



American Near East Refugee Aid

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

1973 - 1974

American Near East Refugee Aid

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AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID (ANERA) is an American voluntary organization working to increase opportunities for Palestinian refugees and other needy persons in the Middle East through education, vocational training, and community development. ANERA also responds to civilian emergencies, usually the result of conflict in the area. In support of this objective ANERA provides direct financial assistance to a wide range of organizations and institutions active in the Middle East. The AMER Division of ANERA ships donated pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to UNRWA and other medical groups assisting Palestinian refugees. ANERA is in close and continuing contact with other voluntary and United Nations organizations that assist needy persons in the Middle East in order to avoid duplication and to maximize benefits.

1973-74 was the busiest year in ANERA's history. In addition to providing the types of assistance given previously to refugees, the organization gave material assistance to many thousands of Egyptians and Syrians displaced by war in October 1973. In all, ANERA's assistance to needy persons in 1973-74 was more than ten times that of the previous year. If the present peace effort in the Middle East succeeds, ANERA's focus will have to be shifted, probably more than once, to meet the changing needs of people no longer living under occupation--people attempting to re-establish themselves as useful and self-supporting citizens. This, too, is a goal to which ANERA has been committed since it came into being.

John H. Davis

*Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer*

The October 1973 Arab-Israeli war brought great change to ANERA's traditional pattern of activity. The major impact of the war on Arab civilian populations produced an ANERA commitment to do everything possible in relief and rehabilitation; a generous corporate contribution for that purpose made ANERA's role particularly significant. ANERA involvement also resulted in wider American awareness of Arab civilian suffering than the media had reported. As Middle East peace discussions continue, ANERA is deeply concerned that the Palestinian refugee issue, one of the most complex peace issues, be given the just solution which it has so long been denied.

John P. Richardson

President

PROJECT ACTIVITY

During the past fiscal year ANERA and its AMER Division provided assistance in cash and kind totaling \$2,234,000 to organizations and institutions in the Middle East. Of the sum, \$2,196,000 was in cash and \$38,000 in kind.

The bulk of the assistance was for alleviation of civilian suffering caused by the October 1973 Middle East war, although ANERA's support to Palestinian refugees continued undiminished. Over its six years of existence, ANERA has provided support in cash and kind totaling more than \$3,000,000 to projects in the Middle East.

The following activities received financial assistance from ANERA last year:



- **Association for Resurgence of Palestinian Camps** (Beirut)
- **AUB Medical Students' Society** (Beirut)
- **Beirut University College** (Beirut)
- **Bethlehem University** (West Bank)
- **Birzeit College** (West Bank)
- **College des Freres** (Jerusalem)
- **Dar El-Awlad** (Jerusalem)
- **Dar El-Tifl** (Jerusalem)
- **Egyptian Red Crescent Society** (Cairo)
- **Four Homes of Mercy** (West Bank)
- **Gaza College** (Gaza)
- **Help for Children in the Holy Land** (Jerusalem)
- **Industrial Islamic Orphanage** (Jerusalem)
- **Jebel Hussein Rehydration/Nutrition Center** (Amman)
- **Jeel El-Amal** (West Bank)
- **Lebanese Red Cross** (Beirut)
- **Maqassed Hospital** (Jerusalem)

- **Marjayoun National College** (Lebanon)
- **Nablus Blood Bank** (West Bank)
- **National Alliance of YMCA's/Lebanon** (Beirut)
- **Palestine Arab Women's Union/Gaza** (Gaza)
- **Palestine Arab Women's Union/Jerusalem** (Jerusalem)
- **Popular Committee to Aid Victims of the War** (Kuwait--for use in 1973 war zones)
- **Project Ryaiat** (West Bank)
- **Rawdat El-Zuhur** (Jerusalem)
- **SWASIA** (U.S.A.)
- **Syrian Red Crescent Society** (Damascus)
- **UNRWA**
- **UNRWA West Bank Summer Camp Project** (West Bank)
- **World Alliance of YMCA's** (East/West Bank)
- **YMCA of Jerusalem** (Jerusalem)
- **YWCA of Jerusalem** (Jerusalem)

For economic and technical reasons the AMER Division routed its pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to UNRWA, for use wherever most needed by Palestinian refugees.

October 1973 and ANERA's Response

The October 1973 Middle East war sharply escalated the need of civilians for relief and assistance as numerous Arab civilian population centers were bombed and shelled. In the absence of adequate knowledge of suffering and need, ANERA's President made a two-week survey trip to Egypt, Syria, and South Lebanon to assess the extent of casualties and to determine relief priorities. The Gulf Oil Corporation responded to ANERA's appeal with a contribution of \$2.2 million for post-war relief and rehabilitation among civilian Arab victims of the conflict. ANERA sought to get relief to needy persons as fast

as possible by grants made directly and to a private philanthropic group in Kuwait which was in a position to respond to crisis situations in the Middle East, having concentrated on such relief for a number of years.

ANERA's involvement in the aftermath of the 1973 October war represented a significant departure from previous patterns of activity, which had focused primarily on Palestinian refugees. To the extent possible, ANERA will remain alert to changing conditions and needs, while always giving appropriate emphasis to programs serving Palestinian refugees.

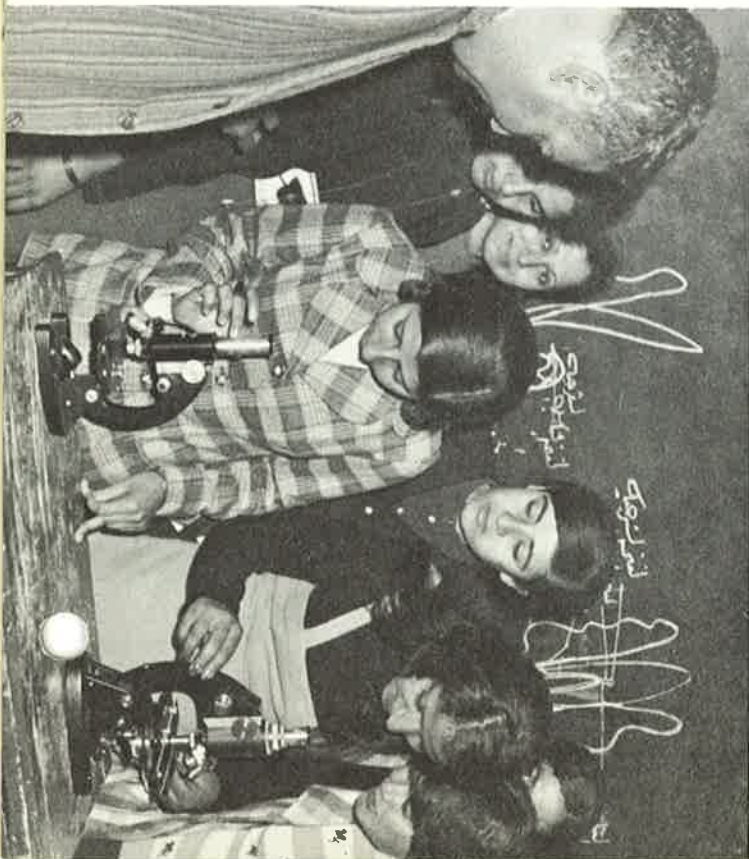
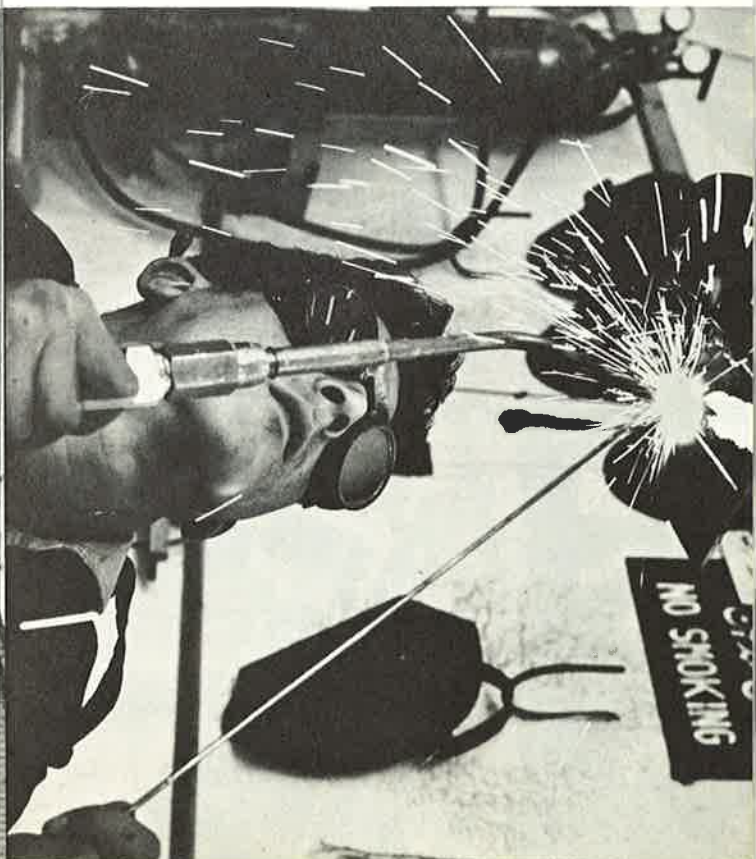


UNRWA SCHOLARSHIPS

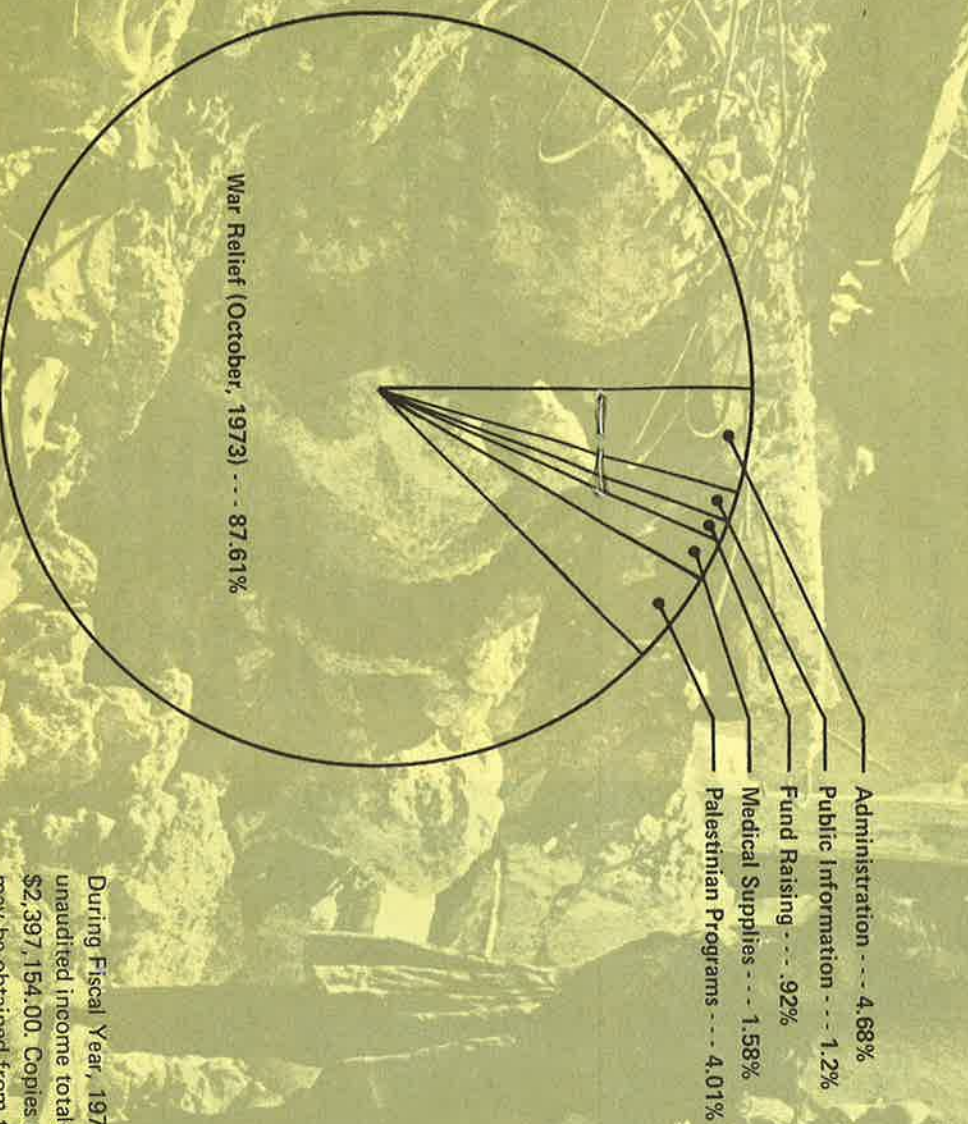
Education and vocational training are of critical importance to the Palestinian refugees. In response to this need, ANERA has established a special program in cooperation with UNRWA for ANERA donors to invest in education for the Palestinians. Sixty dollars provides a scholarship for a child to attend elementary school for one year; eight hundred dollars provides a scholarship for a refugee youth to attend a vocational or teacher training program for one year. Each individual donor receives information directly from UNRWA about the child or youth receiving the donor's scholarship. During the 1973-74 academic year, 113 donors provided 152 elementary and vocational scholarships for Palestinian refugees. The total amount donated was \$21,055.

GAZA COLLEGE

There are approximately 324,000 Palestinian refugees located in eight UNRWA camps in the Gaza Strip. Gaza College, the only private high school in the area, educates some 350 Palestinian students, refugee and non-refugee. During the past year, ANERA donations to Gaza College totaling \$5,000 provided scholarships and the start of a new science laboratory.



ANERA EXPENDITURES, 1973-74



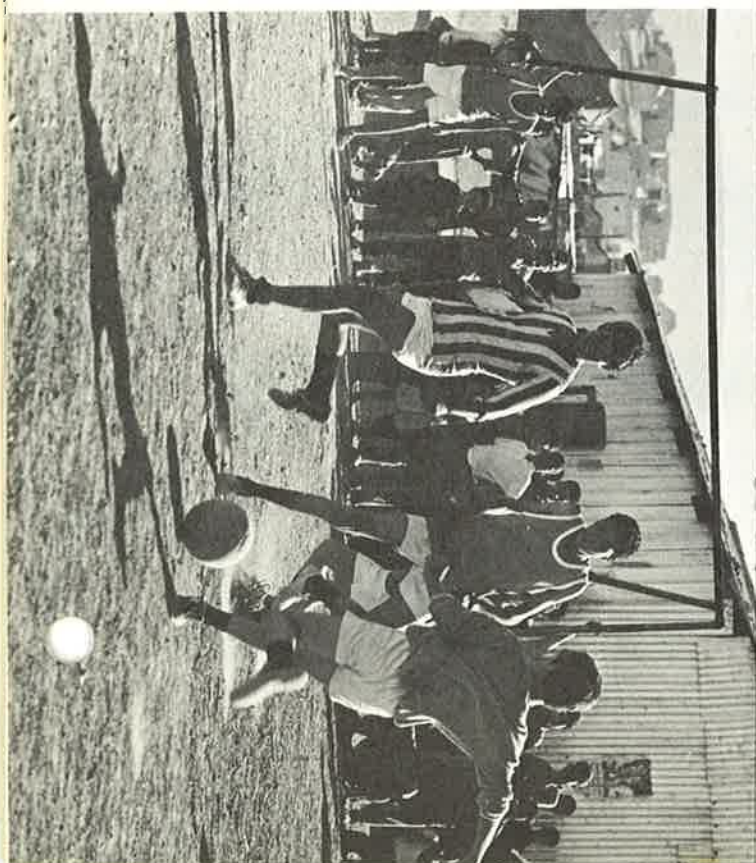
During Fiscal Year, 1973-74 (ending June 30, 1974), ANERA's unaudited income totaled \$2,544,942.02. Expenditures totaled \$2,397,154.00. Copies of ANERA's audited financial statements may be obtained from the ANERA office. All contributions to ANERA are deductible for Federal income-tax purposes.

RAWDAT EL-ZUHUR

In the grim aftermath of the war of 1948 Palestine saw countless tragedies, among them many lost, orphaned refugee children who survived by begging in the streets and sleeping in doorways and shattered buildings. Faced with this tragedy, Rawdat El-Zuhur (The House of Flowers) was established in Jerusalem in February, 1952, by Miss Elizabeth Nasir under the auspices of the International Christian Committee. The school was originally established for little girls, but recently boys have been admitted to the first and second classes. The school provides elementary education (kindergarten through sixth grade), vocational training in home economics, and lessons in music, folklore dancing, and dramatics. School uniforms and lunches are also provided for the approximately 200 children at Rawdat El-Zuhur. In 1973-74, ANERA provided a grant of \$2,500 for the school.

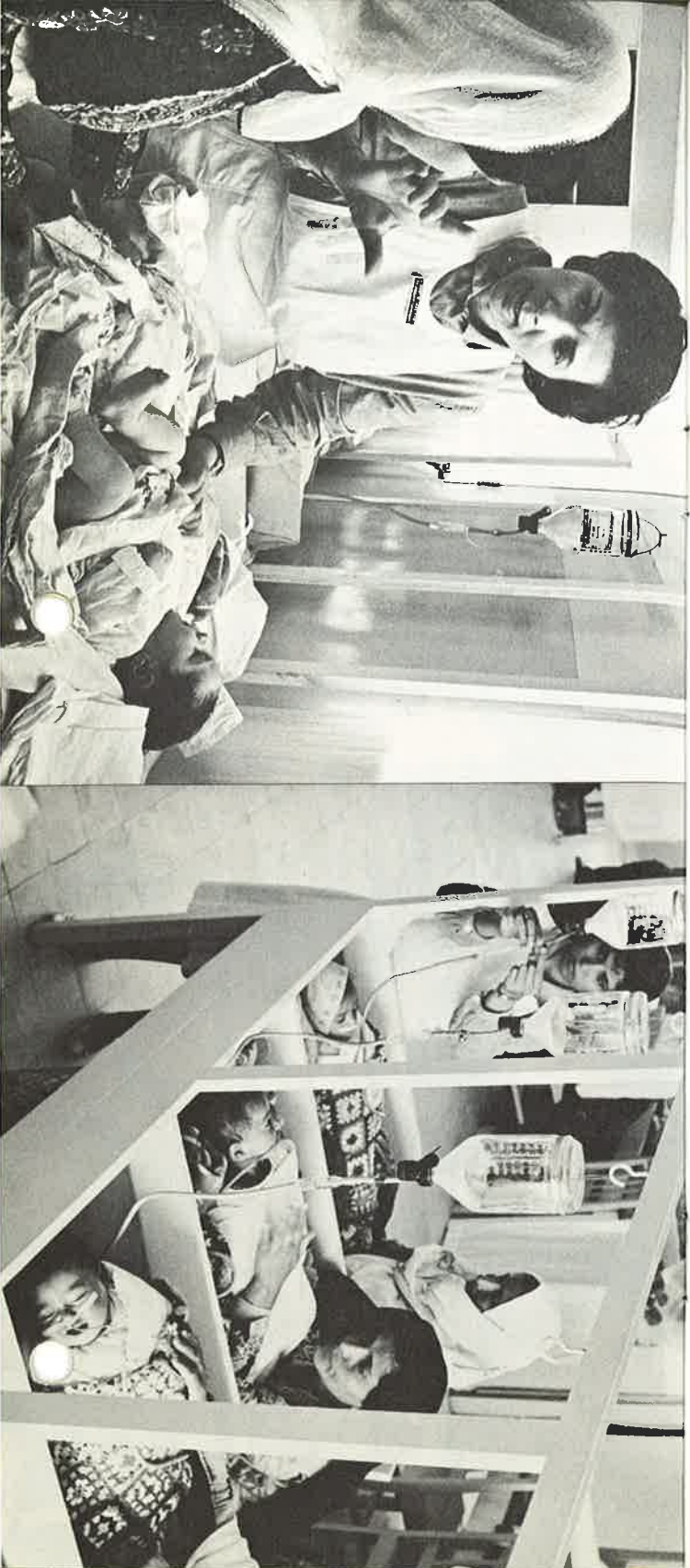
YMCA/EAST JERUSALEM

The YMCA of East Jerusalem provides a wide variety of programs and services for Palestinian refugees and others in the Occupied Territory of the West Bank. Major activities are sports and social services programs for boys and girls, young men and women. For example, in September, 1973, an event which provided entertainment and important cross-cultural contacts was a soccer match with a team from Western Illinois; the teams played in Jerusalem, Nablus, and Bethlehem. At its branch in Jericho, the YMCA maintains an elementary school for Palestinian boys living in refugee camps in the area. For young men and women living in these same camps, the YMCA has established a vocational school which offers training in blacksmithing, carpentry, upholstery, painting and spraying, central heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration, as well as training for receptionists, waiters, and cooks. At its branch in Bethlehem, the Jones' Boys Camp and a Hotel are supervised by the YMCA. ANERA donated \$5,000 for the work of the East Jerusalem YMCA last year.



REHYDRATION/NUTRITION CENTER

A constant medical threat to Palestinian refugee infants is gastro-enteritis, which results in dehydration and often leads to death. In rehydration/nutrition centers, specialized treatment is administered daily to sick infants, and mothers are advised on home treatment. The Jebel Hussein Rehydration/Nutrition Unit, established with an AMER grant, serves Palestinian refugee and displaced persons living in the Jebel Hussein UNRWA Camp near Amman, Jordan. During 1973 at the Jebel Hussein Center, 64 infants were admitted for gastro-enteric disorders and malnutrition--all responded to treatment and survived. In 1973-74, ANERA provided a grant of \$3,300 for the Center.



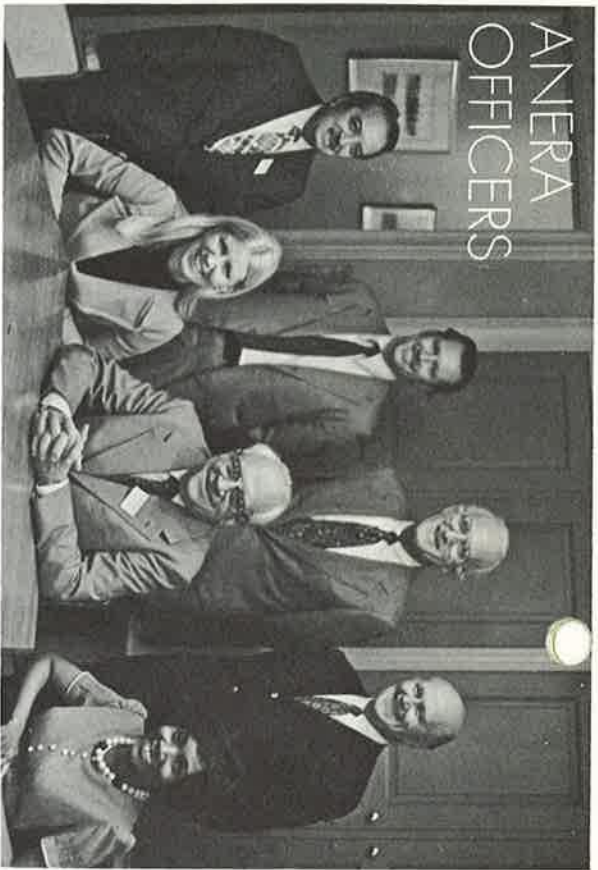
INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During 1973-74 ANERA re-directed informational activities concerning the Palestinian refugee situation. The bi-monthly *Newsletter* has now grown in circulation to more than 17,000 readers. The most exciting initiative of the year was the decision to develop a series of public-service radio announcements to be sent to 2,000 important radio stations across the country, telling the story of the refugees and ANERA through recorded messages by four distinguished Americans: U.S. Senators Mark Hatfield and James Abourezk, Ambassador Charles Yost, and Dr. John H. Davis. The series is to be aired during the summer and in the early fall of 1974.

During the past 12 months ANERA's direct-mail fundraising program reached 131,000 Americans with appeals for assistance and a description of the refugee plight, bringing the six-year total mailing to 2,000,000. This program has been ANERA's longest-term and most broadly-based means of obtaining public support and informing Americans about the refugee issue.

ANERA Directors and Officers continued individual efforts to interpret the Palestinian refugee issue to concerned Americans.





(Standing left to right) Nestor C. Ortiz, John P. Richardson, Bertram C. Cooper, Laurence V. Michelmore; (Seated left to right) Sara C. Gentry, John H. Davis, Joyce M. Stewart.

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