continued from page 1, col. 3)

Office in 1956. He is presently Advisor, Public Affairs Office, Esso Middle East. Mr. Duff is married and lives in Port Washington, New York.

The fourth new member of the ANERA Board is Dr. Gerald Dorman. Dr. Dorman is an Occupational Medicine Consultant. He is married and lives in New York City.

Arabic Cooking in America:

Compiled and edited by Yvonne Homsy, Mary Maloof, Evelyn Menconi. Illustrated by Mary Maloof. Typed by Rosemarie Berube. Reviewed by Mr. Bertram Cooper.

To the admirers of cookbooks as a literary genre as well as to the more practical practitioner of the culinary arts this book is a delight. Informal but well-organized with explicit directions for each recipe or variation, it has the additional advantage of living up to its title. With very few exceptions (misk, tahini and mahleb) everything here can be readily obtained at the American supermarket — eggplant, pine nuts, sesame, squash, lamb, cracked wheat, walnuts.

A further recommendation — the proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Musa Alami Foundation to help Musa Bey feed those who well know the tart sauce of hunger.

It may be ordered from P.O. Box 146, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

notes

ANERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRAVELS TO MIDDLE EAST

ANERA's Executive Director, Mr. John P. Richardson has left on a three-week trip to the Middle East. He will visit Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Territories during his stay.

The purpose of the trip is to assess the Palestinian refugee situation as summer approaches and to make a first-hand evaluation of the effectiveness of ANERA grants to date. Mr. Richardson will visit most of the ANERA grant recipients for this purpose. He will report his findings to ANERA Board of Directors upon returning. A report of his trip will also be carried in the next ANERA Newsletter.

LATEST ANERA GRANTS

ANERA has made fourteen new grants in the past three months totaling \$27,100. This brings the total of ANERA grants in cash and kind to \$195,166.

The largest of the new grants is \$5,000 to the World Alliance of YMCA's Youth Activities Centers in UNRWA camps on the East Bank of the Jordan. The Four Homes of Mercy was granted \$1,000 to support their work with invalids, crippled children, orphans and expectant mothers. The Four Homes are located in the Occupied Territories.

Two grants, totaling \$1,500 have been approved for Rawdat El-Zuhur, an educational project for girls in Jerusalem. These are the second and third ANERA grants to Rawdat El-Zuhur.

(continued on page 4, col. 2)

(continued from page 2, col. 2)

incorporated as a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. Its goals are: to develop and foster through exhibits and related activities a sustained interest by the American people in the cultural, artistic, and economic values of the Middle East; to assist in the revival of arts and crafts expressing the cultural heritage of the nations in the Middle East; to establish a bond of people-to-people team work between Americans and people in the Middle East.

MEET is an entirely voluntary organization, financed through membership dues and the proceeds of an annual Arab fashion show. This past fall the show was held at the Embassy of Morocco here in Washington under the honorary patronage of H.R.H. Princess Lalla Nezha. Persons interested in becoming members of MEET should write to: MEET, Inc. 1761 N, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Other officers and board members of MEET are: Mrs. Alma Kerr, President; Mrs. Kepler Lewis, Second Vice President; Mrs. Lee Dinsmore, Treasurer; Mrs. Pierre el-Ris, Chairman of the Membership Committee; Miss Eileen Donlin, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Torrey, Liaison with craft and Arab groups; Mrs. Michael Malouf, and Mrs. Esther Lawton.

We are very grateful to MEET for supplying us with the portable exhibit of Palestinian crafts. It will be put to good use.

(continued from page 2, col. 3)

the continuing Arab-Israeli crisis. It is readable, and valuable particularly for its treatment of the Israeli-Jordanian crisis. Often we seem to forget this part of the problem during discussions of the Middle East situation. It would be a mistake to forget that Jordan, and Jerusalem, will

play an important part in any overall settlement, particularly as the settlement concerns the Palestinian refugees.

The book is available from: The Middle East Institute, 1761 N Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20035.

(continued from page 3, col. 3)

A grant of \$600 was made to a highly qualified Palestinian student to cover his expenses at the American University of Beirut. The money is being administered by a trustee.

Dar el-Tifl, an educational project in Jerusalem, was granted \$1,000 for scientific and audio-visual equipment. This is the second ANERA grant to the organization.

Dar El-Awlad, another educational project in Jerusalem, was also granted \$1,000 for expanded educational facilities. This is also their second ANERA grant.

The Jerusalem Neurosurgical Unit was granted \$5,000 toward the purchase of neurosurgical x-ray equipment to help residents in the Occupied Territories, particularly on the West Bank and in Jerusalem.

The National Alliance of YMCA's in Lebanon was granted \$1,000 for an estimated 30 "camperships" for Palestinian boys this summer. It was their second ANERA grant.

The Jerusalem YMCA was granted \$4,000 to help them to maintain a high quality sports and recreation program in East Jerusalem. ANERA grants to the Jerusalem YMCA now total \$8,000.

The Greek Orthodox Charitable Society was granted \$1,000 to help them in meeting teacher salaries and paying building rent for the school.

Birzeit College in Birzeit on the West Bank was granted \$5,000 for scholarships for additional students from the Occupied Territories.

Adla Jabra, a two-year-old Palestinian girl, was granted a pledge of \$1,000 if needed for orthopedic surgery at AUB hospital.

PROJECT RYAIAT FROM AMARA

The American Arabic Association of Boston (AMARA) has announced a program of speakers and displays entitled "Project Ryaiaat (Loving Care) from AMARA." The program is interesting and informative and will be presented to groups in the New England area without charge. For further information write Miss Martha Jane Ekstrand, Project Ryaiaat from AMARA, American Arabic Association, P.O. Box 18217, Boston, Massachusetts 02118. Groups outside New England wishing information about setting up similar projects are invited to write for information.

REHABILITATION CENTER PROPOSED

ANERA board member Dr. M. Hadi Salem of Los Angeles, a prominent thoracic surgeon, has unveiled plans for a proposed Rehabilitation Center in the Middle East. The Center, to be constructed in the United Arab Republic, would provide primarily outpatient services in physical rehabilitation, including physio-therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. In addition, the Center would serve as an instruction center for technicians and para-medical personnel in the specialized field of rehabilitation. Funding, both in dollars and in Egyptian pounds, is being sought at this time. Commenting on the importance of the project, Dr. Salem commented that if completed, the Center "will represent a permanent monument of understanding and cooperation between the U.S.A. and the Arab World." A special committee has been formed in this country to explore the feasibility of going ahead with the planning of the Center.



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