

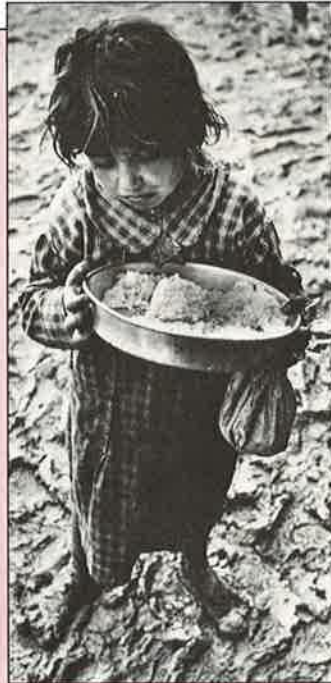
# ANERA *Newsletter*

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 93 Spring 1991

## KURDISH RELIEF

In May ANERA sent \$5,000 to **Direct Relief International** to help transport two emergency shipments of medical supplies to Kurdish refugee camps in Iran. The **Iranian Red Crescent Society**, which requested and distributed the drugs, provided relief assistance this spring to over 1.3 million Kurdish and Shiite refugees. Thank you again to all who donated.



## HUNGER IN GAZA

The situation in Gaza is desperate. For 52 days men, women and children were under 24 hour curfew. These conditions have devastated the economy and stifled the lives of Palestinians.

ANERA is working with local charities to provide post-war assistance. Gerry Shawwa', Director of the **Child Development Center of the Benevolent Society in Gaza** reports:

*"It is hard to describe how very desperate and distraught we found many families to be. Many cried when they were given money. We saw families who were unable to afford flour, cooking fuel or [food] staples. On the only day the Center could open, we were inundated by fathers and mothers begging for food and formula for their children—something which has never happened before."*

Peace must come to Gaza. Until then, you can help community-based, Palestinian organizations cope with the difficulties of poverty and military occupation through ANERA. Please use the coupon on the back to send relief assistance.

## MIDDLE EAST PEACE

### *Obstacles and Opportunities*

*"We didn't win this war to lose the peace that follows."*

—U.S. Government Official

Out of this Gulf War, if all parties make the effort, a new, more positive, more progressive Middle East is possible. But, why should the countries of the Middle East, the United Nations, and the United States, seek peace and stability in the region? What problems must be resolved in order to avoid another war and build peace for the future?

"I don't want to be coming back here in four or five years; and I don't want my son or daughter to have to do this again either," observed an American infantryman in Saudi Arabia this winter. The Middle East is too important to global economic and political stability to allow enduring problems to remain. Winning this war, while ignoring the region's problems will only sow the seeds for continued conflict.

There are three long-standing causes of unrest. The Israeli-Palestinian/Arab conflict must be equitably resolved. Middle Eastern countries must address the dramatic imbalance in the distribution of oil wealth, which causes tremendous social and political tensions between the "have" and "have-not" countries. Finally, in order for people to benefit within the economic and political systems of their countries and the region, these systems require more openness, pluralism, and accountability. Until progress is made on the first two issues, meaningful political and economic development cannot succeed.

*Continued on page 2*

# MIDDLE EAST PEACE

## *Obstacles and Opportunities*

### ***Arab/Palestinian-Israeli Conflict***

A solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict must be found. All parties, the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Israelis, and the Americans must find a way to make peace, so that the abilities, energies and wealth of these countries can be used for more constructive pursuits. The inequity and tremendous hardships of the Palestinian people living under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the lack of security of Palestinians throughout their diaspora must be relieved.

*"If ever two people could benefit from each other by working together, it is the Arabs and the Jews"*

—Fortune, May 20, 1991

Absence of peace results in numerous lost opportunities and the ability to solve other regional problems. Continued warfare does not contribute to the economic well-being of the Israeli or the Arab peoples, nor does it solve either side's legitimate need for security. The United States' long-time support of the principles in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338—land for peace—is certainly a basis for how to attain peace.

There are other compelling reasons to build peace in the Middle East. The Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict prevents economic investment and development in the region. Why would a rational investor—whether a multinational corporation or one of the wealthy oil-producing Arab states—put money into the area? If one has the choice—and one does—of building a computer factory hiring 500 workers in Nablus, Amman, Baghdad or Damascus versus Taiwan, Malaysia or Mexico, where does one choose? Given the inherent instability and recurrent wars it is unlikely that the investor would chose one of the great Arab cities.

**P**EACE IN THE  
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### ***Economic Reconstruction***

A contributing cause of the recent Gulf War was the immense differences in wealth and standards of living, primarily based on oil revenues, among Arab countries, and the resentments held by poorer countries against the wealthy. While these differences may not be defined as clearly as the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict, there are ways to begin to address the inequalities in income and opportunities. One recommendation calls for establishing a long-term fund to support regional, economic and social stability.\* That is, an economic Marshall Plan for the less developed Arab countries, created and supported by the wealthier Arab countries, with assistance from the United States. The oil-rich countries will then have both a

role in its management and stake in its success. The United States already gives more aid to the Middle East (largely Israel and Egypt) than any other part of the world; consequently, it is in our interest to effectively use this aid, and support true development projects which help change some of the long-standing causes of poverty and war.

### ***Democracy and Economic Development***

Few Middle Eastern countries have allowed much movement towards democracy. Repressive Middle Eastern regimes use the continued threats of war as one more excuse to maintain their control over their people. By addressing the Palestinian/Arab-Israeli conflict and the differences in wealth, there will be fewer obstacles to economic and political development in many Arab countries. The countries of the Middle East are already bound together by history, geography and economics. Open borders, lessened political tensions, and demilitarization will result in freer market



*Poverty, and political and economic underdevelopment: children in the Middle East face a bleak future unless these fundamental problems are resolved.*

systems. Political accessibility and an open market system will in turn offer people the tools and benefits of democracy.

For the first time citizens will perceive that they have a stake in their economy and in their country's future. As people have more opportunities to prosper, they will in turn increase their demand for greater political participation. Over time, this movement for greater political and economic access will enhance internal political stability. Citizens will seek and support legal, governmental, and private institutions and policies which contribute to their economic well-being.\*\*

### ***Building Peace***

How can the United States encourage peace and prosperity in the Middle East? While the process of reform must come from the peoples and regimes in the Middle East, there are a number of economic changes that can be supported. Aid programs can support democratic institutions that help strengthen people's participation in their own societies, and focus on the private and independent sector. One small example of using aid to encourage reform is ANERA's cooperative projects and revolving loan programs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition to providing communities with sorely needed capital, such programs encourage open membership, democratic management and decision making, and community reinvestment.

Peace in the Middle East is no more a utopian goal than was redeveloping Europe after two world wars. By

promoting open economic systems and free trade, by withholding aid to repressive regimes and by showing a tangible concern for social equality and human rights, we can assist the countries of the Middle East in building peace, stability and prosperity.

Peter Gubser, President

Paula Stinson, Vice President

\* "The Roundtable on the Gulf Crisis Statement." Amman, Jordan, January 5, 1991.

\*\* Coalition for Post-War U.S. Policy in the Middle East. *Enhancing Economic and Political Development*. March, 1991.

## *t r a n s i t i o n s*

ANERA welcomes two program associates to the Washington office this spring, and bids farewell to those leaving to work in the Middle East. AMER Director *Lisa Gilliam* is now a Refugee Affairs Officer in Jerusalem with UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency). She reports that she is excited to be roaming around the West Bank, acting as a troubleshooter and problem solver for Palestinian camp residents. *Elizabeth Tykal-Barnhart*, who with her husband recently returned from five years of field service work with the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Egypt and the Occupied Territories, replaces Lisa.

*Jonathan Bronsky*, director of ANERA's scholarship program, will be working in Jerusalem for the next year with Legacy International. One of his goals is to help Arab and Jewish teenagers and young professionals talk with and understand each other through guided workshops and forums. His replacement, *Jan Segna*, was a Peace Corps volunteer and beekeeping expert in Tunisia and recently graduated from Washington State University with a degree in marketing and advertising.

Better luck this fall to Administrative Assistant *Maggie Gran* who will resume her post-war Fulbright scholarship in Damascus, Syria, and congratulations to Administrative Assistant *Deedy Magill* for receiving her M.A. "with distinction" in Arab studies from Georgetown University.

**ANERA has received gifts...**

**In Honor of:**

Debbie Anthony ■ Professor Karl Barbir of Sienna College ■ Mrs. Linda Berry ■ the Bisharat family of Amman ■ Anderson Caswell and Robert T. Jones for Father's Day ■ Jesus Christ ■ birth of daughter Grace Elaine ■ Eid Al Fitr ■ Fadwa Haddad ■ Queen Noor al-Hussein ■ the Jones family ■ marriage of Mr. & Mrs. Victor C. Vaughen ■ all of God's children ■ ANERA donors of medical supplies ■ the children & staff at Rawdat El-Zuhur ■ Iraqi refugees ■ Palestinians of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem ■ peace ■ refugees of the Gulf War

**In Memory of:**

Josephine Zaghbe Ablan ■ Helen Barnick ■ Jarir Kheirallah Bosch ■ Dolores Corvino ■ Mrs. Ruth Darraugh ■ Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Emmert ■ Nicolas Halaby ■ Stella Hanania ■ Alma H. Hodnett ■ Jim Houghteling ■ Heinz & Else Kappes ■ Habeeb Kattouf ■ Aram Kazanjian ■ George Khoury ■ Hanna Kollo ■ George Krenikoff ■ Marie Hamad & Maher ■ Raymond Matton ■ Mrs. Eulalia Courvertier Morales ■ Salwa Mouchaber ■ Rafika Nimeh ■ Sandy Pollack ■ Edward Quade ■ Olive & Harry Snyder ■ Alice White

**Enclosed is a gift for ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon.**

\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$1000

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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- I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in Gaza. (\$100 per child)\*
- I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in Beirut. (\$100 per child)\*
- I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in East Jerusalem. (\$100 per child)\*

\*Sponsors receive a photo of the child and a letter from the school during the year.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ I want my gift to help feed hungry families in Gaza.

**Urgent**

*Edited and designed by Paula Stinson. Photos courtesy of UNRWA.*

**ANERA**

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**MIDDLE EAST PEACE**  
*Obstacles and Opportunities*

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