



# PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

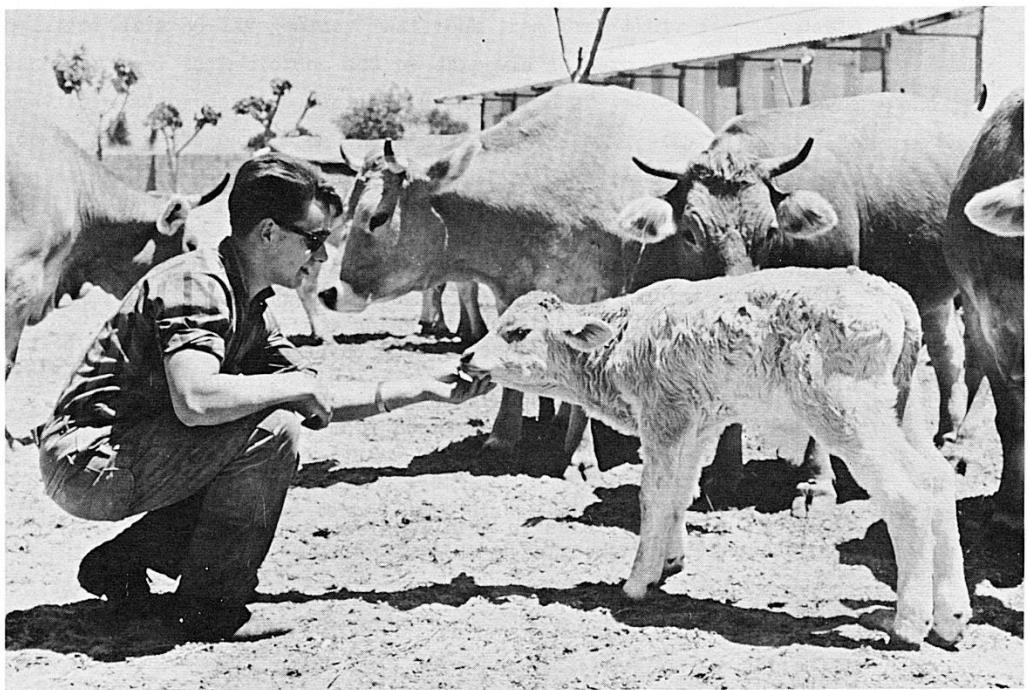
## An *UNRWA Newsletter*

No. 34      June—July 1964



ACROSS THE DESERT...

...GIFTS WITH A BONUS



Litho in U.N.—14784—July 1964—4,500

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The cover pictures show the gift and the bonus (below) and the convoy of UNRWA trucks bringing the cows across the Sinai Desert (above). See article on page 3.

All photographs in this Newsletter and other pictures of the work of UNRWA may be obtained from the Public Information Office, UNRWA, Museitbeh Quarter, Beirut, Lebanon.

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GIFTS WITH A BONUS

Twelve cows, gifts from the Government of Switzerland to UNRWA, arrived in March at the Agency's Beit Hanoun Agricultural Training Centre in the Gaza Strip bearing gifts of their own.

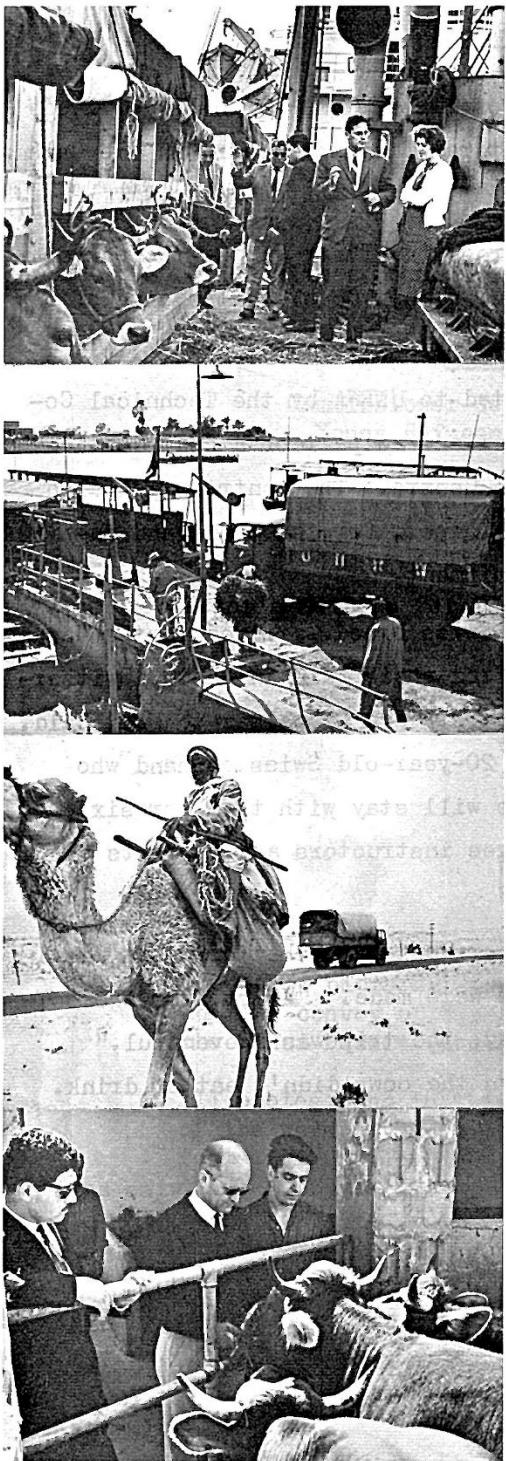
At the end of May two of the cows had presented their gifts--two calves. The other ten cows are expected to calve soon, almost doubling the size of the herd.

The twelve cows and two bulls were donated to UNRWA by the Technical Co-operation Service of the Government of Switzerland as part of a contribution, valued at \$44,000, to develop the Beit Hanoun Centre. The contribution also provides the services of a Swiss agricultural expert for two years and includes an assortment of farming and dairy equipment.

The cattle, fine specimens of the Brown Swiss breed, arrived in the Gaza Strip after a 35-day journey that took them from their farm in Basle, Switzerland, by rail to Amsterdam and by ship via Antwerp and Gibraltar to Port Said. They were accompanied by Walter Lüginbuhl, a 20-year-old Swiss cowhand who looked after the cattle on their journey. He will stay with them for six months at Beit Hanoun to help train the refugee instructors and students to care for them.

A collision between their ship and another vessel in the North Sea Canal delayed the journey for 14 days while repairs were made. "Apart from the collision and two rough days in the Bay of Biscay, the trip was uneventful," said Walter Lüginbuhl. "During those two days the cows didn't eat or drink. I didn't feel much like it either."

The cattle were met at Port Said by Mr. Robert Pascalis, the Swiss agricultural expert attached to the Beit Hanoun Centre. The last leg of the journey was made in UNRWA trucks--across the Suez Canal by ferry, through the barren wastes of the Sinai Desert, where the only sign of life was an occasional camel train or bedouin encampment, and into the Gaza Strip, where a specially built enclosure and feeding pens were awaiting them at the agricultural training centre.



"The cattle are a valuable addition to the training centre," said Mr. Pascalis. "They will give the young trainees experience in looking after a good-quality dairy herd." It is also hoped that the introduction of a good dairy herd into the Gaza Strip might encourage other farmers to turn to cattle and thus help to produce a more balanced agriculture in place of the present system which is based almost entirely on citrus production.

The size of the herd will be limited to about 25 cows, for the 50-acre training centre could not produce enough fodder for a larger herd.

Thanks to the contribution from Switzerland and to new facilities provided by UNRWA, the Beit Hanoun Centre has undergone extensive changes during the past year. New dormitories built by UNRWA have made the Centre completely residential; the 25 trainees in each year of the three-year course now live at the Centre and are thus able to benefit from the 24-hour experience essential to good agricultural training. Previously, some

LEFT: (top to bottom) The cows travelled by ship to Port Said, across the Suez Canal by ferry, through the Sinai Desert in UNRWA trucks passing only an isolated bedouin encampment, and finally arrived at their new home in the Gaza Strip.

had attended on a day-school basis. Equipment provided by the Swiss contribution, including a tractor, ploughs and other implements and a variety of dairy equipment, is enabling the Centre to give better training to the young refugees and thus to prepare them more thoroughly to live useful lives and to contribute to the development of the area.

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#### IN BRIEF

##### Commissioner-General's European Mission

The Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Mr. Laurence Michelmore, undertook a two-week mission in Europe at the end of May. The main purpose of the mission was to take part in the inauguration of a national fund-raising campaign in Norway to aid refugees. The campaign was organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council. The Commissioner-General was one of the principal guests of honour and speakers at a ceremony in Oslo during which His Majesty King Olav V launched the campaign.

Mr. Michelmore also met with government officials and the representatives of private groups and voluntary agencies in Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden to discuss UNRWA's work and financial needs.

##### Young Refugees Train in Switzerland

Six young refugees have been in Switzerland since early May when they began a year of training and experience in industry under a scheme organized jointly by UNRWA and the Swiss Foundation for Technical Assistance. The young men, all graduates from UNRWA training centres, will work in factories near Zurich for on-the-job training. After their year in Switzerland, they will return to put their newly-acquired skill and experience to work in the Middle East.

##### Donations

A contribution of £10,000 (\$28,000) has been made by the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) to provide vocational training scholarships for young refugees at UNRWA training centres. Twenty-eight trainees have been sponsored for the two years of their course.

A further contribution of \$56,000 from the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) will be used to provide university and vocational training scholarships. The donation includes \$41,200 for university scholarships, enabling 60 refugee students to attend universities in the Middle East, and

representatives of voluntary agencies and private organizations, churchmen and individuals from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, to name some of the countries. The visitors paid many tributes to UNRWA's work and, particularly, to the Agency's programmes of education and vocational training.

Three groups of visitors came to the Middle East specifically to study the problem of the Palestine refugees and to see for themselves what UNRWA is doing to assist the refugees. The three groups -- a Scandinavian parliamentary and governmental delegation, a party of voluntary agency representatives and a group of Swiss Protestant pastors -- visited all four "host" countries (Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Gaza Strip), where they saw a number of UNRWA camps, training centres, schools, clinics, feeding centres and other installations.

The Scandinavian group included Mrs. Ulla Lindstrom (Minister Without Portfolio), Mr. Nils Johansson (Vice-Speaker of the Chamber), Mr. Sven Mellquist (Member of Parliament) and Mr. Martin Lindstrom (training college principal) from Sweden; Mrs. Rakel Sewereen (Member of Parliament) and

BELOW: Members of the Scandinavian party visit an UNRWA girls' school in the Gaza Strip.



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Mr. Per Ravne (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) from Norway; and Mr. Jens Kai Bundvad (Minister of Social Affairs), Mr. Soeren Peter Andersen (Member of Parliament) and Mr. Rene Robert Brusvang (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) from Denmark. During their visit they saw some of the projects made possible by

contributions to UNRWA from their countries, including the new training institute in Lebanon (Sweden), the expanded Gaza Vocational Training Centre (Norway) and the enlarged Men's Teacher Training Centre in Jordan (Denmark).

While the party was in the Gaza Strip, Mrs. Lindstrom laid the cornerstone of a new medical centre, part of a health and education project made possible by a recent contribution from Sweden (see page 10).

ABOVE: From the foot of the Mount of Temptation overlooking Jericho, an UNRWA area officer indicates points of interest to the Swiss pastors during their visit to Jordan. An UNRWA refugee camp can be seen in the background.



The group of representatives of various voluntary agencies belonging to the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) comprised Princess Karoline of Liechtenstein (Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem), the Honourable Mrs. Douglas Woodruff (Vice-Chairman of the British Council for Aid to Refugees and Chairman of the Catholic Women's League), Mrs. Stella Dyer (OXFAM), Miss Mary Berry (International Federation of Business and Professional Women), Abbe Paul Bouvier (Caritas, Switzerland), the Reverend William A. Dudde (Lutheran World Federation) and Mr. Pierre Chevalier (Centre International de Reportage et d'Information Culturelle). Among the views expressed about UNRWA's work was an article written by Abbe Bouvier on his return. "Among the big problems which UNRWA has been tackling with praiseworthy courage and competence is that of teaching the young and giving them vocational training. . . . The vocational training centres we

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Another visitor who has taken an active interest in the Ramallah girls' centre is Mrs. Helvi Sipila (Finland), who paid her third visit to UNRWA's area of operations in March. Mrs. Sipila came as chairman of the Day of Education, a campaign through which a number of vocational training scholarships have already been made available since Mrs. Sipila's return to Finland. She is also governor of Zonta District XIII.

A substantial contribution was also made to UNRWA following the visit of Major G. W. Acworth, field secretary (Europe and Mediterranean) of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM). The donation of £10,000 will provide two-year vocational training scholarships for 28 refugee trainees in UNRWA training centres. During his visit, Major Acworth met some of the trainees who had been sponsored by previous OXFAM contributions. The deputy honorary secretary of OXFAM, Dr. Leo Liepmann, also saw UNRWA's work during a visit to the Middle East accompanied by Mrs. Liepmann.

Other distinguished visitors to UNRWA's area of operation during the past few weeks have included Mrs. Marietta Tree, the United States delegate to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Kehm-Hansen (Denmark), Member of the Board of the Secretariat for Technical Cooperation with Developing Countries, Mr. Ole Bang, Secretary-General of the Danish Refugee Council, Miss Janet Lacey, director of the British Council of Churches Inter-Church Aid, Dr. Alice Arnold, secretary for social and international affairs of the World Y. W. C. A. in Geneva, Mr. Shintaro Fukushima, president and publisher of the Japan TIMES and a member of the Japanese delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Jean Pierre Robert-Tissot, director of the relief department of the League of Red Cross Societies, Professor Arnold Toynbee, the noted British historian, and Dr. Ralph Bunche, United Nations Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs.

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TODAY'S METHODS FOR TOMORROW'S WIVES -- THANKS TO SWEDEN

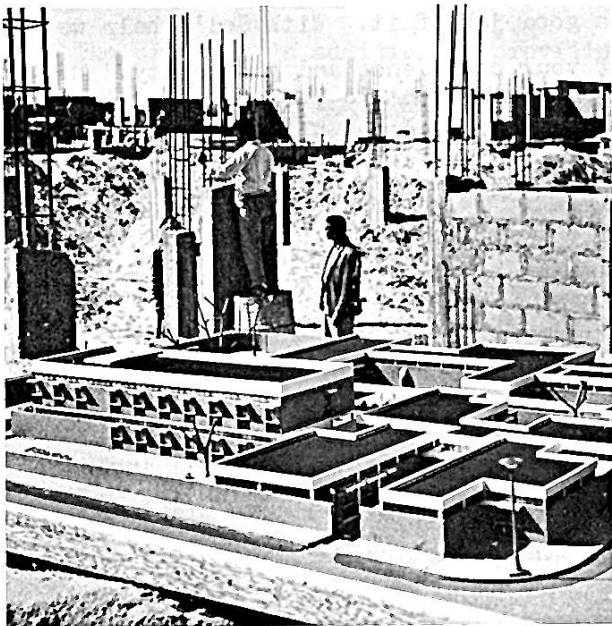
Most wives and mothers in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip go about their household tasks of preparing the day's food and caring for their children in much the same way as did their mothers and their grandmothers before them.

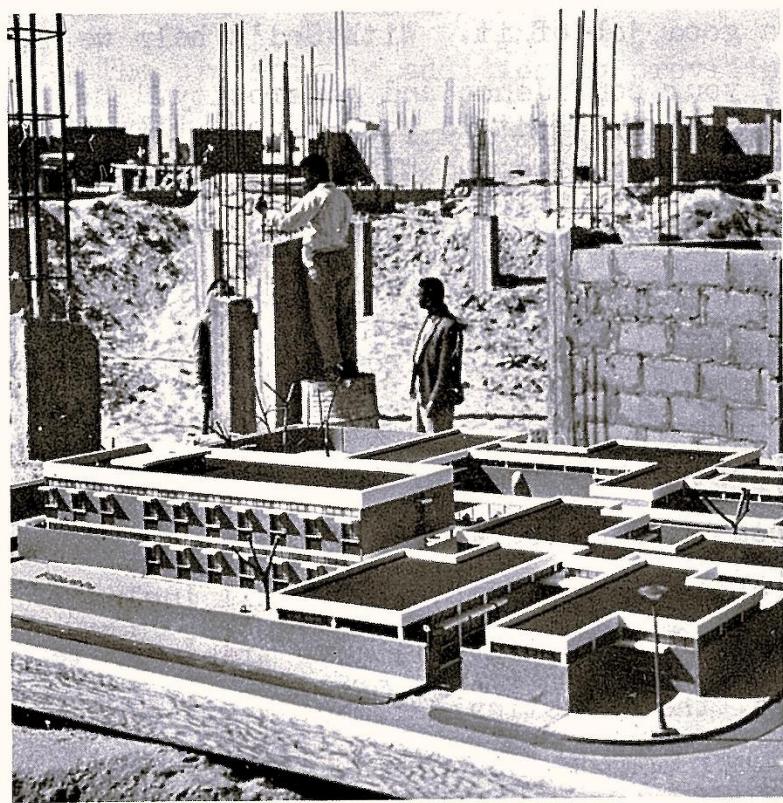
But many of their daughters will abandon the often outdated traditions of the past in favour of the methods of the present, thanks largely to a health and education project being initiated by UNRWA.

The project has been made possible with the generous help of the Government of Sweden, through its Agency for International Assistance. A further contribution of almost \$100,000 was announced in early June to supplement a previous donation for the establishment of the project. (The Government of Sweden announced at the same time that it would double its regular contribution to UNRWA for 1964 from \$58,000 to \$116,000.) Sweden has agreed to finance construction and three years' operating costs of the project, which will have both immediate and long-term benefits for many of the 286,000 refugees crowded into the 25-mile stretch of Mediterranean coast known as the Gaza Strip.

The immediate benefits will include the provision of improved health services for many refugees, and particularly for refugee children, in a much-needed new medical centre. The long-term benefits, including a rise in the general levels of health and hygiene, will result from programmes of education and training.

LEFT: The new medical centre rises in the background; a model shows the centre as it will appear. BELOW: Mrs. Lindstrom and the Governor-General of the Gaza Strip following the laying of the foundation stone.





The focal point of the project is the medical centre, now rising from an area where, only a few months ago, there was nothing but sand. The foundation stone of the centre was laid at the end of March by Mrs. Ulla Lindstrom, Minister Without Portfolio in the Swedish Government, in the presence of a Scandinavian parliamentary delegation visiting UNRWA installations (see page 6).

During the ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Mr. John Reddaway, said that the medical centre, together with the education project, "will be of inestimable value to the refugees in Gaza."

"I ask the Swedish visitors to convey our gratitude to the Swedish Government and to the good and generous people of Sweden who have always taken such a sympathetic interest in the tragic plight of the refugees," added Mr. Reddaway.

The Deputy Commissioner-General also warmly thanked the Governor-General of the Gaza Strip, who had made available the site for the project, and his staff for their active and helpful interest in the welfare of the refugees.

Mr. Reddaway concluded by saying: "You have given us the tools in the shape of this fine site, a most generous donation of funds and all the cooperation, technical advice and help that we could possibly have wished to receive. It now rests with us to make a good job of it. With God's help we shall achieve something here worthy of your confidence and generosity."

Mrs. Lindstrom said that she was pleased and proud to see Swedish funds being put to such good use by UNRWA.

The medical centre, now being built near Gaza town at a cost of about \$44,000, will provide improved health care for refugees from the town and from nearby Beach Camp. A maternal and child health clinic will provide ante-natal care for refugee women and post-natal care for their babies, many of whom will probably be born in the centre's 12-bed maternity ward. Sick children will be treated in a special children's clinic, which will include a 15-bed pediatric ward. A 20-bed rehydration centre will give treatment to infants suffering from gastro-enteritis, the intestinal ailment that is so prevalent among children in the hot summer months, and which, if left

untreated, can claim so many young lives. In addition to these facilities, all to be provided with the funds donated by Sweden, UNRWA will build a clinic to give general medical care to the refugees of the area.

The second role of the centre -- acting as nerve-centre for programmes of training and health education -- will perhaps be the more significant, since the result of these programmes will be a long-term, cumulative improvement in the general standards of health and hygiene throughout the Gaza Strip.

UNRWA doctors, nurses and midwives will attend regular in-service training courses at the centre to ensure that the medical care given to refugees is maintained at an adequate standard. A course to train midwives will also be established.

Courses in home economics and health education will be included for the first time in the curriculum of UNRWA's preparatory schools for girls this autumn as part of the project. The donation from Sweden includes funds for the construction and equipment of home economics units at each of the 16 schools. The girls will receive a basic knowledge of child care, nutrition, hygiene, biology and home management. Health education will also be given to refugee mothers who attend the medical centre of the Agency's seven other clinics in the Gaza Strip under the direction of trained nurses attached to the medical centre.

The project, in addition to providing better health care for many refugees, will enable many of the wives and mothers of tomorrow to raise their children and manage their homes using the methods of today instead of the traditions of yesterday.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a special, temporary, nonpolitical body established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1949.

In cooperation 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; its current mandate expires on 30 June 1965.

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Further information may be obtained from  
UNRWA Liaison Office  
United Nations  
New York

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In the United States, the United States Committee for Refugees is an organization cooperating with UNRWA

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