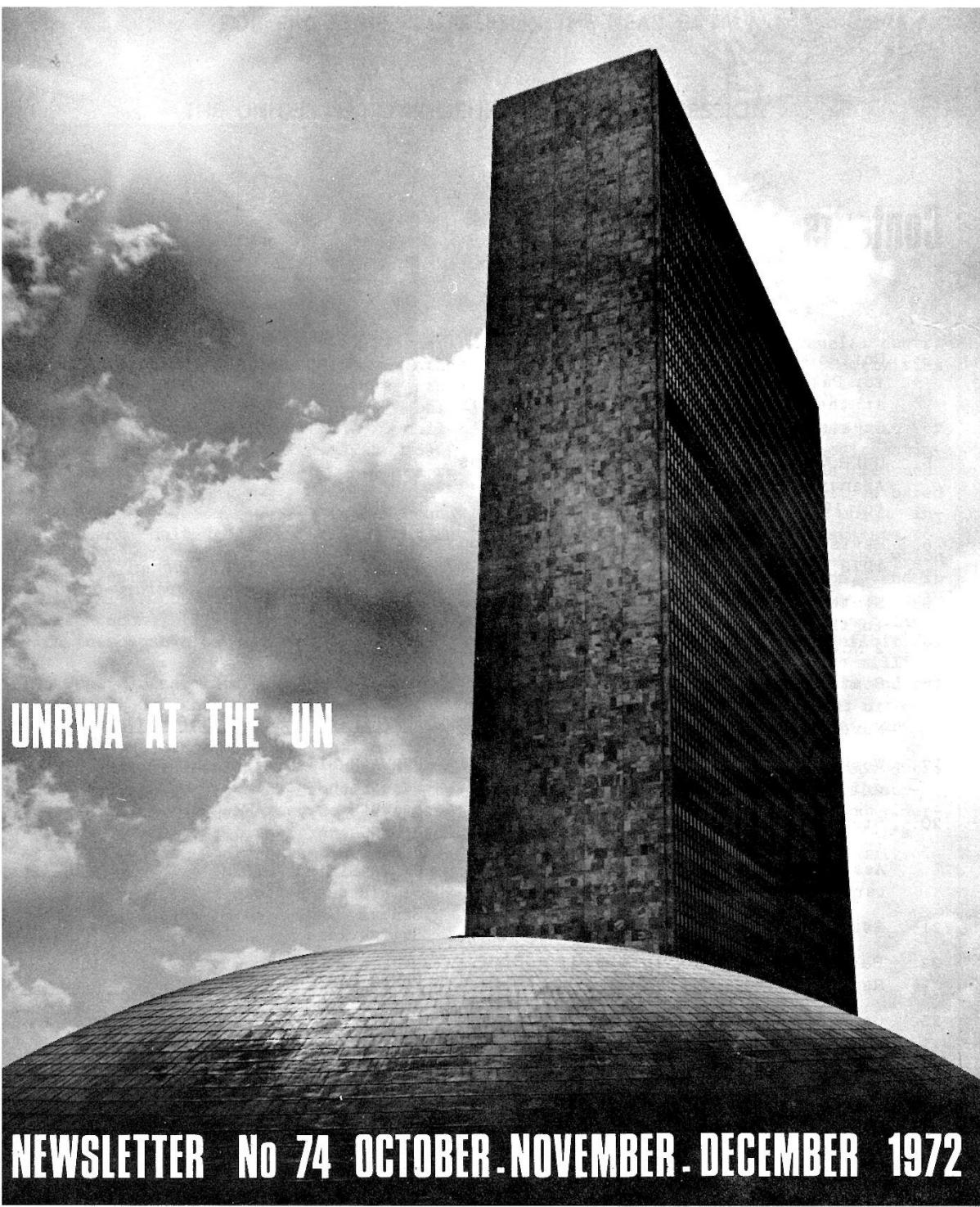


PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

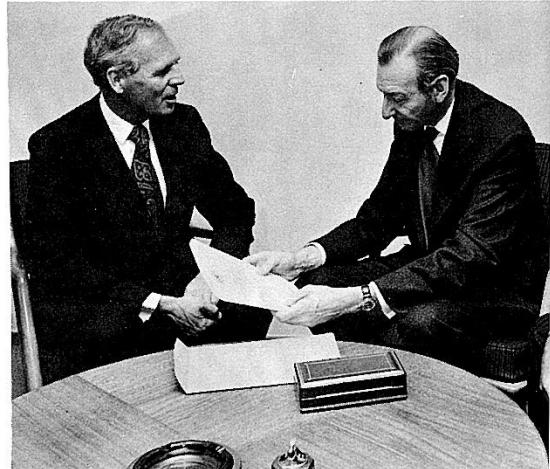




UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

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Sir John Rennie, UNRWA's Commissioner-General presents a copy of his Annual Report for 1972 to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations (see page 5).

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

UNRWA Public Information Office
Museitbeh Quarter
Beirut
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Palais des Nations
Geneva
Switzerland

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United Nations
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U.S.A.

THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST
AT
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

* * *

The Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the twelve months ending 30 June 1972, submitted to the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, referred to the continued failure to implement resolution 194 (III) * calling for the return of the refugees to their homes and the payment of compensation to those choosing not to return, and subsequent United Nations resolutions on the refugee question. The Report also drew attention to the Agency's precarious financial situation and the need to increase income still further to keep pace with inescapable expenditure.

The General Assembly also had before it the report of the nine-nation Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, which stressed the need for additional efforts to obtain contributions from governmental and other sources so as to ensure the continuation of UNRWA services for the Palestine refugees at their present level. At the "Pledging Conference" in November,

50 governments announced financial contributions in support of the 1973 activities of the Agency.

As a result of the generous response of contributors in 1972 the Agency's estimated deficit for the year was reduced to \$0.4 million. This deficit is based on provision for expenditure which includes the annual amount of payments to Governments for certain services which the Agency's financial situation, and in particular the reduced working capital and low level of liquidity, has obliged it to withhold. The estimated deficit for 1973, on the same basis, is \$1.4 million, but continued rising costs within and outside the area of operations may increase the deficit in the course of the year.

This issue of the Newsletter reproduces various texts and the Commissioner-General's statement relating to consideration of the Commissioner-General's Annual Report by the General Assembly.

* Adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 1948.



A refugee for 24 years, what does the future hold for her?

Financial crisis continues

Although the Agency's mandate had been extended for three years (from 1 July 1972 to 30 June 1975) by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, there had been no assurance of the financial support required to maintain the programmes to be carried out under this mandate.

The deficit for 1971 was reduced to \$0.7 million but at the beginning of 1972 the estimated deficit for the year was about \$4.7 million. At the request of the Working Group on UNRWA Financing established by the United Nations General Assembly and the UNRWA Advisory Commission, the Secretary-General made an appeal in March, the Chairman of the Working Group visited a number of Arab capitals in April, and the Agency had further discussions with contributors, notably the European Economic Community and, with UNDP and Unesco. By the end of June 1972 the estimated deficit had been reduced to \$1.8 million.

The cash forecast for the end of the financial year on 31 December 1972 showed, however, that cash in hand -- at less than \$1.4 million -- would be less than one month's cash expenditure.

The estimates for 1973 showed total expenditure of \$52.8 million, which on the basis of 1972 income, would produce a deficit of \$3.6 million. The Commissioner-General points out that this is more than the Agency's working capital can support and that the full effects of current inflation have not yet been absorbed. If the Agency's services are to be maintained in full, in accordance with the desire of the UNRWA Advisory Commission and the General Assembly, income must be increased still further to keep pace with inescapable expenditure.

Education and Training

The UNRWA/Unesco education programme operated smoothly by comparison with previous years, adds the report. Enrolment rose to 245,078 in UNRWA/Unesco schools, there were 3,592 students in UNRWA/Unesco training centres, and the total teaching staff approached 7,500.

A modest programme of school building continued, financed by special contributions. The Amman Training Centre was opened in December with 700 places for men and women. An extension of the Kalandia Vocational Training Centre (near Jerusalem) was put in hand and expansion of the Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre (near Amman) undertaken in 1969 brought an increase of 116 places in 1971-72 over the previous year.

A notable development in the work of the Institute of Education was closer cooperation with Ministries of Education in the region, a number of which are now interested in making use of the Institute's experience in in-service training.

Health

The Agency maintained its comprehensive health care programme and continued to provide curative and preventive medical services, nursing care, environmental sanitation and nutritional support for eligible refugees, the report says.

Improvement in health facilities included construction of a new health centre in Syria and preparation of plans for construction of one new health centre in east Jordan and two in Gaza; the extension of one centre in the West Bank of Jordan and the construction of a rheumatic diseases clinic in Gaza.

Operating problems

The Agency continued to operate under difficulties that were the consequence of the events of 1967 and the political environment fostered by perpetuation of the status quo post-June 1967.

In Lebanon, an Israel air-attack on 27 February destroyed some of the Agency's installations and shelters in Nabatieh camp: two adult refugees were killed and a number injured. The Agency pursued its representations to the Government over the illegal occupation of some buildings by Palestinian organizations and at the end of the year was assured that effect would be given to an agreement to evacuate them.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, tents in emergency camps continued to be replaced by concrete block shelters and by 30 June 490 had been constructed.

In Jordan, Agency operations were undisturbed except for a few days in July 1971 during security operations by the Jordanian army against Palestinian fedayeen in the Jerash area. A dock strike in the United States caused delay in the delivery of flour and the closure in July of the frontier between Jordan and Syria interrupted delivery of Agency supplies. Nevertheless, distribution of rations was maintained, although stocks were reduced to critical levels.

Although there was again some movement of refugees from the uplands to the Jordan Valley, the numbers involved seemed unlikely to have serious financial implications for the Agency until progress had been made with plans for economic development.

In the occupied West Bank of Jordan, Agency services were maintained despite rising prices which affected locally purchased supplies and building works. The continued rise in the cost of living in the West Bank had led to further representations, now under examination, from Agency staff for an increase in cost of living allowances.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, operations by the Israeli army included the destruction at short notice of 7,729 rooms and the displacement of 15,855 persons during July and August 1971. These operations were the subject of a special report by the Commissioner-General transmitted by the Secretary-General to the members of the General Assembly on 17 September 1971, with a supplement on 23 November.

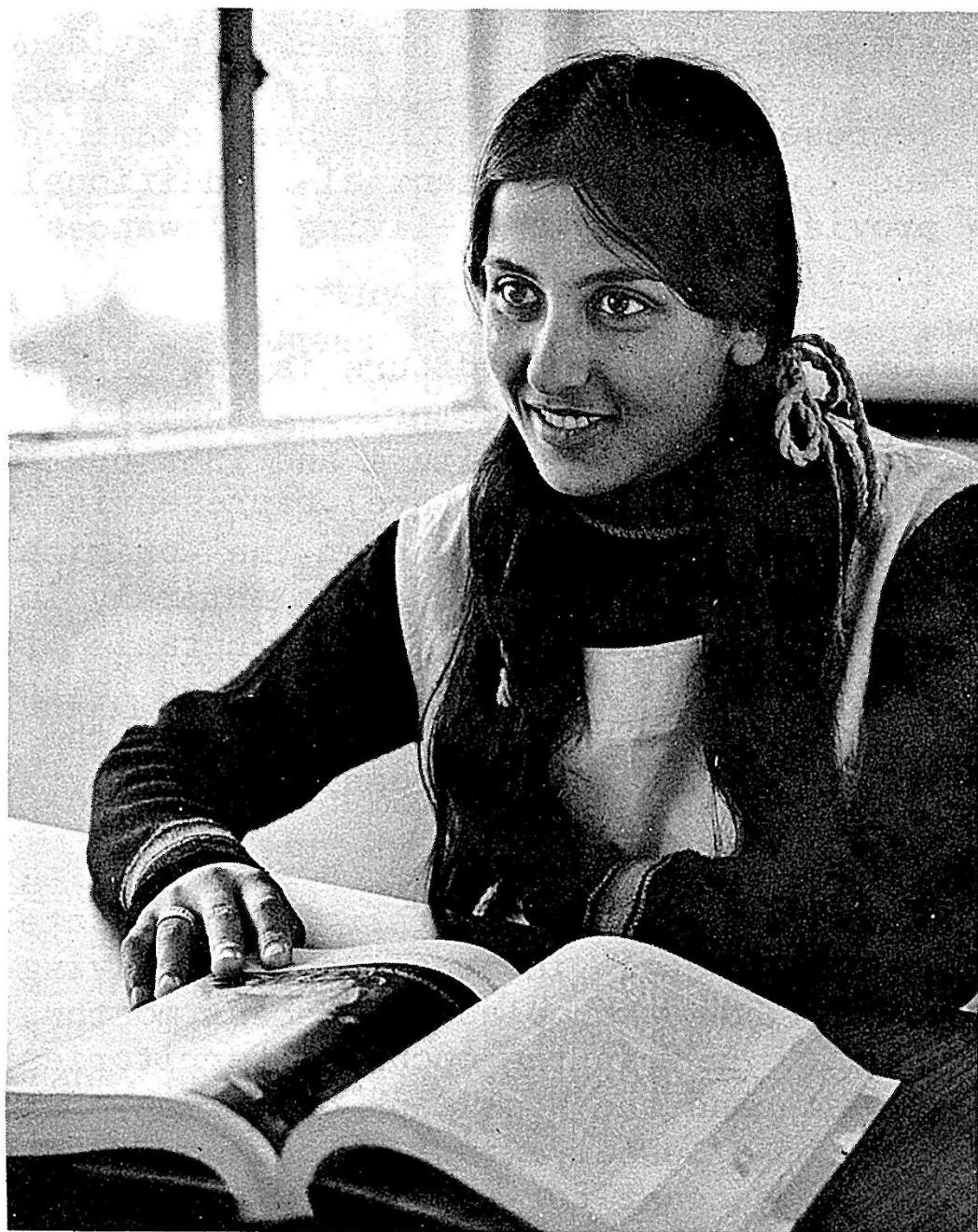
In resolution 2792 C (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 the General Assembly called upon Israel to desist from further destruction of refugee shelters and from further removal of refugees from their present places of residence and to take immediate and effective steps for the return of the refugees concerned to

the camps from which they were removed and to provide adequate shelters for their accommodation. A detailed survey by the Agency begun in February and completed in May found over 900 families still living in unsatisfactory conditions.

In conclusion, the Commissioner-General reviewed the Agency's operating and financial problems during the three year extension of its mandate that ended on 30 June 1972 and pointed out that, unless a just solution to the Palestine refugee problem emerged within the next few months, it was important that some effective means of maintaining the improvement in income should be devised and the Agency's senior staff enabled to devote more attention to their primary task of directing and supervising the Agency's operations.



Training to be a teacher at the UNRWA Women's Training Centre, Ramallah, near Jerusalem. Some 500 teachers graduate from UNRWA pre-service teacher training courses every year.



Training to be a teacher at the UNRWA Women's Training Centre, Ramallah, near Jerusalem. Some 500 teachers graduate from UNRWA pre-service teacher training courses every year.

REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1972 AND 1973

"The Agency's budget estimates for 1973 and adjusted budget estimates for 1972 were published in the Commissioner-General's report for the period 1 July 1971-30 June 1972 (document A/8713). Material increases in operating costs have either since taken place or are now expected to take place, and it is therefore necessary to revise the adjusted budget for 1972 and the estimated budget for 1973. In this connexion the Commissioner-General would invite attention to paragraphs 207 and 247 of his report for 1971/72, where he said that the budget estimate for 1973 contained no provision for increased cost-of-living allowances for the Agency's 14,700 local staff members, but that representations had been made by staff and were supported by prima-facie evidence of a rise in the cost of living. These representations have since been examined and warrant substantial additional provision for cost-of-living allowances in 1973 and in 1972.

For 1973, total expenditure is now estimated at \$54,466,000 (comprising \$53,611,000 for recurrent expenditure and \$855,000 for non-recurrent expenditure), representing an increase of \$1,656,000 over the original estimates. The increase is entirely in recurrent costs and is attributable to the following factors, all related to the inflationary pressures to which the Agency's budget is increasingly subject.

(A) Adjustments in the cost of living allowances for local staff to compensate for increases in the cost of living which have taken place in recent months, particularly in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank of Jordan but also to a lesser extent in Lebanon and Syria, account for \$1,437,000. This amount applies to some 10,000 Agency staff members, so that the increase per staff member is modest.

(B) A number of other cost increases account for the balance, \$219,000. They include higher hospital rates, post-adjustments for international staff and higher cost of maintenance of Agency installations.

The increase over the adjusted figure for 1972 is about \$3 million or 6 per cent.

For 1972, total expenditure is now estimated at \$51,458,000 (comprising \$50,841,000 for recurrent expenditure and \$617,000 for non-recurrent expenditure), representing an increase of \$398,000 over the original adjusted estimates for 1972, resulting from an increase of \$501,000 in recurrent costs partly offset by a decrease of \$103,000 in non-recurrent costs.

The increase of \$501,000 in recurrent costs in 1972 is mainly due to the provision of \$544,000 to cover adjustments in 1972 in the cost-of-living allowances for local staff referred to in paragraph (A) above. In addition, the donor's valuation of a contribution in kind has involved a nominal increase of \$114,000 in expenditure, matched by a corresponding increase in income. The increase is also offset by estimated savings of some \$152,000 as a result of delay in filling some international and local staff posts.

The expected decrease of \$103,000 in non-recurrent costs in 1972 is due to the elimination from the budget of provision for certain capital improvements for which it now appears no contributions will be available."

(Extracts from document A/SPC/155 submitted by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA to the United Nations General Assembly).

STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON 2 NOVEMBER

.....

If you permit, I shall provide some further information to bring the report up to date in certain respects. I should like also to make some comments which I hope may be of assistance to distinguished delegates in appreciating the role and activities of the Agency and problems it faces.

As may be seen from Table 7 of the report, there are over one million and a half Palestine refugees registered with the Agency. I should add, however, that many Palestine refugees never registered with the Agency but provided for themselves from their own resources or with the help of others.

Only about 40% of the refugees live in camps, and in this connection I invite the attention of distinguished delegates to paragraph 4 of the report and to the footnote on page 15 to the section in Chapter I on camps and shelters which deals with the Agency's relationship to these camps. Ten of the camps, six in east Jordan and four in Syria, were established in 1967 to shelter refugees (and, in Jordan, some of the other displaced persons) who left the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Quneitra area of Syria.

As Table 7 shows, these emergency camps contain displaced persons who are not UNRWA-registered refugees, though their number represents only a small proportion of the total number of displaced persons.

Under a resolution of the General Assembly which has been repeated each year since 1967 UNRWA is requested to give humanitarian assistance to the extent possible to the displaced persons. Unfortunately, because UNRWA's resources are strained by its programmes for registered refugees, its assistance under this resolution has been limited to making its facilities for the distribution of food-stuffs available to the Government of Jordan, where more than half of the displaced persons now reside, and to meeting a small part of the cost of distribution. Otherwise the responsibility for them, a heavy one, rests with the Governments of Jordan and Syria.

It is noteworthy that more than 200,000 of the refugees for whom UNRWA provides services in east Jordan and Syria, that is to say many more than are in the emergency camps, have now entered their sixth year of displacement from the areas to which they fled in 1948 from what became Israel and that they are still unable to return to these areas for residence. I should perhaps explain that of the figure of 40,000 quoted in paragraph 2 of my report for the number of refugees and other displaced persons who have returned since 1967 under "family reunion" or other schemes, displaced refugees number only about three thousand, they include only those who formerly resided on the West Bank, and their return has been to the West Bank and not to Israel.

Less than 850,000 refugees out of the 1,500,000 registered receive full rations from the Agency; and I must at once say



Under the supplementary feeding programme a hot meal is provided six days a week for up to 60,000 beneficiaries, mostly infants and pre-school children. This is a precautionary measure designed to prevent malnutrition in young children.

that a "full ration" in this sense is not an adequate daily diet, consisting as it does of about 1,500 calories in summer and 1,600 calories in winter, made up of flour, sugar, rice and cooking oil with no animal protein. The number of those in vulnerable categories who receive a dietary supplement - children, pregnant and nursing mothers, some medical cases - is strictly limited: details are given in Table 5.

UNRWA employs about 14,000 persons, all but about 100 of them Palestine refugees. They include about 7,500 teachers, instructors and other educationalists, over 100 doctors and dental surgeons, over 500 nurses and many other trained health workers. The bulk of the remainder, apart from administrative, clerical and accounting staff, are manual workers employed in camp sanitation and the distribution of rations and other foodstuffs. The health programme, conducted through more than

100 clinics, concentrates on preventive medicine, with special attention to maternal and child welfare. It is run in co-operation with WHO, who supply the small international Headquarters staff and are responsible for professional advice. The education programme, run in co-operation with Unesco, instructs more than 250,000 children in about 500 schools and eight training centres and has been described by the Director-General of Unesco as the biggest educational undertaking conducted under international auspices.

I fear I have imposed on the patience of distinguished delegates by repeating these facts but this committee should be fully aware of the scale of UNRWA's operations and therefore the importance of ensuring that they are maintained so long as the present state of affairs persists in the region, that is to say so long as there is no just and lasting settlement of the Palestine refugee problem.

When I addressed the General Assembly last year, after the Pledging Conference, I was very apprehensive that UNRWA's programme could not be maintained in their entirety in 1972. On the best estimate that could then be made, based on the expected cost of the programmes in 1972 and, for want of any better information, assuming receipt of regular income at the 1971 level, the Agency faced a deficit of about \$5 million. I subsequently felt obliged to warn the Working Group and the host Governments that some reduction in services could not be deferred much longer.

When the Secretary-General made his appeal for funds in March, the deficit was estimated at \$4.5 million. There was a generous response, with the result that at 30 June 1972, the end of the reporting period, the deficit had fallen to \$1.8 million. It has since been necessary to increase expenditure on local staff remuneration, because of sharp increases in the cost of living, but the increase has been more than offset by savings on other items, by agreement on the use of some special contribution for recurrent expenses, and by confirmation of some additional contributions. I now estimate the deficit at about \$1.4 million. This figure takes into account the payments to governments for certain services referred to in paragraph 200 of the report, about which I shall have something to say later.

There has thus been a remarkable improvement and I should like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Agency and the Palestine refugees, to the donors who have made it possible. I should like also to express my warm appreciation of the impetus the Working Group on UNRWA Finance has given to fund-raising through approaches made by its Chairman and jointly by its members.

I naturally speak with feelings of gratitude and of relief that cuts in the services to refugees have been avoided in 1972, but I do so with some misgiving; for I fear lest I create the impression that all is now well with UNRWA's finances, that the future of its programmes is assured and that efforts can now be re-



Basic monthly rations distributed by UNRWA consist of quantities of flour, sugar, pulses, rice and edible oil, providing about 1,500 calories a day. In lieu of pulses, the approximate calorific value in flour or rice may be issued.

laxed. It would be a grave mistake to think so, and I am very glad the Working Group has described the achievement as a "cause for satisfaction, but not for complacency or relaxation".

Like most, if not all, governments and international organizations UNRWA must contend with inflation, which is raging in parts of its area of operations, and over which it has no control. It is only by the most stringent economy that the rate of increase in expenditure has been kept so low. The figures for the Agency's "common costs" contained in the footnote on page 14 of the Working Group's latest report (Document A/8849) bear testimony to the effort the Agency has made to contain costs. I should emphasize in this

connection that these "common costs" are not simply administrative costs; a high proportion of them, nearly half, is made up of "programme" costs directly related to the physical transport and distribution of foodstuffs and other supplies.

As an Addendum to the Annual Report a summary of the adjustments it has been necessary to make to the 1972 budget and the budget estimate for 1973 has been distributed to distinguished delegates. The new figure for 1973 represents a substantial increase - about \$1.6 million - over the figure given in the Annual Report. This amount is almost entirely accounted for by increases in the local staff salary bill which it has been necessary to grant since 30 June 1972, or which are foreseen, and for which provision must be made in 1973 for a full year.

As I have mentioned earlier, UNRWA employs about 14,000 local, almost entirely Palestinian, staff, and I have explained on what they are employed. Most of the cost of any education system is made up of staff salaries and this is the case with the UNRWA/Unesco system. It is not surprising therefore that UNRWA has a local staff salary bill of about \$23 million out of a total expenditure in 1972 of \$51 million, using adjusted figures in both cases. These employees are paid at local rates comparable to those paid by local governments to their staff with similar qualifications in similar positions and not at United Nations international rates. It has been the Agency's policy to increase the remuneration of local staff by means of cost of living allowances, taking as a guide, wherever possible, similar action by the local governments. For various reasons this guidance has not always been available, and in some places salary adjustment has lagged behind rises in the cost of living. In the occupied territories especially, where the rise has been steep, there has been, and continues to be, acute dissatisfaction on the part of the Agency's local staff with the level of increase so far granted, and I hope to make arrangements for a more thorough review of the change in the cost of living between 1967 and the present.

If I may I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record before the Committee my appreciation and high regard for the services the local staff of UNRWA have rendered to the United Nations and to their fellow refugees. Many of them occupy positions of managerial and professional responsibility: they have been the backbone of the Agency without which it would have crumpled in the stress of emergency. Their morale and integrity are of great importance for the efficiency of the Agency and it has been a matter of regret to me that I have often had to turn down requests for improvements in their conditions of service. It would not be just - it would not even be expedient - to refuse to compensate them adequately for increases in the cost of living on the grounds that the Agency has financial difficulties.

It is essential therefore in my view that the expenditure budget for 1973 should be adjusted as I have indicated. It will then exceed the revised estimate for 1972 by about \$3 million, an increase comparable to the increase between 1971 and 1972. In percentage terms the figure will be 6%, a modest rate of increase in the light of the prevalent rate of inflation - and one that would present no great difficulty for the Agency if contributing governments would agree to adjust their contributions to take account of changes in the value of money.

Assuming expenditure of \$54 million in 1973 and assuming income at the level now expected in 1972 - about \$50 million - the Agency will face a deficit of about \$4.4 million.

This expenditure figure includes, as in previous years, provision of \$1.4 million for payments to governments for certain services. The position in regard to these payments is described in paragraphs 199 and 200 of my Annual Report for the year 1970-71 and, as distinguished delegates are aware, the Agency's financial difficulties have compelled it to withhold them in recent years in preference to reducing services provided directly by the Agency to the refugees. Although it



Learning about the world outside in an UNRWA/Unesco school.

was necessary to discontinue these payments, and in some cases necessary to take steps to terminate any legal obligation in respect of them, it has always been my hope that the outlook would improve, and the amounts have accordingly been included in the Agency's liability and expenditure figures. The result is that this item in the accounts shows a growing liability which by the end of this financial year will have reached the disturbing amount of approximately \$5.2 million.

I regret to have to say that the Agency's financial position is such as to compel me to acknowledge that there is no likelihood now that payments withheld can be paid in respect of the past. The time has come when, in my judgment, the Agency's accounts should reflect the situation regarding them more realistically. The Board of Auditors has already drawn attention to the matter, and in its report on the Agency's accounts for 1970, referring specifically to the education and

health payments in respect of the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip, the Board recommended that, in the absence of a legal basis for payment of these sums, serious consideration should be given to the withdrawal of the liability from the statement of assets and liabilities, by recreditting the amount to the Agency's working capital account.

I accept this recommendation, and I have decided to clarify the Agency's accounts by omitting all the payments in question from the statement of liabilities. The statement of the working capital will be increased accordingly. This action, being merely an adjustment of the Agency's accounts, will in no way prejudice any claim which the governments concerned may wish to maintain. There will be no practical effect on the Agency's day-to-day finances, as the increase in the working capital will not add to the Agency's cash resources.

I have been speaking, of course, only of

the amounts which have been shown as Agency liabilities accumulating over past years. It may be that in forthcoming years funds will be raised sufficient to enable the Agency to resume these payments, at least in part. Accordingly, I intend to continue to make some provision for them in each annual budget. I should like to bring to the notice of distinguished delegates that these payments were for present services which are still being provided to the refugees by governments, some of whom are already bearing a heavy burden of cost as a result of the provision of other services to refugees over and above the services provided by UNRWA and also of the provision of services to displaced persons. This aspect of the matter will, I hope, be taken into account when governments consider their contributions to the Agency. May I take this opportunity of informing the Committee, that the Pledging Conference has been scheduled for Monday, 27 November?

To turn to the Agency's operating problems, the situation in some of the camps in Lebanon has been a cause of concern to the Agency and I have maintained close contact with the Government authorities at a high level. I have been assured that it is still the intention to take the action requested in my presentations in regard to the occupation of Agency property and that the buildings concerned will be evacuated at an early date.

In regard to the formalities required by the Syrian authorities for travel of international staff, referred to in paragraphs 11 and 169 of the report, agreement on arrangements acceptable to the Agency has now been reached. I am concerned, however, about the delay in a decision on sites for the construction of the balance of the shelters required to replace tents in the emergency camps accommodating refugees from the Quneitra area.

I regret to say that there has been no progress in the Gaza Strip in regard to the rehousing of the refugees whose houses were demolished in July and August 1971 and who are living in very unsatisfactory conditions, as the Secretary-General has

reported in Document A/8814 of 15 September 1972. I have so far been unable to obtain from the Israeli authorities any information about plans for the construction of housing for these refugees and no housing has so far been constructed for them. On the other hand, as payment of compensation to the Agency for Agency-built shelters has been refused, the Agency has had no funds with which to undertake construction itself. The Agency has an obligation under its mandate to provide shelter for refugees in need, and, in the continued absence of action by others, I believe the Agency must try to find the funds, making a special appeal for the purpose if necessary. The amount claimed by the Agency from the Government of Israel was \$417,000. A lesser sum would be sufficient to deal with the most urgent cases.

In view of references to services to refugees in the Gaza Strip that have been made in press reports arising out of the dismissal of the Mayor of Gaza, I think I ought to clarify the Agency's position in this respect. The Agency continues to provide its normal services to refugees, in and out of camps, in the Gaza Strip and none of these services has been taken over by a Municipal Council or other authority. I have noted that in a public statement on the dismissal of the Mayor the Military Governor stated that there had been no mention of encroachment on the Agency's authority or impairment of its status. In view of the recent press reports, however, the Field Director has asked the Israeli authorities for further information on what is intended in regard to Council activities in camps.

I should here explain that the mere inclusion of a camp in a municipal area is of itself of no special significance in relation to the Agency's mandate: in each of the Agency's countries of operation there are camps that lie within a municipal boundary, and municipalities have in several cases provided services additional to those provided by the Agency or have co-operated with the Agency in the improvement of a service, for example, the provision of individual water connections or electricity or the extension of a sew-

erage system. On the other hand, if a municipality were to propose to assume responsibility for a service provided by the Agency under its mandate, the Agency would expect to be consulted beforehand and the question would arise for the Agency whether what was proposed was compatible with the Agency's mandate. In this connection the crucial point for the Agency might be the degree of Agency control over the service, that is to say whether the municipality would be acting as the Agency's agent under an agreement with a view to performance of the service more beneficially for the refugees or more economically and effectively without detriment to them. This issue has not arisen so far, however, and it does not therefore seem necessary for me to say more here, except that if it did arise, I should certainly consult the Secretary-General before agreeing to any proposal that might have implications for the Agency's mandate.

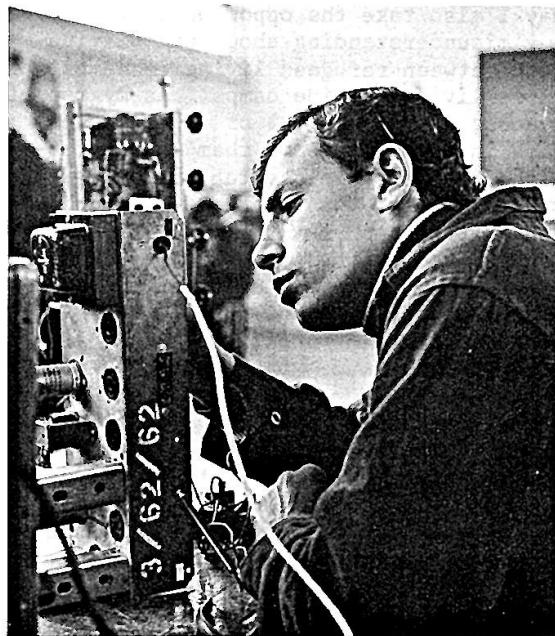
In its latest report (A/3849), the Working Group on UNRWA's Financing has assumed, in paragraph 44, that "as long as a just and lasting settlement of the problem of Palestine refugees has not been achieved, UNRWA's services... must be maintained at least at their present minimal level." The Agency's mandate had already been extended for this purpose until 30 June 1975. I have already explained, in confirmation of what the Working Group has said, that because a breakdown has been averted this year, the Agency's financial crisis must not be regarded as over, and this Committee will be provided with revised budget figures which show that a further increase in income is essential in 1973, bearing in mind inflationary pressures.

When I had the privilege of addressing this Committee last year, I said that the General Assembly had never laid upon the Commissioner-General the responsibility for raising the funds required to carry out the Agency's programmes; and in the concluding paragraph of the Introduction to my Annual Report I have felt obliged to sound a warning that preoccupation with the financial crisis and fund-raising was distracting the Agency's

senior staff from their primary task of directing and supervising programmes.

There is much to be done to improve the quality of these programmes. I think especially on the education programme, vital to the future of so many young Palestinians as individuals entering a labour market in which competition for jobs grows keener as numbers seeking them increase and expectations rise.

I recognize, however, that the Commissioner-General and his staff have an important role to play in helping to raise funds, and I wish to assure distinguished delegates that my colleagues and I shall continue to do all we can to ensure that the Agency is financially able to carry out its mandate. I do not know what decision the Committee will reach about future means of fund-raising as a result of its examination of the Working Group's report. Perhaps I may be permitted, however, in conclusion, to say that I should welcome the advice and support of an inter-governmental body that would reflect a continuing concern and responsibility in this matter on behalf of the General Assembly.



The Agency's eight training centres offer 36 different vocational courses.

STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON 20 NOVEMBER

May I, first of all, extend, on behalf of UNRWA, a warm welcome to the distinguished delegate who will eventually represent Japan on the UNRWA Advisory Commission? The Agency and the Palestine refugees have already benefited from the interest and generosity of the Japanese Government and the Japanese public and I look forward to co-operating with the Japanese representative on the Commission.

I should like to thank the distinguished delegates who, on behalf of their Governments, have expressed appreciation of the work done by the Agency and of the efforts of its staff.

May I also take the opportunity to remove any misunderstanding about the distinction between refugees living in camps and those living outside camps. As my report states, only about 40% of the refugees live in camps, some of them long-established camps, others established as a consequence of the fighting of June 1967, and, in the Jordan valley, early 1968. The balance of the 1,500,000 refugees live in towns and villages but the distinguished delegate of Israel must have been misinformed when he said in the statement he made on 14 November that they "provide for themselves in all respects, including housing". In fact, many of them receive rations and medical care and their children attend the Agency's schools. The mere fact that 60% of the registered refugees are not in camps does not mean that they are not in need of UNRWA services; for example, many of those who left the West Bank and Gaza in

1967 had to seek shelter elsewhere than in camps. As has previously been stated UNRWA provides services to refugees in the countries in which it operates irrespective of where they live, and the identification of UNRWA with camps is misleading.

As regards the future, the financial situation of the Agency remains precarious and I do not expect the prospects for 1973 to become clear for some time, since not all governments are able to pledge or to take final decisions at the time of the Pledging Conference, which has been scheduled for Monday, 27 November. I welcome therefore the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group for the purpose of continuing its efforts for the financing of the Agency, and I look forward to co-operating with its members.

I have noted the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Israel on 14 November in regard to the accommodation of refugees in the Gaza Strip whose housing was demolished in July and August last year and I hope that as a result new accommodation will be provided for the families whom the Agency found to be living in unsatisfactory conditions. I should make clear, perhaps, that the construction referred to in paragraph 60 of my report relates to earlier demolitions than those of July and August 1971 and does not in any way provide for the families about whom the Agency is concerned. I shall, of course, report further to the Secretary-General on this matter, as also, if necessary, on the matter of Agency services in the occupied territories to which I referred in my statement.

20 November 1972

WORKING GROUP REPORT STRESSES FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED

Confronted by UNRWA's precarious financial situation and the fact that UNRWA had incurred a deficit in 1963 and every year since, except for 1967, a Working Group for the Financing of UNRWA was established by the General Assembly under resolution 2656 (XXV), of 7 December 1970. The purpose of the Working Group was to assist in finding solutions to the Agency's financial problems, particularly the fundamental problem of the long-term financing of the Agency.

Nine states accepted membership: Turkey (Chairman), France, Ghana, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Working Group presented an interim report to

the General Assembly on 14 December 1970 and reported again, to the twenty-sixth session, on 26 October 1971.*

The third report** of the Working Group, presented to the General Assembly on 24 October 1972, again examined methods of resolving the Agency's financial problems.

The Working Group conclusions and recommendations are reproduced below.

* General Assembly document A/8476 and Corr.1, excerpts of which appeared in Newsletter No. 70.

** A/8849.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As stated in paragraph 44 above, the Working Group continues to assume that, as long as a just and lasting settlement of the problem of the Palestine refugees has not been achieved, UNRWA's services, in the form of relief assistance, health care and education, must be maintained at least at their present minimal level.

Although it has been possible to avoid any reductions in the Agency's services over the last two years, largely because of substantial additional voluntary contributions from some of the traditional contributing Governments and some new contributors, including assistance from some United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, the Working Group is duty-bound to point out

and emphasize once again the gravity of the situation. The Agency's cash position remains precarious and the financial crisis has not been solved. The Working Group believes that a gap of approximately 10 per cent between contributions and required expenditures is likely to persist unless further and continuous efforts are made to secure the increased contributions necessary for the maintenance of UNRWA's activities at their present level.

The Working Group is convinced that the continuation of the present services rendered by UNRWA is dependent on voluntary contributions from Governments. Thus, there is general agreement in the Working Group that voluntary contributions from

Governments, including contributions in kind, must continue to be the principal source of the Agency's funds.

Some members of the Working Group hold the view that UNRWA's budget should be totally or in part incorporated into the United Nations regular budget. Other Members of the Working Group hold the view that no part of the Agency's expenses should be transferred to the United Nations regular budget. If the mandate of the Working Group should be extended, the feasibility of such a transfer could be further discussed. However, it is clear that agreement could not be reached in the present circumstances.

In order to obtain increased contributions from all potential sources and thus ensure that no reduction in UNRWA's present services has to be envisaged in the immediate years to come, the Working Group considers it important that adequate information and public relations activities highlighting the humanitarian needs of the Palestine refugees be undertaken by appropriate existing information organs within the United Nations system, such as the Office of Public Information.

On the basis of the above general conclusions, the Working Group recommends that:

- (a) Further efforts should be made to obtain contributions from those Governments which have not contributed in the past;
- (b) Further efforts should also be made to obtain greater contributions from those Governments which have so far contributed inadequately;
- (c) Efforts should be made to ensure that the substantial contributions from the traditional contributors continue;
- (d) Governments which have recently increased the level of their contributions should be requested to maintain the higher level of their support for UNRWA;
- (e) All Governments should be urged to pledge their voluntary contributions to

the Agency as a matter of the highest priority;

(f) In order to ease the persisting liquidity crisis of UNRWA, Governments should be urged to pay their voluntary contributions for next year and each succeeding year as early as possible;

(g) A special appeal should be made to Governments for immediate payment of pledged contributions which remain unpaid at the present time;

(h) United Nations agencies and organizations should be encouraged to support UNRWA to the extent possible within the framework of their constitutional requirements and budgetary possibilities;

(i) Further efforts should be made to maintain the highest possible level of contributions from non-governmental organizations and other private sources, such as commercial enterprises and humanitarian contributors and organizations.

The Working Group has come to the conclusion that, in order to obtain the necessary increased voluntary contributions from Governments as well as contributions from other sources, further vigorous and constant fund-raising activities on behalf of the Agency, in close consultation with the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, are essential. This might be carried out:

- (a) By the Secretary-General through means considered most suitable, including co-operation with interested Governments;
- (b) By the Working Group, if its mandate is extended at least with regard to fundraising;
- (c) By an intergovernmental group set up for the purpose;
- (d) In any other manner that the General Assembly might deem appropriate.

The Working Group would, however, refrain from making any specific recommendations on this matter.

WELFARE

UNRWA's welfare work includes special training for blind, deaf and crippled refugee children, (1) help for orphans and destitute aged persons, distribution of used clothing (2) and community development efforts such as sewing and carpentry courses.

For pre-school children, play centres provide an opportunity for educational play and regular medical supervision at a crucial age.



STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL TO THE AD HOC
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT
OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA

I am grateful for the honour of addressing the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly on the occasion of the announcement of voluntary contributions to UNRWA and I should like to begin by expressing my warm appreciation of the increased support that has been given to the Agency in 1972. It must be as gratifying to distinguished delegates as it is to me that it has been possible to avoid reduction in the Agency's services to the Palestine refugees during this year.

As I said in my statement to the Special Political Committee on 2 November, there was grave doubt at this time last year whether the Agency would be able to carry on throughout 1972 with its full, normal programmes, and some may even have felt that the task of raising sufficient funds was an impossible one.

The experience of this year has shown what can be done if attention is focused on the problem, as it has been, thanks in good part to the efforts of the Working Group, if the gravity of the situation is brought home to member states, and if a lead is given.

The result has been that a deficit estimated at about \$6 million at the time of last year's Pledging Conference of 30 November 1971 has been reduced to a deficit of under \$1.5 million, with the possibility of some further reduction by the end of the year.

In document A/SPC/155 of 3 November 1972 giving the revised budget estimates for 1973, the reasons for the increase in expenditure in 1973 over 1972 are set out. The increase is of the order of 6% and is almost entirely due to inflationary pressures over which the Agency has little or no control. I can assure distinguished delegates that the Agency has done its utmost to keep the increase to the minimum necessary to maintain its programmes and operate them efficiently. I believe that UNRWA's record of financial economy, and indeed austerity, will compare very favourably with that of other international organizations.

In making its report the Working Group has assumed the necessity to maintain UNRWA's services at least at their present minimal level, not in substitution for but pending a just settlement of the refugee problem. This view is supported by the UNRWA Advisory Commission and has been reiterated by the Host Governments in the course of examination of my Annual Report. If these services are to be maintained, however, a further increase in contributions must be achieved.

I recognize that many contributors, including several who are among the largest contributors, have increased their contributions, in some cases more than once, in recent years. I hope, however, that all governments will bear in mind the point I made in my statement to the Special Political Committee, that if contributors would agree to adjust their contributions to take account of changes in the value of money, the projected increase in Agency expenditure could be matched by a comparable increase in income.

In conclusion, I add my voice to the appeal made by the Working Group in paragraph 64 of its report for new and increased contributions and for early payment of contributions.

27 November 1972

\$42.9 MILLION PLEDGED BY 50 GOVERNMENTS *

Contributions totalling \$42,926,750 were announced by 50 Governments at a meeting to hear pledges for financing the 1973 activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The pledges** were announced at the annual meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA.

The amounts will be made available to UNRWA in cash and in goods and services.

Representatives of only 50 Governments participated in the meeting. Chile, Guinea, Japan, Mexico, Qatar and Sudan deferred making pledges at this time, pending final decision by their Governments.

At last year's pledging conference, held on 30 November 1971, 40 Governments pledged the equivalent of \$18,882,260 for 1971. This figure did not include the pledges of Japan and the United States which were announced at a later date. Amounts paid or pledged since November 1971 have brought the estimated total of governmental contributions to the Agency for 1972 to \$47,053,000.

Nine countries announced pledges that represented an increase over the amounts they contributed for 1972. They are Canada, Denmark, Indonesia, Ireland, Libya, Norway, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Fourteen Governments which did not participate in last year's pledging conference took part in today's meeting: Brazil, Guinea, Haiti, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates.

UNRWA Commissioner-General, Sir John Rennie, thanked the Governments which had pledged their support to UNRWA for 1973. He was grateful for the increases in contributions that had been announced, and hoped that those Governments which intended to contribute but which had been unable to pledge at the current meeting would shortly be in a position to do so. He also appealed to Governments to pay their contributions as early as possible, but recognized that in some cases parliamentary or other legislative requirements would impose some delay.

It was impossible at the moment to say more about the financial prospects for 1973 than had been said in the Special Political Committee. There could be little doubt, however, that strenuous efforts would be necessary if programmes were again to be maintained in full. He hoped to make a full report to the Working Group before the end of 1972.

He said that the confidence expressed by many delegations in the Agency's performance of its task was an encouragement to all and undertook to convey to the Agency's staff the tributes that had been paid to their work.

* * * *

* 27 November 1972

** See Provisional Summary Record of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA (A/AC.158/SR.1) of 29 November 1972.

PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE GAZA STRIP

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 15 September 1972, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/8814) to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 2792 C (XXVI) (*) of 6 December 1971 concerning the demolition of shelters in three Palestine refugee camps in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military authorities. The report was prepared after consultation with the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, as requested in paragraph 5 of the resolution.

The following summarises information contained in the Secretary-General's report (paragraphs 6-11) :

After verification UNRWA estimated that a total of 2,554 families, comprising 15,855 persons, were affected by the demolitions carried out in July and August 1971. Over 900 of these families who found shelter elsewhere in the Gaza Strip were regarded by the Agency as being unsatisfactorily accommodated even by a low standard(**).

Of the 2,554 families, a total of 2,265 received directly from the Israeli authorities assistance with rent for alternative accommodation for a limited period, or compensation for loss of private property (e.g. for privately built shelters or additions to Agency-built shelters). The Agency's claim for compensation for demolished Agency shelters was rejected by the Israeli authorities but is being pursued.

On 29 February 1972 the Commissioner-General inquired of the Israeli authorities as to their plans for rehousing refugees whose shelters had been demolished and who were without adequate accommodation or who had been obliged to leave the Gaza Strip, and also asked for confirmation that no impediment would be placed in the way of those displaced refugees who had not already returned from El Arish (Sinai) and wished to do so.

On 24 April 1972 the Israeli authorities replied to the effect that in all cases alternative housing, new housing, compensation or grants of cash had been offered to the refugees, at the same time suggesting that refugees who still required help with housing should approach the Israeli authorities in the area. An assurance was given that refugees in El Arish might, if they so wished, return to the Gaza Strip, unimpeded by the Israeli authorities. The Agency understands that there is also no impediment to return from the West Bank.

The Commissioner-General expressed reservations to the Israeli authorities, at a meeting on 3 May 1972, about the statement that all refugees whose shelters had been demolished had been provided with adequate alternative accommodation. He pointed out that according to the Agency's information many refugees were still living in unsatisfactory conditions. He also referred to the assurance given at the time of the demolitions that new housing would be constructed, and renewed his inquiry about the Israeli authorities' intentions in this respect. At a meeting in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 August 1972, the Commissioner-General was told that no information about Israel's plans for housing could be given but that if refugees in difficulty approached the military authorities they would be helped.

The General Assembly, after consideration of the Secretary-General's report, adopted resolution 2963 C (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, the text of which is reproduced later in this issue.

(*) reproduced in Newsletter No. 70

(**) For example, one criterion was the accommodation of more than five persons in a room.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO UNRWA

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

/On the report of the Special Political Committee (A/8915)/

2964 (XXVII). Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 and 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1/

Taking into account the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, 2/

Recognizing with grave concern that the financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continues to be acute, thereby endangering the already minimum services being provided to Palestine refugees,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at their present level, the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its work;

2. Notes with appreciation the report of the Working Group;

3. Endorses the conclusion of the Working Group that further vigorous and constant fund-raising activities on behalf of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East are essential;

4. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of one year;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

This resolution was adopted by 122 votes
to none with no abstentions.

2108th plenary meeting
13 December 1972

1/ A/8849.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session,
Supplement No. 13 (A/8713 and Corr.1).

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
/On the report of the Special Political Committee (A/8915)/
2963 (XXVII). United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2792 A (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 and all previous resolutions referred to therein, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, 1/

Taking note also of the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 20 March 1972, 2/

1. Notes with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;
2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued faithful efforts to provide essential services for the Palestine refugees, and to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof and to report thereon as appropriate, but not later than 1 October 1973;

4. Directs attention to the continuing critical financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the Commissioner-General's report;

5. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions to help relieve the serious budget deficit of the past year, contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue to fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements;

6. Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute and contributing Governments to consider increasing their contributions.

2108th plenary meeting
13 December 1972

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13
(A/8713 and Corr.1).

2/ A/8672.

24

2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 B (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 2792 B (XXVI) of 6 December 1971,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, 1/

Taking note also of the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 20 March 1972, 2/
Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII), 2452 C (XXIII), 2535 C (XXIV), 2672 B (XXV) and 2792 B (XXVI);

2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

2108th plenary meeting
13 December 1972

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 3/ of 15 September 1972 on the effect on the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip of the continued Israeli policies and measures in the Strip,

Noting that both the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East have expressed great concern about the effect on Palestine refugees of these operations in which shelters in refugee camps were demolished and thousands of persons displaced, some of them to places outside the Gaza Strip,

Noting with regret the failure of Israel to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2792 C (XXVI) of 6 December 1971,

Deeply concerned at the continued measures by Israel which prejudice the rights of the population and the demographic composition and the status of the Gaza Strip,

1. Declares that such measures involving the physical and demographic structure in the Gaza Strip, including the destruction of refugee shelters and the forcible transfer of population, contravene the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 4/ as well as paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2675 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, entitled "Basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts";

2. Strongly deplores these actions by Israel;

3. Calls upon Israel to desist forthwith from all measures that affect the physical structure and the demographic composition of the Gaza Strip;

4. Calls upon Israel to take immediate and effective steps for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed and to provide adequate shel-

3/ A/8814.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

ters for their accommodation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report as soon as possible and whenever appropriate thereafter, but in any case not later than the opening date of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, on Israel's compliance with and implementation of the present resolution.

2108th plenary meeting

13 December 1972

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, calling upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who had fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 5/ of 13 September 1972 concerning the implementation of resolution 2792 E (XXVI),

Noting that the Israeli occupation authorities have persisted in changing the physical, geographic and demographic structure in the occupied territories, by the displacement of inhabitants, the destruction of towns, villages and homes, and the establishment of settlements in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 4/ as well as the pertinent United Nations resolutions,

Gravely concerned about the plight of the displaced inhabitants,

Convinced that the plight of the displaced inhabitants could only be relieved by their speedy return to their homes and to the camps which they formerly occupied,

Emphasizing the necessity of full implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

1. Affirms the right of the displaced inhabitants to return to their homes and camps;
2. Considers that the plight of the displaced inhabitants continues since they have not yet returned to their homes and camps;
3. Expresses its grave concern for the failure of the Israeli authorities to take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions;
4. Calls once more upon Israel immediately to take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;
5. Calls again upon Israel to desist forthwith from all measures affecting the physical, geographic and demographic structure of the occupied territories;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report in detail thereon to the General Assembly.

5/ A/8786.

2108th plenary meeting

13 December 1972

E

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine, its resolutions 2672 C (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 2792 D (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, in which it recognized that the people of Palestine are entitled to equal rights and self-determination in accordance with the Charter, and its resolutions 2649 (XXV) of 30 November 1970 and 2787 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, in which it recognized that the people of Palestine are entitled to the right of self-determination,

Bearing in mind the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter and more recently reaffirmed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 6/ and in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, 7/

1. Affirms that the people of Palestine are entitled to equal rights and self-determination, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
2. Expresses once more its grave concern that the people of Palestine have not been permitted to enjoy their inalienable rights and to exercise their right to self-determination;
3. Recognizes that full respect for and realization of the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine are indispensable for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

2108th plenary meeting
13 December 1972

F

The General Assembly,

Having noted that the present membership of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, established pursuant to its resolutions 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and 720 B (VIII) of 27 November 1953, is composed of Belgium, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

Noting further that it is in the general interest that other contributing countries join the Advisory Commission,

Decides to include Japan in the membership of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

2108th plenary meeting
13 December 1972

6/ General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV).

7/ General Assembly resolution 2734 (XXV).

Draft resolution A was adopted by 124 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution B was adopted by 125 votes to none, with no abstentions.

Draft resolution C was adopted by 95 votes to 6, with 24 abstentions.

Draft resolution D was adopted by 83 votes to 5, with 26 abstentions.

Draft resolution E was adopted by 67 votes to 21, with 37 abstentions.

Draft resolution F was adopted without objection.

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