



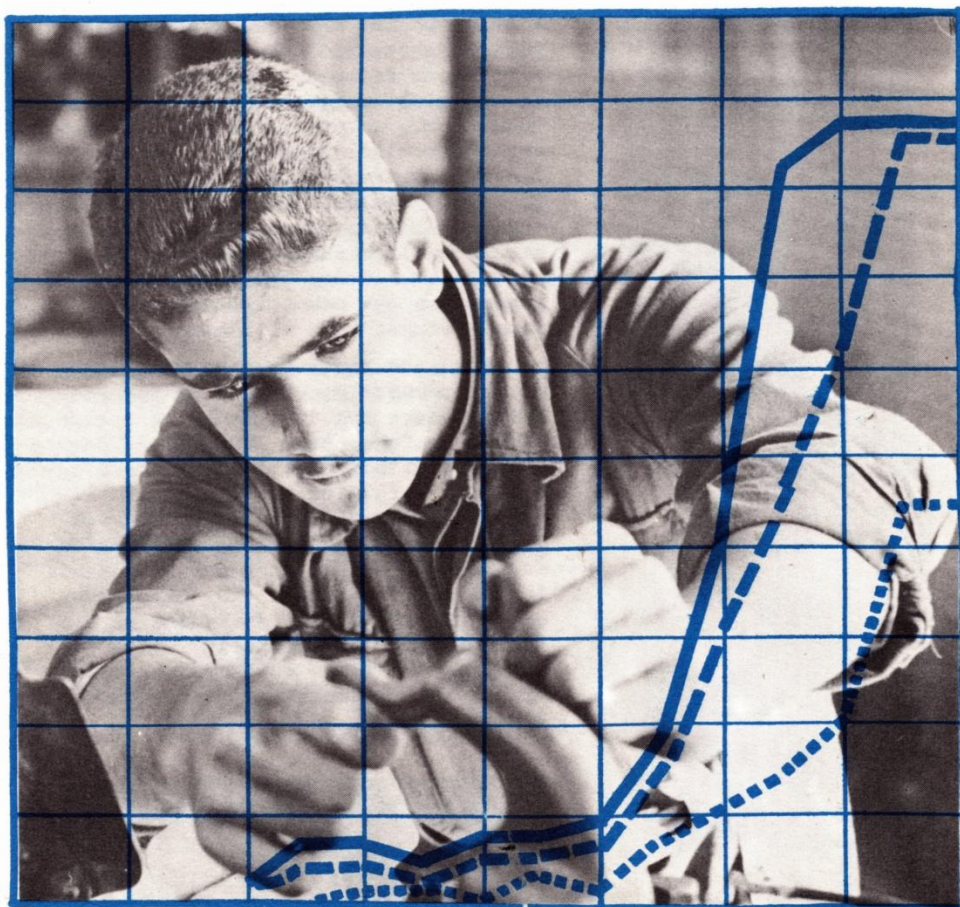
# PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

*An UNRWA Newsletter*

No. 21

November 1962

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING - - -



**A PROGRESS REPORT**

## LIFELINE TO



## THE FUTURE

During the period of its current mandate (July 1960 to June 1963) UNRWA, while continuing to provide its basic relief services, has given all possible emphasis and priority to vocational training for young refugees.

With the passage of time, the need to educate and train the children and the young refugees who are reaching maturity has become ever more urgent and important. These young people have not had the opportunity to learn a trade in the way traditional to this part of the world - by working alongside their fathers - because the bulk of the adult refugees have themselves been unable to obtain work since they were uprooted from their homes and their traditional means of livelihood in 1948. The only means then left to them were their traditional farming skills and the simple labour of their hands -- and for these there was no demand in the countries where they found refuge.

With each passing year, the plight of the younger generation of refugees became more acute. Each year some 30,000 refugee boys and girls have grown up without the means of leading a normal life, for, although intelligent and adaptable and eager to work, they have not had the opportunity to acquire the skills that are in demand in the world in which they have grown up -- a world of rapid industrial and technological development which is changing the whole society and economy of the Arab countries in the Middle East.





In the past, all too many of these young people have gone to swell the mass of adult refugees who are not merely unemployed, but virtually unemployable as well, owing to their lack of special skills.

For the present and future generations of young refugees, education and training are the lifeline from the wreckage of the past to the firm ground of a self-reliant, useful future. Wherever their future may lie, they will need all the education and specialised training that UNRWA and the host governments can give them, if they are to put to productive use the innate talents with which they have been endowed.

UNRWA established two pilot training centres in 1953 and 1954 in Jordan and Gaza, but lack of funds made it impossible to build more centres for the next five years.

In 1959-60 came World Refugee Year. Generous donations made to UNRWA at that time were used to meet the capital costs of the rapidly expanding vocational training programme. During the past two and a half years, the expansion has taken place according to plan and with a speed which visitors to the Agency's area of operation have found both remarkable and encouraging.

This issue of the UNRWA Newsletter is in the nature of a progress report. It gives details of the progress at each existing training centre, and a brief look at the plans for future centres.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING . . . .

October 1962 was a significant month for UNRWA's vocational training programme. During the month, a period of intensive planning and building came to fruition in the official openings of two new training centres, the inauguration of extensions to two existing centres, and the enrolment of the first trainees in a fifth centre.

With the new and the expanded centres opened during October, the Agency has multiplied more than eightfold the number of places available to refugee trainees in its training centres. In the school year 1959 - 60, there were two centres in operation with a capacity of less than 400 trainees. Now there are nine centres, with a total capacity of almost 3,300 young refugees.

The two new centres opened during October were the Siblin Vocational Training Centre, Lebanon (2 October) and the Girls' Teacher and Vocational Training Centre at Ramallah, Jordan (24 October, United Nations Day). Extensions were inaugurated at the Gaza Vocational Training Centre in the Gaza Strip (16 October) and at the Damascus Vocational Training Centre in the Syrian Arab Republic (24 October). The Homs Teacher Training Centre in Syria has also started to train teachers, but has not yet been officially opened.

October 1962 has thus brought almost to completion the vocational training side of the three-year programme proposed by Dr. John H. Davis, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, in the fall of 1960.

Dr. Davis said in his 1962 Annual Report, recently presented to the General Assembly: "Since the beginning of its three-year mandate on 1 July 1960, the Agency has concentrated on assistance to young

. . . . A PROGRESS REPORT



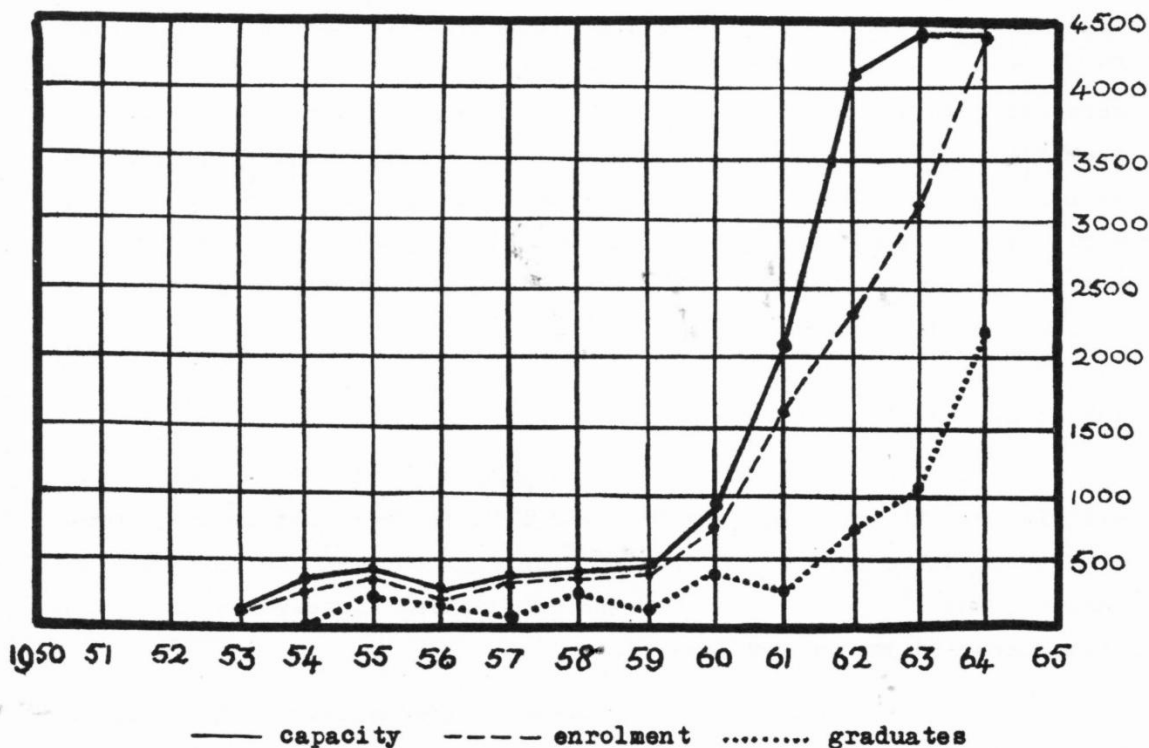
refugees for the purpose of giving as many of them as possible the training which will enable them to put to useful purpose the talents with which they have been richly endowed.

"The Agency considers this particular programme not only vital for these young people, but important as a contribution to regional technical and economic progress."

The whole three-year programme consisted of plans to improve general education, increase the number of university scholarships, and most important, expand facilities for vocational training, while maintaining the Agency's minimal relief services to the refugees at the same per capita cost as in 1960.

The expansion of UNRWA vocational training facilities over the past three years is illustrated by the graph below:

CAPACITY, ENROLMENT AND GRADUATION RATE, 1950-1964



NB: The figures take into account UNRWA training centres and non-UNRWA institutions subsidized by the Agency. Enrolment and graduation figures for 1963 and 1964 are estimated figures.

One "extra" centre.

Under the programme, a total of ten training centres was envisaged. Nine of the ten are now in operation, and two more under preparation, bringing the total to eleven - one more than originally planned. All the centres will be in operation by the end of 1963. Together with non-UNRWA institutions subsidized by the Agency, they will have a total capacity of 4,400 trainees, and a graduation rate of some 2,200 each year.

Since its beginning, UNRWA's vocational training programme has benefited greatly from the cooperation of other UN agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Agency's Education Department, which is responsible for vocational training, as well as general education, has always been, as it is today, under the direction of an official seconded from Unesco. At present UNRWA also has the services of 20 other Unesco staff members, most of whom are engaged in some aspect of the training programme. Assistance from the ILO has included the provision of specialists to help the establishment of the first training centres and the setting up of curricula for the centres. An ILO specialist is presently making a survey of the manpower needs of the area, to guide the Agency's choice of courses for the centres.

The Scholarship Programme.

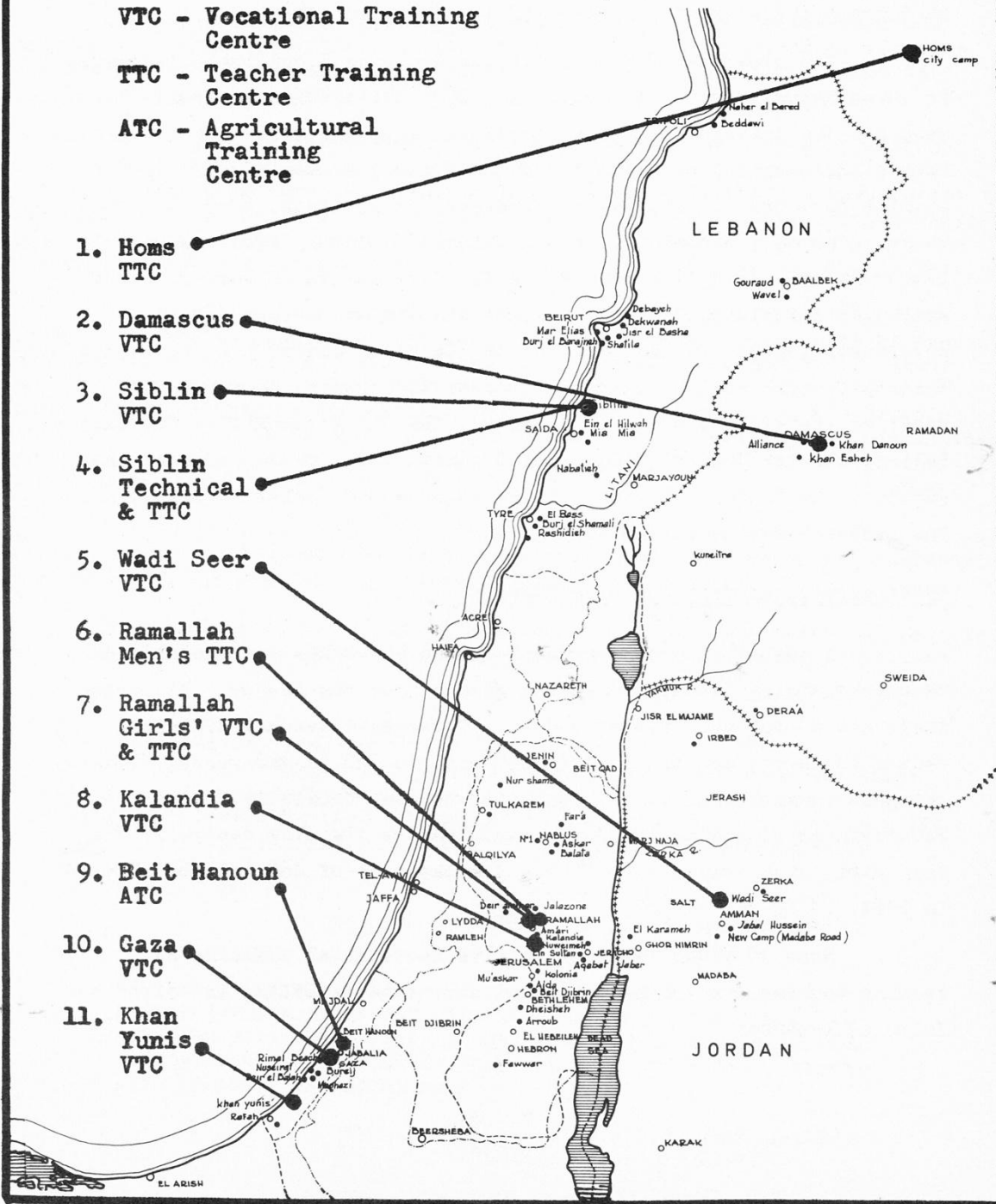
The rapid expansion of the Agency's vocational training facilities was financed largely by World Refugee Year contributions made to UNRWA. These special, one-time donations covered the physical expansion, but did not provide for the substantial increase in operating costs incurred by the new centres.

To help pay the operating costs of the centres, UNRWA launched its Vocational Training Scholarship Programme in 1961. The aim of the programme was to raise \$1 million a year from extra-budgetary sources.

# UNRWA Training Centres

VTC - Vocational Training Centre  
TTC - Teacher Training Centre  
ATC - Agricultural Training Centre

1. Homs TTC
2. Damascus VTC
3. Sibliin VTC
4. Sibliin Technical & TTC
5. Wadi Seer VTC
6. Ramallah Men's TTC
7. Ramallah Girls' VTC & TTC
8. Kalandia VTC
9. Beit Hanoun ATC
10. Gaza VTC
11. Khan Yunis VTC



The funds were to be raised in the form of \$500 scholarships, each of which pays for one year's training for one refugee trainee at an UNRWA training centre. The donor of each scholarship is sent a photograph and a brief biography of the "adopted" trainee.

The progress of the Vocational Training Scholarship Programme is encouraging. Out of the goal of 2,000 scholarships per year, 1,400 were donated during the 1961-62 academic year, and more than 1,000 have been either donated or pledged for the 1962-63 academic year. Scholarships have been donated by individuals, governments, service clubs, church groups, professional organizations, voluntary agencies and labour unions. Among the donors are the Governments of Norway, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Ireland, Kuwait, Finland and Sweden, and non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Junior Red Cross, the British Council of Churches, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign (UK), Misericordia (Federal Republic of Germany), the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, the New Zealand Council of Organizations for Relief Overseas (CORSO), the National Council of the Churches of Christ (U.S.A.), and the Lutheran World Federation.

#### UNRWA-subsidized Training Programmes.

A number of young refugees attend non-UNRWA vocational and teacher training institutions with grants from the Agency. At present there are 60 refugees registered at a Government teacher training centre in Cairo, and the number will rise to 120 in two years, with 30 refugees in each year of the four-year course. Similarly, there are 240 trainees attending the Government teacher training centre in the Gaza Strip with grants from UNRWA; the capacity of 480 will be reached in 1964.

Some 30 young refugees receive secretarial training at evening courses run by the YWCA, and supported by UNRWA, in Beirut and Tripoli, Lebanon.



## Endorsement of UNRWA's Training Programme.

UNRWA's vocational training programme has received endorsement and encouragement from specialists in the field of vocational training, and from representatives of governments and other organizations concerned about the plight of the young refugees.

From visits to the training centres, they have been able to examine at first hand the standard of the training offered and to assess the value of the training programme as a technical assistance contribution towards the development of the region. For, in addition to providing young refugees with opportunities of normal, useful lives, the centres provide a valuable source of technical and semi-professional skills urgently needed in the Middle East.

Substantial grants from technical assistance funds towards UNRWA's vocational training programme have been received from the Government of Sweden (\$800,000; see page 21) and the Government of Switzerland (\$80,000). These grants are in addition to those Governments' regular contributions to the Agency. Also, a special contribution in kind was received from the Swiss Government in the form of whole milk and cheese. The resulting savings in the Agency's feeding programme, amounting to over \$140,000, have also been applied to vocational training.

For the past two years, the United States Government has made a special contribution of \$1,700,000 towards the Agency's vocational training programme, over and above the regular U.S. contribution of \$23 million.

The standard of the training has been commended by a number of experts and other visitors with special knowledge and experience of such programmes:

"Everyone visiting the vocational training centres of UNRWA in the Middle East must admire the remarkable work carried out by the principals and teachers in order to give knowledge and skills to young refugees. I am sure that the value of the Swedish grant (see page 21) will be multiplied by the training of teachers and instructors at the new Institute."

Mr. Einar Forsell, Principal,  
Vocational Training Schools  
of Stockholm, Sweden.

"Caritas is deeply interested in UNRWA's programmes, and in particular the vocational training programme for young Palestinian boys and girls. I have seen on the spot this great effort being made by UNRWA to prepare a future for a generation of young Palestinians."

Mr. Albert Studer-Auer, Director  
of Caritas, Switzerland.

"Sweden feels very honoured and privileged to be associated with the training of Palestine refugees. We hope that the combined Technical and Teacher Training Institute in Siblín (see page 21) will have great success in its important task. Our close cooperation with the experienced and effective UNRWA will certainly guarantee a good outcome of the project."

Dr. Arne Bjornberg, Secretary-  
General of the Swedish Agency  
for International Assistance

"The objective of the vocational courses is to train skilled workers. Can this be accomplished in two years? The initiated expert will soon discover that the achievements of the centres are at least equal, if not better than in schools operating the normal three-year courses, because of better training methods and longer working time per year. The layout of the new centres is in every respect well planned and answers the purpose fully. They are in general well equipped."

Extract from report made by  
Mr. Herman Dieterich, Unesco  
Adviser for Technical and  
Vocational Training.

"I have seen quite a number of UNRWA training centres and have had occasion to study their teaching curricula, and am very impressed with the clear and functional way in which the courses are planned and executed. For the refugees who receive training, their acquired skills will prove a blessing, enabling them to become free and independent workers in future, no longer dependent on international relief. I consider this one of UNRWA's most important achievements and future tasks."

Mr. Wilhelm Bøe, Secretary-  
General of the Norwegian  
Refugee Council.

"The countries of the Middle East, having a great need of skilled men, are turning towards UNRWA, whose extensive vocational training programme is a model of its type of training. Thanks to the unique opportunity offered by UNRWA's vocational and teacher training centres, the young generation of Palestine refugees, intelligent and hungry for knowledge, can acquire the knowledge and the skill necessary for everyone who wishes to prepare himself for a useful life."

Dr. Hans Keller, Delegate of  
the Federal Council for  
Swiss Technical Assistance.

## 1. Kalandia Vocational Training Centre, Jordan.

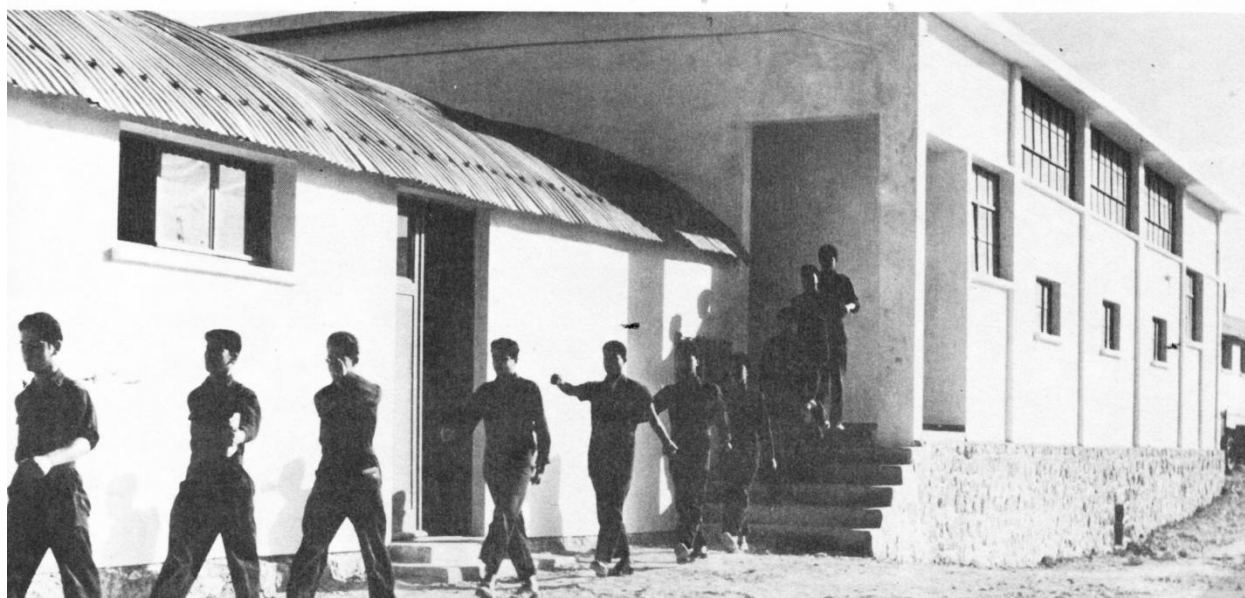
The Kalandia centre is often referred to as the "granddaddy" of all UNRWA training centres. It was the first centre established by the Agency, opened in late 1953. The centre, built on a 22-acre site provided by the Government of Jordan about five miles north of Jerusalem, had a capacity of only 127 trainees at first.

Subsequent enlargements and additions to the centre, notably in 1958-59 and 1960-61, have increased the centre's capacity to 392. Fifteen courses are presently being taught at Kalandia, which was built and equipped at a total cost of about \$402,000. The money was found from the regular income of the Agency.

Over the years, the Kalandia centre has steadily acquired a sound reputation for the quality of its training, and the diploma given to its graduates, often called the "Kalandia Certificate", has won wide respect and acceptance among employers throughout the Middle East.

Although some of the facilities at the centre — notably the older workshops, which still have their original corrugated iron roofs and must soon be replaced — are not quite as modern as those of the newer centres, the courses have been kept up-to-date, and new equipment has been added from time to time.

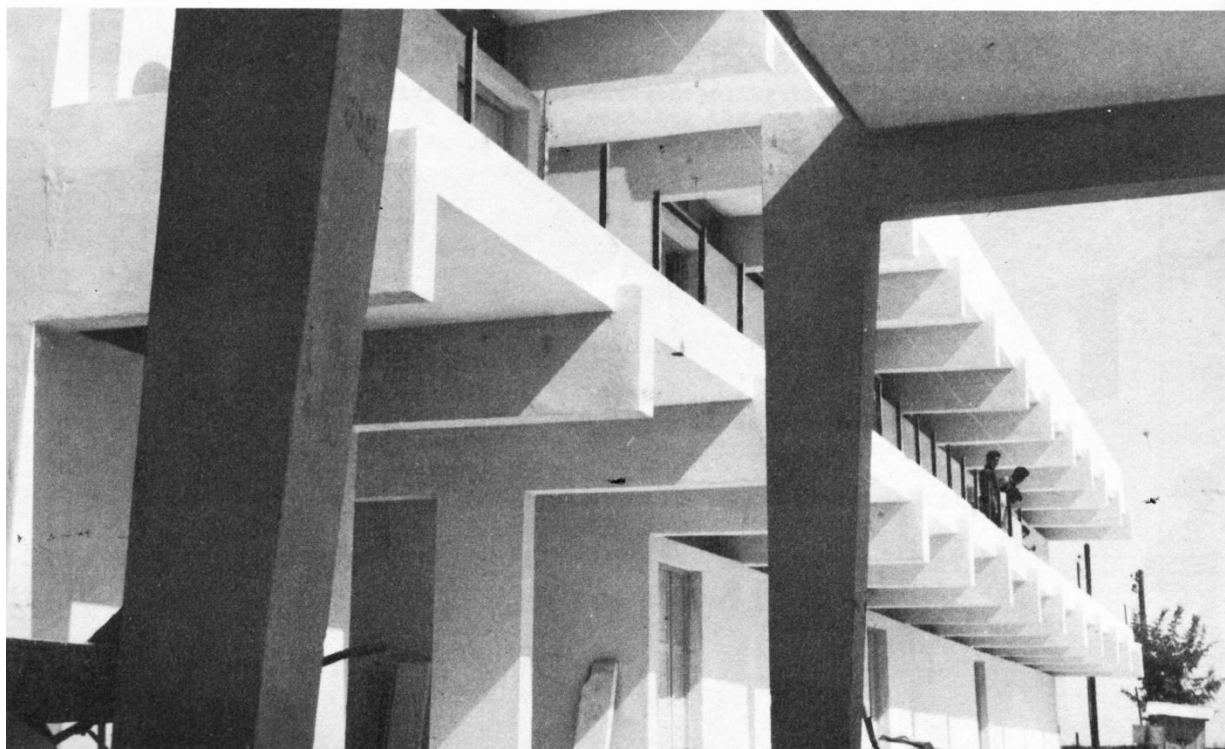
The invaluable experience gained at the Kalandia centre was the foundation on which later UNRWA training centres were established.



## 2. Gaza Vocational Training Centre, the Gaza Strip.

The Gaza centre, opened in 1954, followed closely on the heels of the Kalandia centre. Unlike Kalandia, the Gaza centre was at first non-residential, with a capacity of 187 trainees. However, dormitories were added in 1958 to make it residential. Experience had shown that it was desirable to lift the young refugees out of the depressing atmosphere of the refugee camp and home, and to give them a new start in new surroundings.

The original centre was built with funds from the Agency's regular income; the extension officially opened on 16 October 1962 was built and equipped with a donation of \$100,000 from the Norwegian Refugee Council, and with receipts from the joint UNHCR/UNRWA World Refugee Year Stamp Plan. The extension, which includes additional classrooms, dormitories, workshops, a library, two staff houses and other facilities, doubles the capacity of the centre, raising it to 368. With the new additions, a total of 14 trades are now being taught, including business and office practice and architectural/engineering draughting.





Mr. Wilhelm Bøe, (right), Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, presents a model Viking ship to Mr. A. Q. Nagi, principal of the Gaza centre, as a symbol of the link between Norway and the centre. The extensions to the centre were built and equipped with a donation of \$100,000 from the Norwegian Refugee Council.



At last month's ceremony, the extensions were officially inaugurated by Lt.-Gen. Yousef el Ajroudi, the Governor-General of Gaza, in the presence of Mr. Wilhelm Bøe, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Mr. John Reddaway, the Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA, members of the Norwegian contingent of the UN Emergency Force, senior Government and UNRWA officials and trainees and instructors at the centre.

Mr. Bøe told the assembled guests that the Norwegian Refugee Council considered that vocational training was one of the most important services that could be rendered to the refugees, and that it was proud to be associated with the training centre in Gaza.

Mr. Reddaway thanked the Norwegian Refugee Council, and paid tribute to Mr. Sigurd Halvorsen, its chairman, and to Mr. Bøe for their constant efforts on behalf of the refugees. "It is our hope that this centre will be the object of a special and continuing interest on the part of the Norwegian people and their Government, and a symbol of their active sympathy for the Palestine refugees," added Mr. Reddaway.

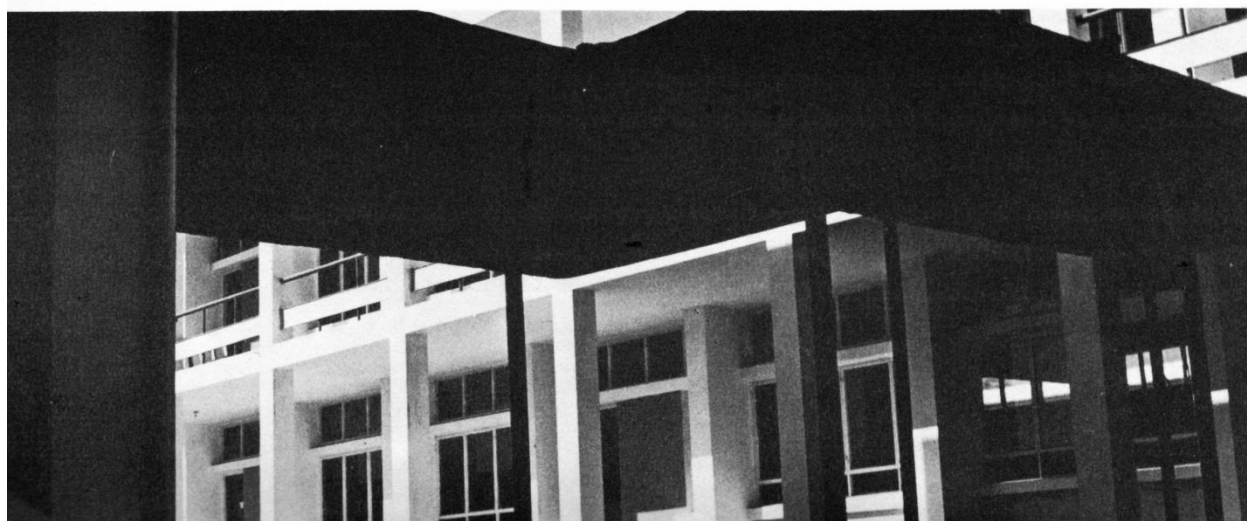
### 3. Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre, Jordan.

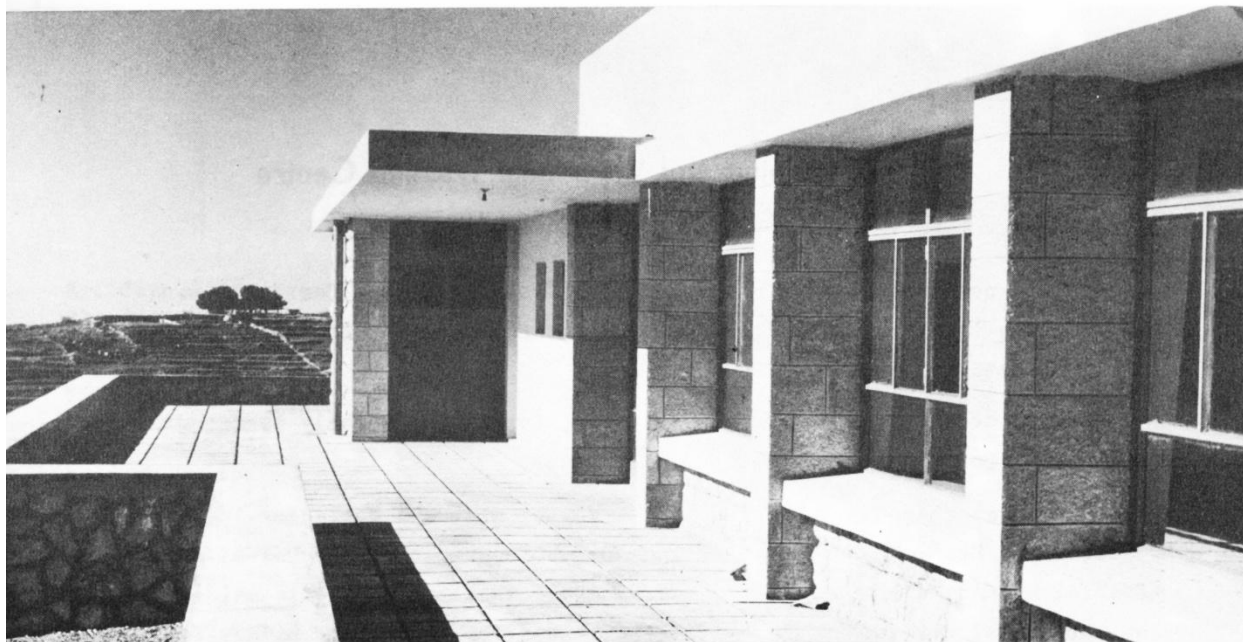
The Kalandia and Gaza centres were pilot projects established by UNRWA, which had no previous experience in the field of vocational training. The first centre to be built on the foundations of the experience gained at the two earlier centres was Wadi Seer. The centre, eight miles west of Amman, Jordan, was built from the Agency's regular funds (\$410,000), and opened by King Hussein of Jordan on United Nations Day (24 October) 1960.

The original centre had a capacity of 232 trainees, and offered 14 courses. But under the three-year programme proposed by Dr. Davis shortly before the centre was opened, Wadi Seer was to have its capacity almost doubled by the addition of extensions.

The extensions, costing about \$261,000 and financed mainly by donations from the Governments of Kuwait and Morocco (\$168,000) and the Australian World Refugee Year Committee (\$83,000), were opened in 1961, bringing the capacity to 404 trainees, and the number of courses offered to 16. The Wadi Seer centre is now in full operation and producing more than 200 graduates every year.

The Wadi Seer centre was the first UNRWA centre to benefit substantially from technical assistance funds donated to the Agency. Plaques were unveiled in five workshops in May 1962, signifying that the trainees in those five classes -- a total of 80 young refugees -- are being sponsored during their entire two-year courses by the Government of Switzerland, which is contributing \$80,000 from technical assistance funds for that purpose.





#### 4. Teacher Training Centre for Men, Ramallah, Jordan.

The Men's Teacher Training Centre in Ramallah was established following an earlier "pilot" teacher training project opened in early 1956 at Shufat, Jordan. The Shufat centre, which had 100 trainees, had to be closed down in 1957 because of the Agency's critical financial situation.

In 1958, it was possible to reopen the teacher training centre in new premises in Ramallah, 10 miles north of Jerusalem. The centre was established at a cost of \$186,000 (from the regular Agency budget) and opened in September 1960. The 100 trainees who first enrolled at the centre became the first graduates last June, on the completion of their two-year courses.

Extensions to the centre, now nearing completion, have increased the capacity from 200 trainees to 400. In the 1962-63 academic year, there are 300 student teachers, and the capacity enrolment will be reached next year. The centre will graduate approximately 200 qualified teachers every year from 1964 onwards.

The extensions to the centre were made possible by a donation of \$145,000 from the Danish Refugee Council. A ceremony will be held later on to inaugurate the new buildings, which include additional classrooms, dormitories and a library/assembly hall block.

## 5. Teacher Training and Vocational Training Centre for Girls, Ramallah, Jordan

The combined Teacher and Vocational Training Centre for Girls at Ramallah was inaugurated by King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on United Nations Day 1962.

The centre is a pioneer institution, for it is the only training centre of its kind for Arab girls in the Middle East.

"This centre is the first of its scope, size and character in the Arab world," said Mr. John Reddaway, Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA, at the official opening ceremony. Mr. Reddaway added that the centre is evidence "of the social revolution which is taking place throughout the Middle East as the emancipation of women gathers pace."

The centre, located just outside the city of Ramallah, has a capacity of 633 refugee girls; 300 will train to become teachers and 333 will follow one of 11 vocational training courses, such as dressmaking, hairdressing, preparatory nursing or institutional management.

During last month's opening ceremony, Mr. Reddaway paid special tribute to the two donors which made it possible for UNRWA to build and equip the centre, which cost \$765,000. The United Kingdom World Refugee Year Committee donated \$310,000 towards the cost, and the United States Government donated \$440,000 as a part of a special contribution on behalf of the people of the United States towards the UNRWA vocational training programme.

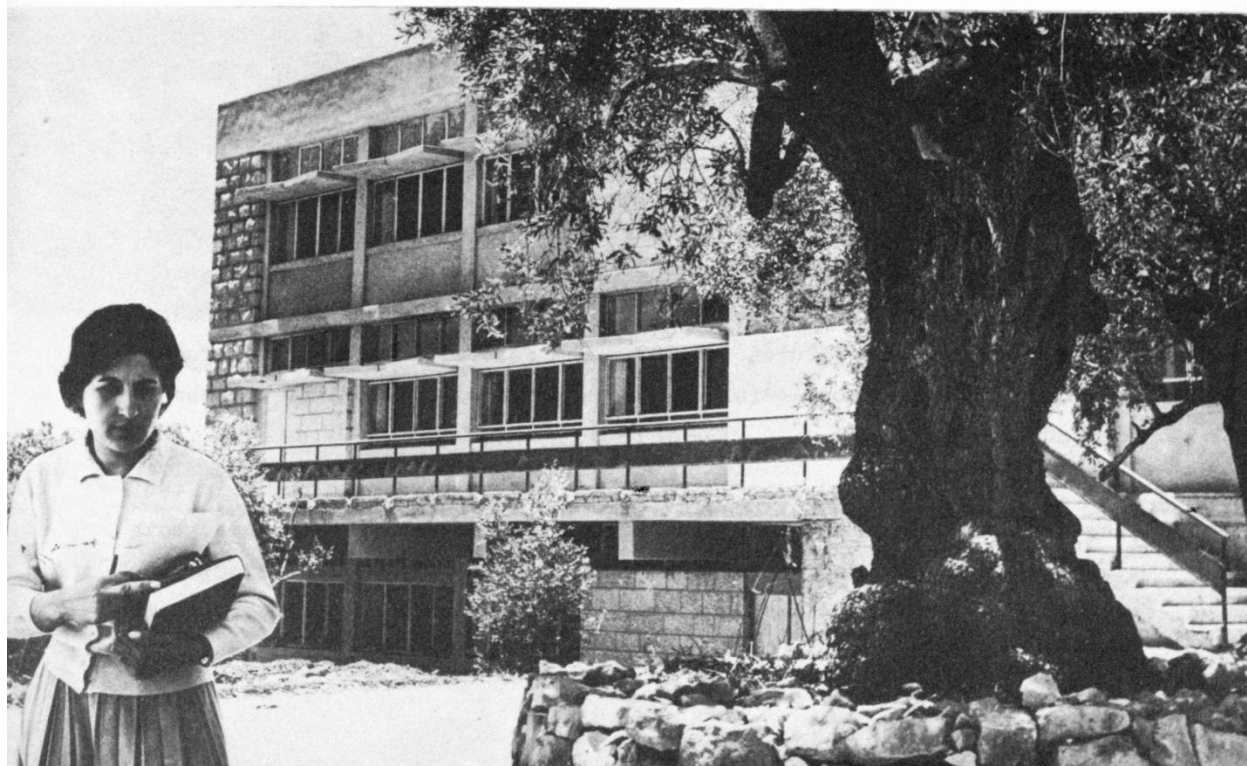
Among the estimated 2,000 officials and guests at the opening ceremony were Princess Muna, Mr. Wasfi Tal, the Prime Minister of Jordan, senior officials of the Jordanian Government and of UNRWA, and girls enrolled at the centre.

Almost 300 girls have already started their training at the centre, which will reach its maximum capacity enrolment in 1964. When it is in full operation, some 250 girls will graduate from the centre every year.

Built on an olive-clad hilltop site provided by the Municipality of Ramallah, the centre's facilities include classrooms, quarters for practical training, two dormitory blocks, a library/common-room/dining room block, administration quarters and some staff accommodation. The principal, Mrs. Inam



Mr. John Reddaway, the Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA, welcomes Princess Muna to the opening ceremony, which was held on United Nations Day. In the foreground is King Hussein, who declared the centre officially open. About 2,000 guests attended the ceremony.



Mufti, and most of the instructresses are Palestinians.

The centre has been established by UNRWA to provide training for refugee girls in vocations for which women are best suited and, apart from teaching, in which men are not usually employed. It was established in response to an increasing demand for training of this type, and in keeping with the current trend towards an increasingly active role played by Arab women in their communities.

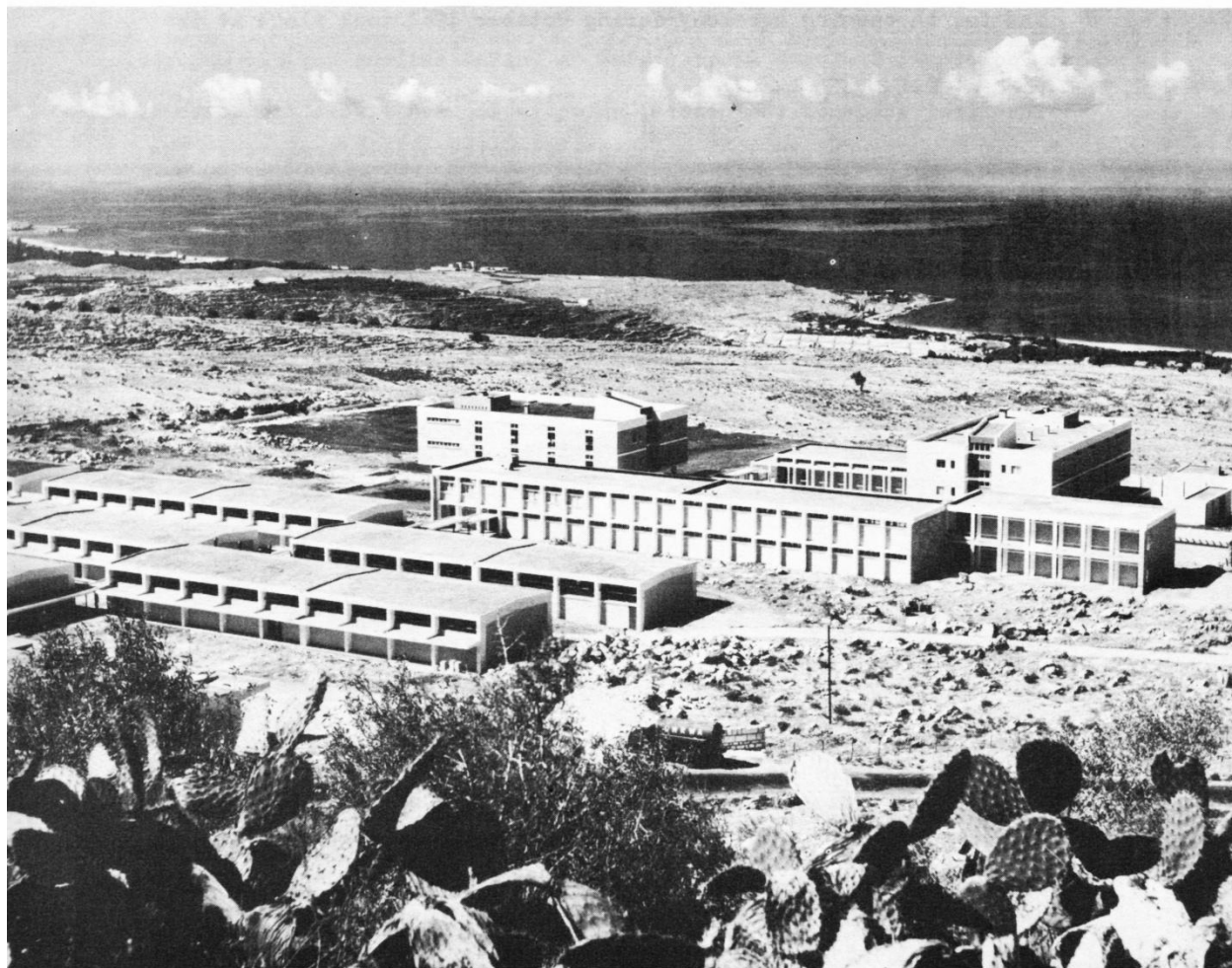
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## 6. Siblin Vocational Training Centre, Lebanon.

The Siblin Vocational Training Centre, officially opened on 2 October 1962, is the first UNRWA training centre in Lebanon, although it will soon be joined by a second (see article on page 21).

The centre, located in the foothills 25 miles south of Beirut, was opened by Prime Minister Rachid Karamah of Lebanon. Together with Canadian Ambassador Paul Beaulieu, he unveiled a plaque paying tribute to the donations from Canada which paid for the building and equipping of the centre. The Government of Canada donated \$450,000 worth of flour, part of its World Refugee Year contribution to UNRWA; the Canadian World Refugee Year Committee donated approximately \$153,000; and the Canadian Junior Red Cross contributed \$70,000. The Federal German World Refugee Year Committee and the Swedish Red Cross provided some of the workshop equipment.

In the original plans, the centre was to have been built in two phases. However, in the accelerated vocational training programme, both stages were constructed at once, so that the centre is now physically complete. Some 288 trainees enrolled in the centre in September, and the centre will reach its maximum capacity of 396 young men in 1963.



The Sibliin centre, built on a 15-acre site donated by Mr. Kamal Jumblatt, a Minister of the Lebanese Government, offers a total of 16 courses. The centre's facilities include two dormitory blocks, a classroom block, 17 workshops, a library, a dining room and office quarters.

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## 7 Damascus Vocational Training Centre, Syrian Arab Republic.

The fourth opening ceremony during October 1962 took place at the Damascus Vocational Training Centre, also on United Nations Day, 24 October.

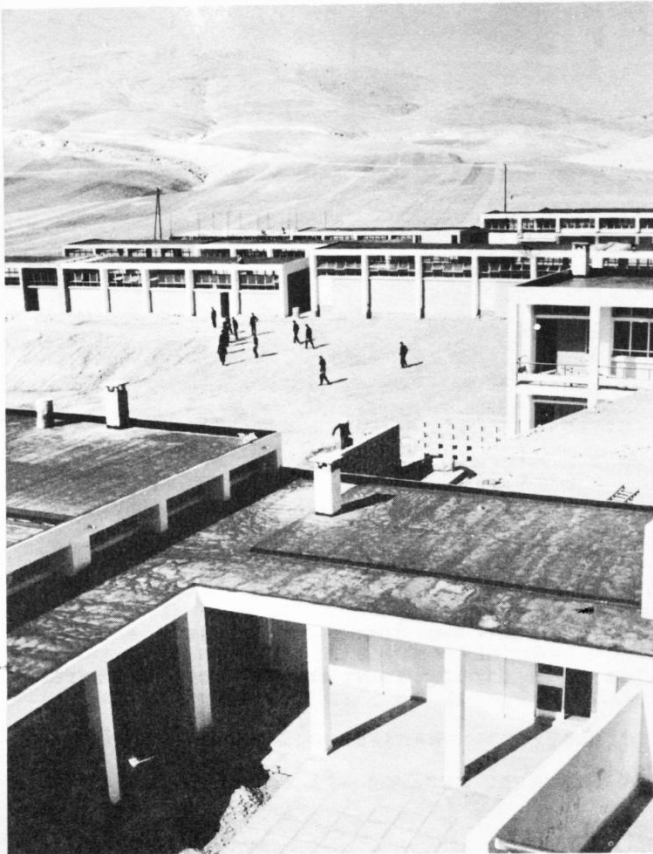
The first stage of the centre, which is located five miles south of Damascus, was inaugurated in 1961 and had a capacity of 212 trainees. The recent ceremony saw the opening of extensions which almost double the capacity, bringing it up to 392.

The cost of both first and second stages of the centre (\$798,500) was met by donations from the United Kingdom World Refugee Year Committee (\$586,000) and from the Federal German World Refugee Year Committee (\$212,000). The 15-acre site was provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

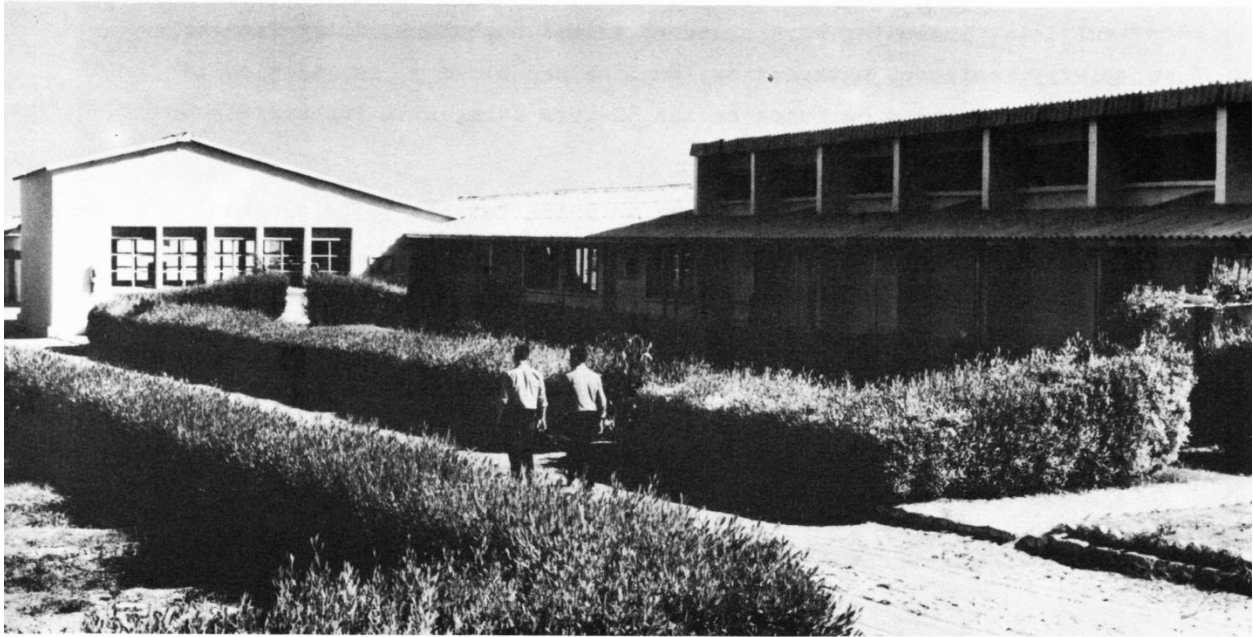
At last month's ceremony, held under the auspices of Mr. Abdul Halim Kaddour, Syria's Minister of Information and Acting Minister of Labour and

Social Affairs, a plaque was unveiled paying tribute to the three donors. Also attending the ceremony were the British Ambassador to Syria, the German Chargé d'Affaires, and other members of the Diplomatic Corps.

With the new additions, the Damascus centre now has 28 workshops, a classroom block, two blocks of dormitories, a library, and dining, administration and recreation facilities. A total of 16 courses are now taught there, and more than 200 young refugees will graduate each year.







#### 8. Beit Hanoun Agricultural Training Centre, the Gaza Strip.

Plans have recently been announced for the expansion of the Beit Hanoun centre, the only UNRWA centre devoted to agricultural training. The centre, located in the north-east corner of the Gaza Strip, will become residential with the addition of dormitories and other facilities, thus improving the scope and quality of the training. The capacity of the centre will remain at 75.

The additions are expected to be completed by next year. The trainees will then be able to benefit from the 24-hours-a-day experience essential to good farm training. Under the present system, they return to their homes each evening and so miss a portion of the farmer's daily routine.

During their three-year course, the trainees learn a variety of subjects, including horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy farming, chemistry, science, mathematics, English and biology, in addition to gaining practical experience on the 50-acre farm, with its variety of livestock and crops.

The centre was first opened in 1956, but had to be closed following the Israeli occupation of Gaza during 1956-57. It was not immediately reopened because of the Agency's stringent financial situation, and because much of the equipment and livestock had been lost during the conflict. The United Arab Republic authorities ran the centre as an agricultural secondary school from 1958 until mid-1961. In response to suggestions from the UAR Government and with the cooperation of the UAR authorities in Gaza, UNRWA resumed responsibility for its operation in September 1961.

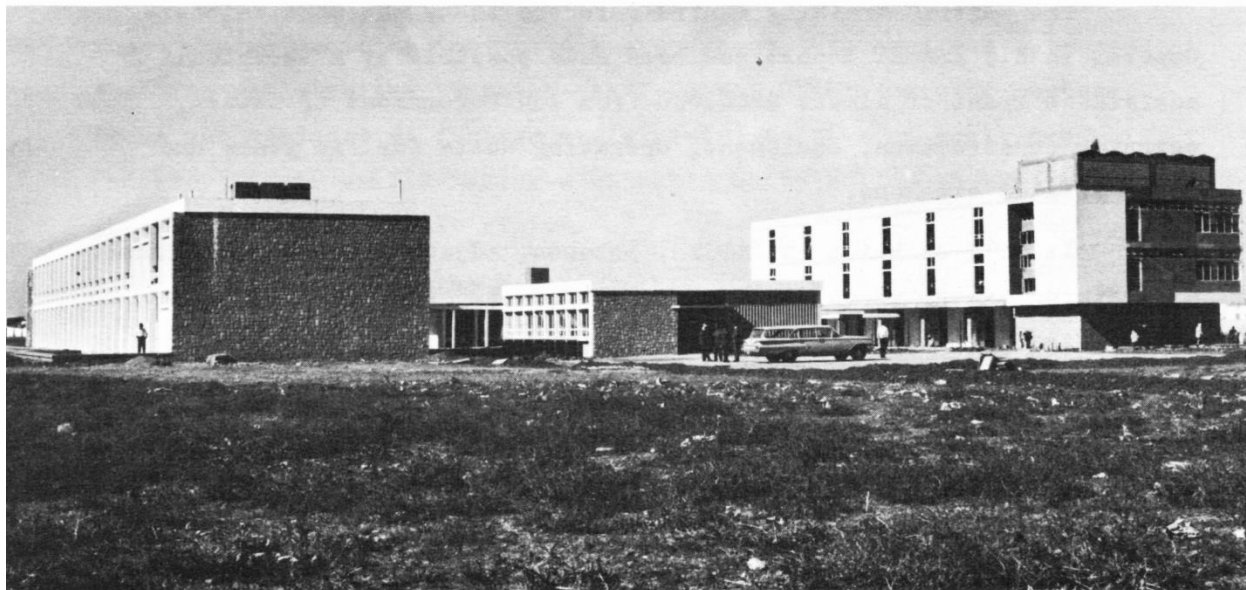
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## 9. Homs Teacher Training Centre, Syrian Arab Republic.

The construction of the Homs Teacher Training Centre for Men is not yet completed and the centre has not been officially opened, although the training of teachers began this fall. Located in Syria in the ancient city of Homs (now a rapidly developing industrial centre), it is the second UNRWA training institution to be established with funds donated by the Canadian Government during World Refugee Year. The total cost of \$300,000 was financed from a \$1,000,000 saving to the Agency made possible by a donation of Canadian flour.

The centre will have a capacity of 196 trainees, entering after passing their Baccalaureate examinations.

The construction of the centre is nearing completion, with the classrooms, administrative quarters, and dining facilities already in use. The dormitory block will be finished before the end of 1962.



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## 10. Khan Yunis Training Centre, the Gaza Strip.

The Agency plans to establish a small training centre at Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. Although all the details are not yet settled, the centre will probably be non-residential, and have a capacity of about 80 trainees.

The cost of constructing and equipping the centre is expected to be in the region of \$150,000.

The United Arab Republic authorities in the Gaza Strip have indicated their approval of the proposed centre. It is proposed that courses should be provided in marine trades such as the repair and maintenance of marine engines, the repair and maintenance of electrical installations in ships and the training of ships' stewards and cooks.

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## 11. Siblin Technical and Teacher Training Institute, Lebanon.

The "extra" training centre referred to by the Commissioner-General in his Annual Report has been made possible by a technical assistance grant of almost \$800,000 from the Government of Sweden, covering construction, equipment, operating costs for two years and other related expenses.

It will be built at Siblin, Lebanon, adjacent to the vocational training centre which was opened last month. Work on the foundations is expected to begin this month, and the Technical and Teacher Training Institute, Siblin, will be opened late in 1963.

The new institute will reach its capacity enrolment of 264 young men in 1964. They will include 50 in an instructor-training and foremen's course, 150 training to be elementary school teachers, 32 in a telecommunications mechanics' course, and 32 learning to be handicraft teachers.

One of the most important features of the new centre is the one-year course for vocational training instructors and foremen. Fifty refugees, all graduates from other UNRWA training centres, will fly to Sweden each year to spend twelve months working and training in industry.

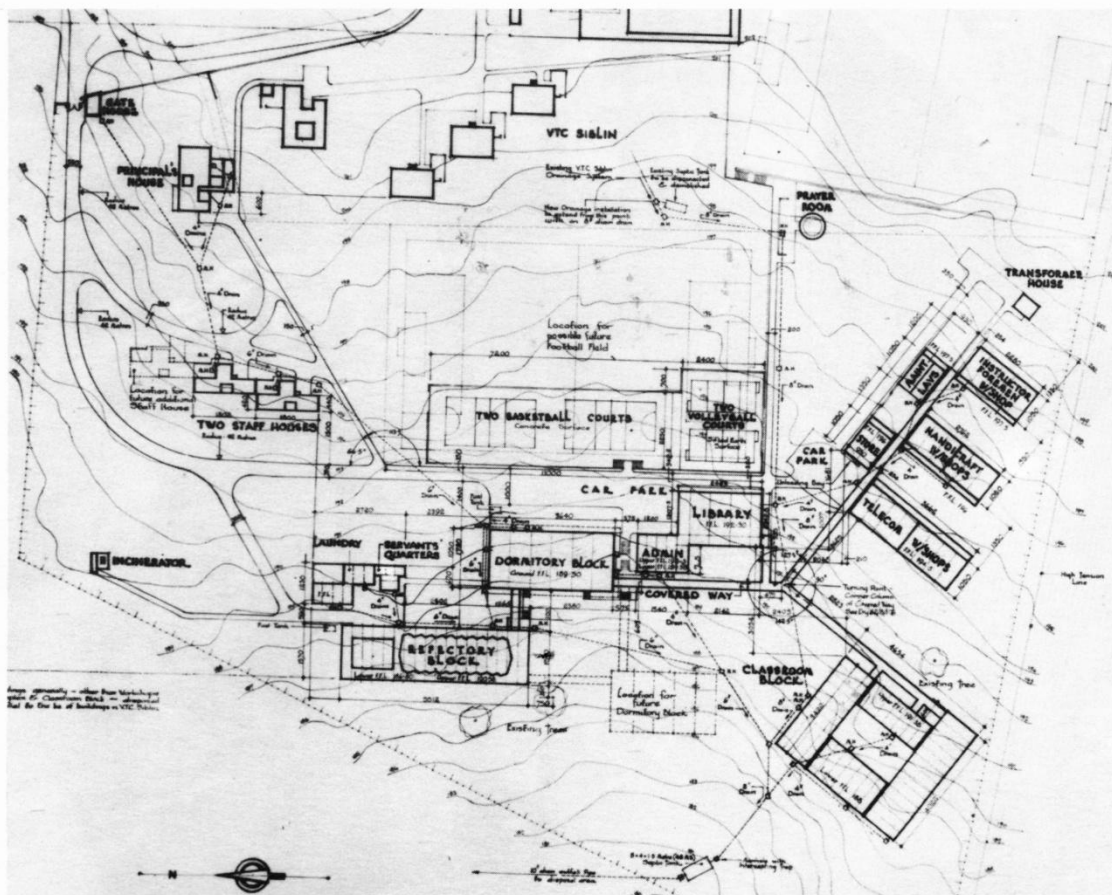
UNRWA believes that the first-hand experience they will obtain there in a highly industrialised society will be invaluable to them and will enable them, later, to make a most useful contribution to the industrial development of the Middle East. They will return to take a one-year's course at the Siblin institute as either instructors or industrial foremen. On graduation, they will then have completed four years of training and experience. The first group of 50 trainees left for Sweden in October 1962. The Government of Sweden has agreed to pay the return transportation costs for the first two years of the programme.

Dr. Davis, in his Annual Report, called the centre "important to the whole vocational training programme of the Agency", since many of

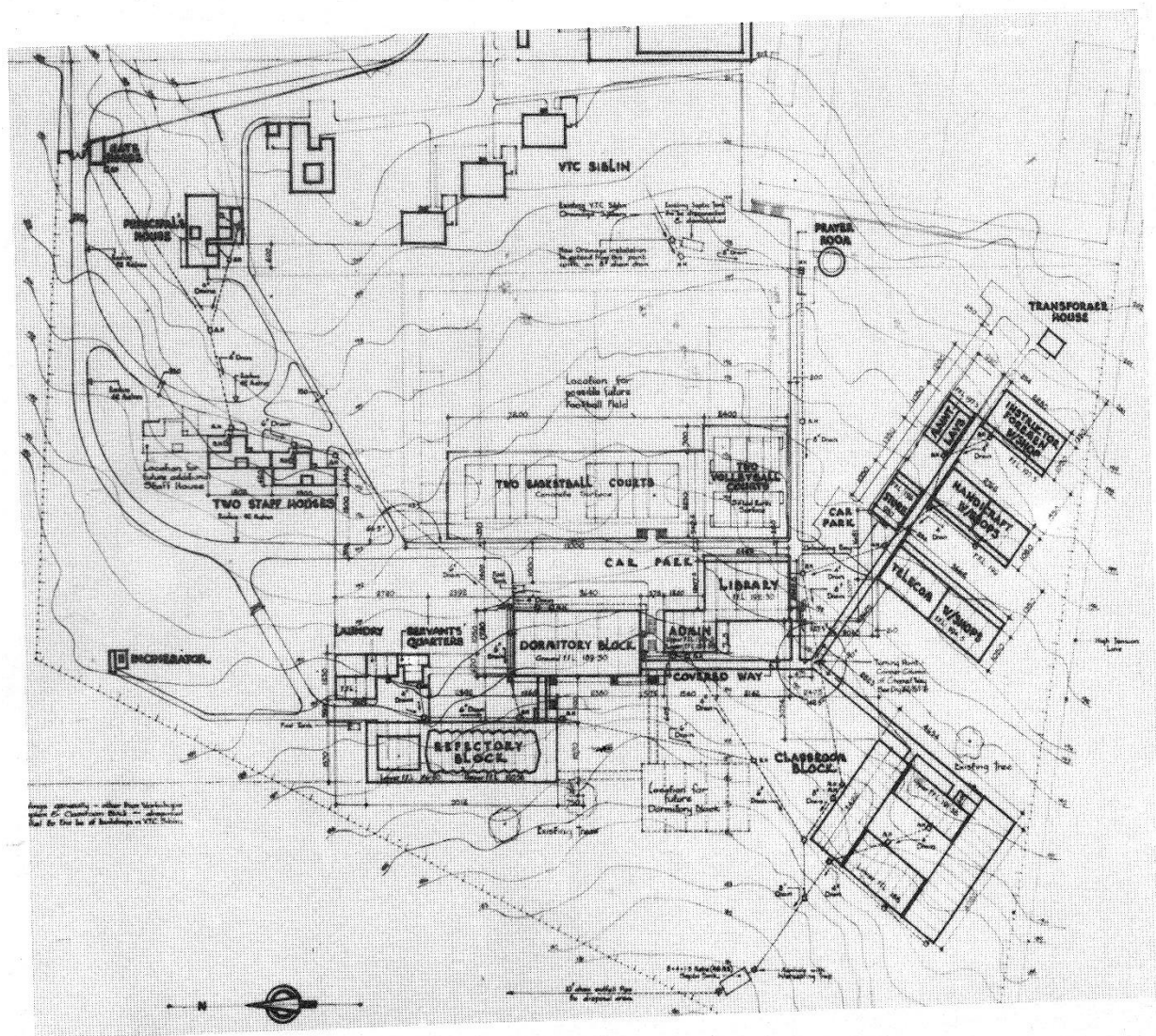
those who graduate as instructors are expected to meet the ever-present need for well-trained teaching staff in the UNRWA training centres. Those who graduate as foremen are expected to take up positions in industry, their skills making a valuable contribution to the technical development of the whole region.

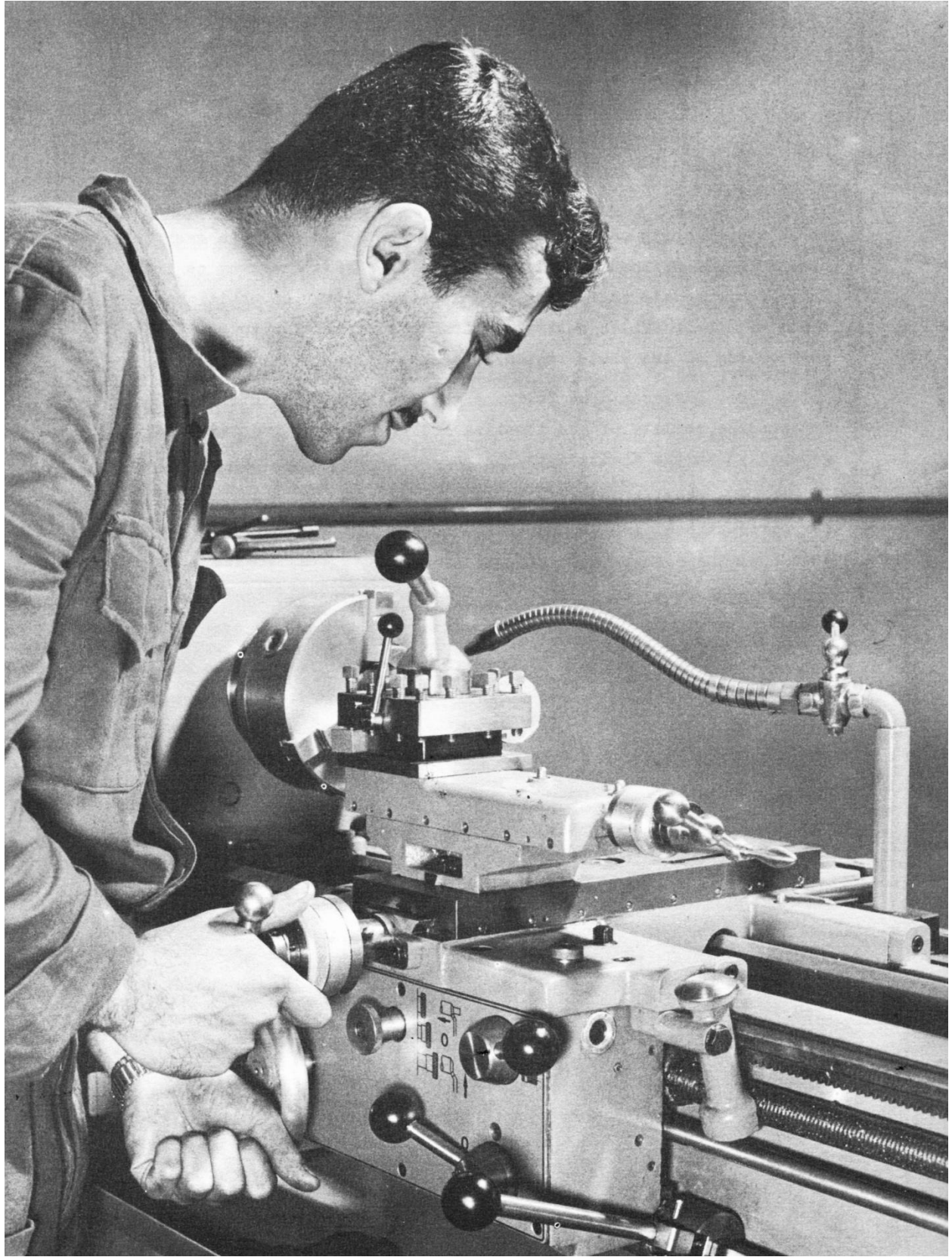
Dr. Davis said he believes that the new institute will "help to improve the quality of the teaching and practice of industrial skills generally" in the Middle East.

The Swedish grant, made through the Swedish Government's Agency for International Assistance (NIB), is the largest contribution from technical assistance funds yet made to UNRWA.









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: first: to provide food, health and welfare services, and shelter for the refugees; second: to provide education and training to refugee children and young adults including general education, vocational and teacher training, and university scholarships.

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  
Museitbeh Quarter,  
Beirut,  
Lebanon.

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(For information purposes - Not an official record)