

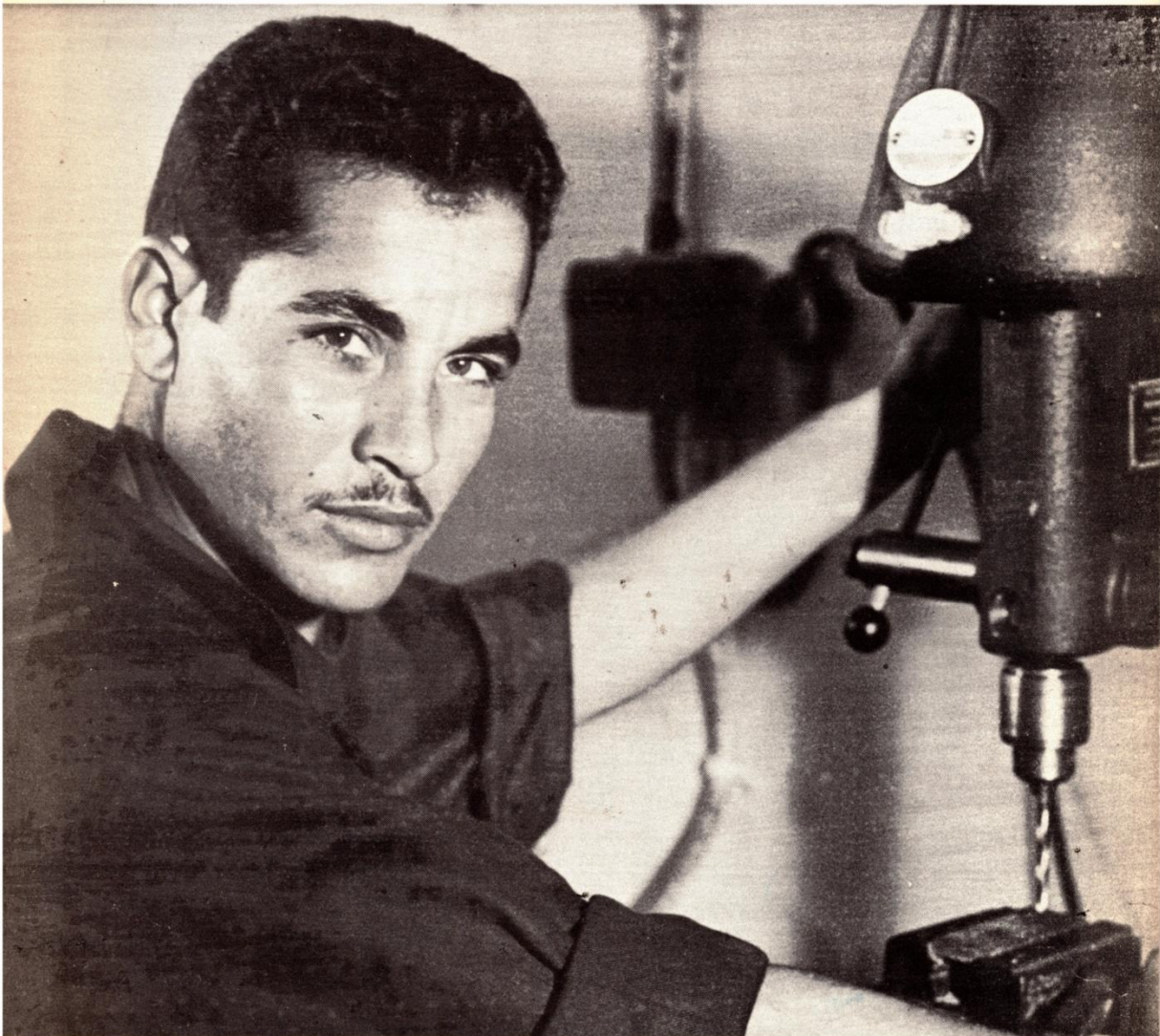


# PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

***An UNRWA Newsletter***

No. 13

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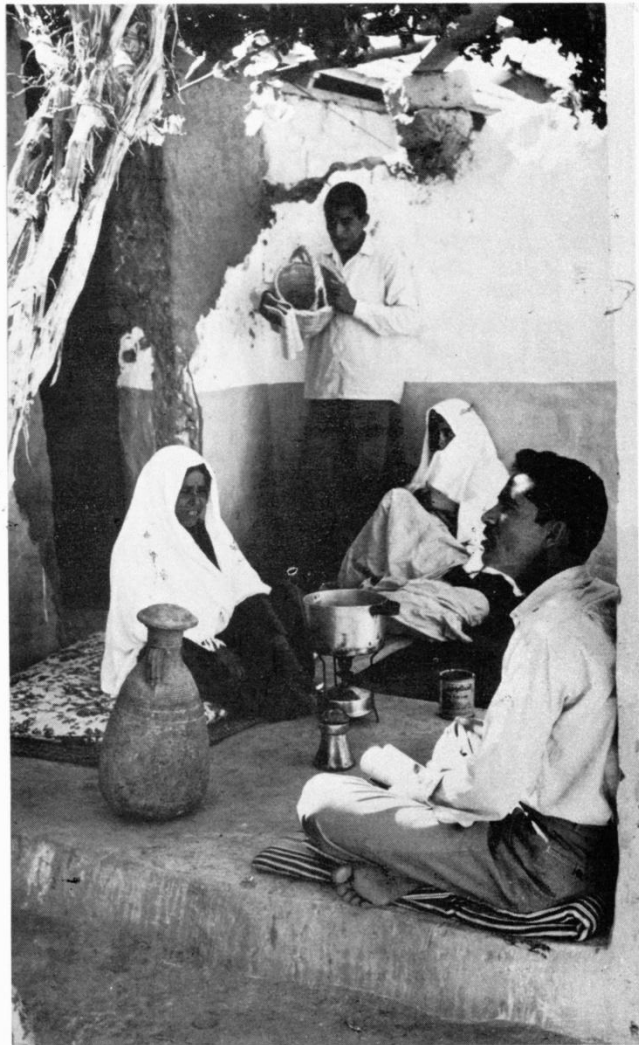
There is still time to "adopt"

MOHAMMED

Mohammed, shown also on our cover picture, is only a few months along in his two-year auto mechanic course at UNRWA's Vocational Training Centre in the Gaza Strip. His father is dead, and Mohammed is the oldest child. When he receives his graduation certificate in 1963 he will be equipped with a skill which should enable him to support himself and his family, no matter where he may live in the future.

He, and hundreds of other young Palestine refugee men and women more or less fortunate than he, are enrolled today in UNRWA vocational and teacher training centres throughout the Middle East. Next September, the total will reach more than 2,500, in September 1963 almost 4,000...

and all are up for "adoption".



Dr. John H. Davis, The Director of UNRWA, announced to the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly in New York on 6 December that he had decided to seek \$2,000,000 over the next two years for scholarships for refugees at UNRWA vocational training centres.

The appeal to "adopt" young refugees will be made to private persons and voluntary organizations throughout the world, he said.

The need is for 2,000 of these scholarships during each of the years 1962 and 1963 to pay the cost of training boys and girls at UNRWA vocational and teacher training centres, Dr. Davis explained.

The cost of one scholarship for one year amounts to \$500, he added.

Dr. Davis pointed out that UNRWA had been enabled to embark on a substantial expansion of its vocational and teacher training facilities as a result of World Refugee Year.

He said that \$4,500,000 had been received in voluntary contributions during WRY, adding:

"Frankly speaking, the Agency could not have launched its programme to assist young refugees had it not been for these extra-budgetary funds."

Dr. Davis detailed the overall picture of Agency centres, pointing out that by the fall of 1962, UNRWA will be operating nine centres, most with a capacity of 400 trainees.

At this point, the Agency will be well on the way towards its goal of an output of some 2,000 to 2,500 graduates a year, most graduates having successfully completed a two-year course of trade instruction.

\* \* \*

To obtain further information on the adoption scheme, write to:

UNRWA Liaison Office  
Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland

or:

Public Information Office  
UNRWA Headquarters  
Beirut, Lebanon

Any contribution, whatever its size, will be welcome, and UNRWA is prepared to furnish the donor of a complete \$500 scholarship with a picture and short history of his "adopted" trainee.

The adoption scheme is already well under way, with contributions, large and small, from over the globe. The United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is providing one year's training for 28 young men -- auto mechanics and blacksmith/welders -- at Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre near Amman, Jordan. The Finnish Girl Guides have collected funds sufficient to pay for the training of three refugee girls at the Ramallah Vocational/Teacher Training Centre for Girls, while another scholarship here has been promised by a women's college in the United States. A private donor in Canada has offered four scholarships, while a private donor in the United Kingdom has given money for the two-year training of a radio/TV mechanic at Kalandia Vocational Training Centre near Jerusalem, Jordan.

And there are others:



Afif Mustafa Bseiso was born in the Biblical town of Beersheba. Today, a refugee in Jordan, he is being trained to become a mechanical draughtsman at Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre, thanks to a scholarship from the Irish Red Cross.



Jerusalem-born Elia Najeeb Tabri has been "adopted" by American Middle East Relief, Inc. (AMER) for his course in business and office practice at Kalandia Vocational Training Centre, Jordan.

The first voluntary agency to adopt trainees was New Zealand's Council of Organizations for Relief Overseas, Inc. (CORSO), which undertook to pay for the full two-year training of 24 fitter machinists at Kalandia. Pictured is Iskandar Kreitem, postman's son and one of seven children, from Jerusalem.





But there are still others, scores of thousands of others, like these boys.



These are the faces of boys still in school, in any UNRWA school. They are 15 or 16 years old. This is their ninth or tenth year of schooling. For many, it will be their last. .... What next?

It is hard for these youths to face the future with confidence, desperately hard. They are already familiar with unemployment at home, for their fathers and older brothers have too often been jobless since the 1948 exodus -- former farmers or unskilled laborers fated to live as refugees in countries already brimming over with such workers.

But the younger generation -- and 30,000 young men and women reach maturity annually -- want to make something of their lives. Their natural talents should not go to waste, for neglect would only compound the tragedy of the Palestine refugees.

This is the reason behind UNRWA's concentration today on a comprehensive vocational training programme for youth, geared to the needs of the Middle East. This is a form of technical assistance which UNRWA is uniquely equipped to provide.

A \$500 scholarship will provide the adopted trainee with all his needs at a centre, during one year's training.

#### TRAINING

It will pay for the salaries of his instructors and the international specialists who are supervising the centre programmes. It will cover the cost of equipment in the workshops where he spends from 40% to 60% of his study time, and equipment for the classrooms where he learns the theory of his trade and is given instruction in English, mathematics, technical drawing and general science.

There is a choice of 22 different trades being taught for men at various UNRWA centres; six trades will be offered to women; and there are teacher training centres for both men and women.



#### PERSONAL EXPENSES

The trainee is supplied with uniforms, a tool kit, and pocket money.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COSTS

The scholarship covers the cost of a variety of minor items — sports clothing and equipment, library books, hobbies, wages of laborers and guards, fuel for heating.

#### BOARD AND LODGING

The vocational training centre is run as a boarding school. The students live together, 16 in a room, and are served their meals in a large simply-furnished dining room.



Vocational Training Centres

UNRWA Vocational Training Centres, now in operation or under construction, are located as follows:-

GAZA STRIP

Gaza Vocational Training Centre  
Beit Hanoun Agricultural Centre

JORDAN

Kalandia Vocational Training Centre  
Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre  
Ramallah Men's Teacher Training Centre  
Ramallah Girls' Teacher Training and  
Vocational Training Centre

LEBANON

Siblin Vocational Training Centre

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Homs Vocational Training Centre  
Damascus Vocational Training Centre

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Blueprint For Opportunity

In conjunction with the vocational scholarship drive, UNRWA has just published a 28-page illustrated pamphlet called "Blueprint For Opportunity". Herein are set pictures and a full report on each of UNRWA's vocational and teacher training centres, with background material on the development of both vocational and teacher training during UNRWA's eleven years of operations.

"Blueprint For Opportunity" is being distributed throughout the world, in various languages. Copies are obtainable from UNRWA Liaison Offices in Geneva and New York, and from UNRWA Headquarters, Beirut.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a special, temporary, non-political body established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1949. In co-operation with the host governments (Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Arab Republic) it carries out its two-fold task: immediate: to provide food, health services, education, training and shelter for the refugees; long-term: to assist the refugees to become self-supporting.

UNRWA began work in May 1950 and its present mandate expires on 30 June 1963.

Further information may be obtained from:

UNRWA Liaison Office  
Palais des Nations  
Geneva  
Switzerland

UNRWA Public Information Office  
UNESCO Building  
Beirut  
Lebanon

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(For information purposes - Not an official record).



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