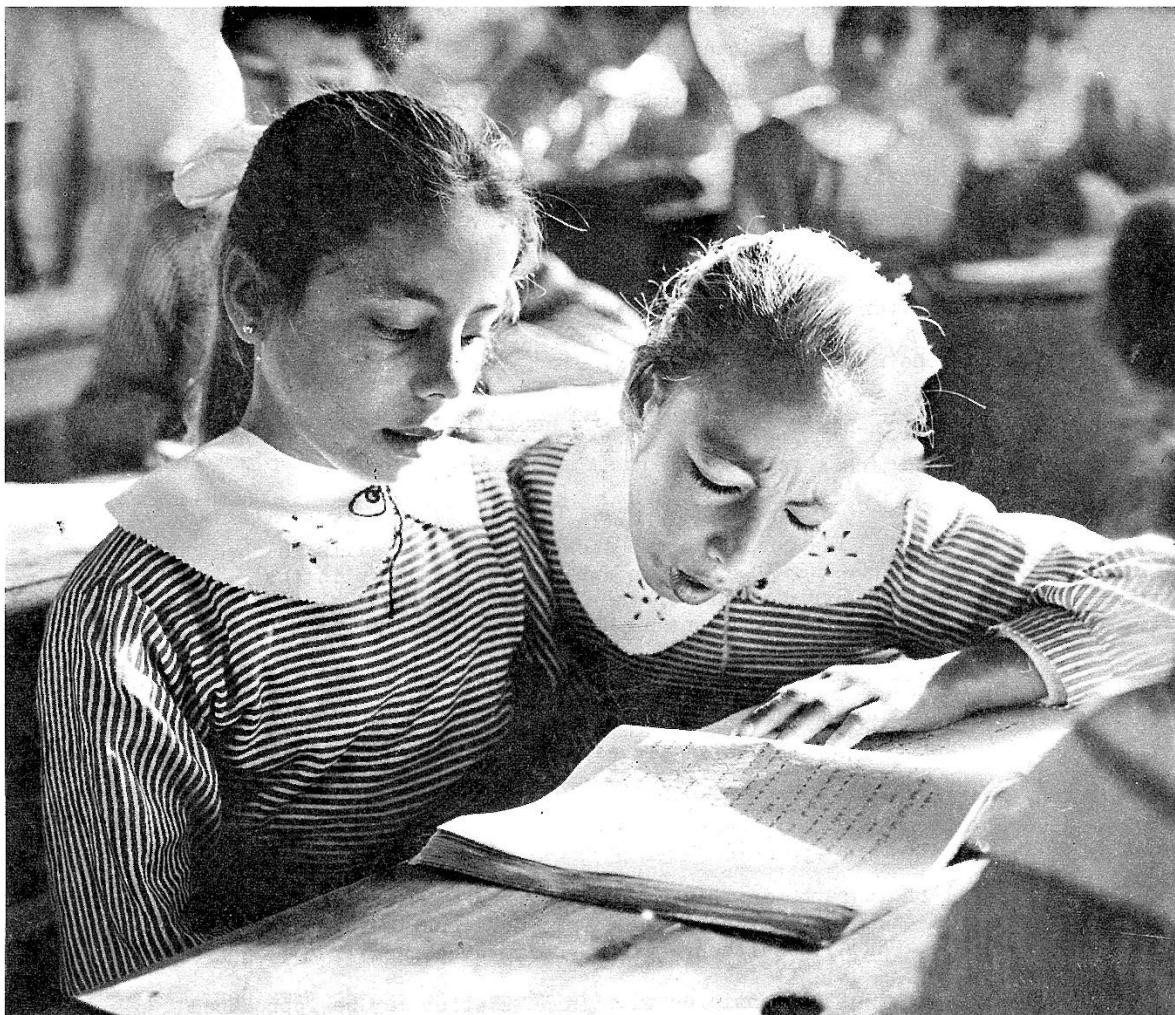




# PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

## An UNRWA Newsletter

No. 40 March—April 1965



A LARGE INCREASE IN SCHOOL ENROLMENT

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The cover picture shows two refugee girls in the UNRWA-UNESCO school in Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip -- two of the children who have helped to swell the enrolment in UNRWA-UNESCO schools to a record number.

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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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GOVERNMENTS PLEDGE \$33 MILLION TO UNRWA

The Governments of 30 countries recently pledged a total of almost \$33 million to support UNRWA's continued operations. Ten countries either made pledges for the first time or announced increased contributions, but the two largest contributors warned the Agency that they could not continue to bear so large a share of the burden of supporting the Palestine refugees. (Their contributions together make up nearly nine tenths of the Agency's revenue.)

The pledges were made before the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA, which met at United Nations Headquarters in New York in February. A number of other countries that did not announce pledges then have indicated that they will make contributions.

However, the Agency continues to face a critical financial situation. The cost of UNRWA's present activities is estimated at \$37.8 million for 1965. Additional government contributions are expected to be added to the \$33 million already pledged, but unless there are substantial donations from non-governmental sources, UNRWA will end 1965 with a considerable deficit. The Agency had a deficit of \$2 million in 1964.

In a statement to the Committee the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Mr. Laurence Michelmore, said that to carry out its programme and to cover increasing expenditure on education and training, the Agency needed even more funds than had been available in the past. He expressed the opinion that the Palestine refugees' need for large-scale assistance continued, saying that many families that were partially self-supporting needed some help and that others were completely dependent on the assistance given by UNRWA, the "host" Governments and the voluntary organizations.

The Commissioner-General observed that UNRWA's relief operations (basic food rations, supplementary feeding, shelter and special hardship assistance) had remained at much the same per capita level since 1950, with the exception of a major camp construction programme completed in the fifties. He reported a small rise in the Agency's relief costs in 1964 due to increased commodity

prices, although there was a slight drop in the number of ration recipients. Mr. Michelmore said that both UNRWA and the World Health Organization felt that the health programme was a minimum programme of essential services operating close to maximum efficiency.

The Commissioner-General told the Committee that it was in the field of education and training that the additional needs were most felt. He said that more and more school-age children were going to school and staying in school longer and that, over the life of the Agency, the number of students in UNRWA schools had increased fourfold. He believed that UNRWA could help the refugees most constructively by providing the best education and training that its funds would permit, to prepare young refugees for productive and useful lives, wherever they might ultimately live.

Mr. Michelmore stated that UNRWA would seek further improvements in the conduct of all its activities, including the distribution of food rations, to secure for the genuinely needy refugees the maximum benefit of all UNRWA expenditures. But he pointed out that unless contributions were significantly increased, some services would have to be reduced. He said that already in 1964 expenditures had exceeded income by about \$2 million, some \$500,000 more than estimated in the Annual Report, due largely to increased commodity prices. The Commissioner-General added that this had reduced the Agency's reserves to a minimum level and that it was essential that income and expenditure be brought back into balance.

Government contributions announced

As in previous years, the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom pledged the largest sums. The United States pledged \$24.7 million for the financial year 1964-65, provided that this sum did not exceed 70 per cent of the contributions from all governments, and the United Kingdom pledged \$5.4 million.

The representative of the United States said that his Government continued to feel that it was bearing an unduly high proportion of UNRWA's expenses and that it planned to reduce its total contribution for the financial year 1965-66 by \$1 million. He said that it was evident that costs were increasing to such a point that some cuts in expenditure had to be made and

that his Government believed that the necessary economies could be accomplished by the "long-needed rectification of the relief rolls" without affecting the provision of relief to genuinely needy refugees.

The United Kingdom delegate also stated that his delegation believed that reductions in expenditure would only be achieved when a detailed rectification of the ration rolls had been completed with the cooperation of the "host" Governments. He said that next year, depending on the circumstances, his Government might have to consider making a reduction in the amount allocated for relief purposes, without increasing the amount allotted to health and education.

Pledges (the amount is shown in the equivalent of United States dollars) were also made by Austria (\$10,000), Belgium (\$30,000), Canada (\$1,116,000), Ceylon (\$1,000), Denmark (\$70,000), the Federal Republic of Germany (\$500,000), Finland (\$10,000), France (\$269,400), Ghana (\$3,000), India (\$21,000), Iran (\$6,000), Ireland (\$25,000), Italy (\$80,000 for the first six months of 1965), Jamaica (\$560), Japan (\$30,000), Kuwait (\$220,000), Luxembourg (\$3,000), Malaysia (\$1,500), Morocco (\$20,000), the Netherlands (\$166,000), Nigeria (\$5,000), Norway (\$70,000), the Philippines (\$1,250), Sweden (\$116,000), Switzerland (\$58,000 plus 100 tons of milk products), Tunisia (\$4,000), Turkey (\$8,000) and Yugoslavia (\$20,000).

The pledges of the Governments of Austria, Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway were either increases over their pledges made last year or the first pledges made by these Governments.

Representatives of almost every Government attending the meeting, including those of the four "host" countries (Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Republic, which administers the Gaza Strip), paid tribute to the work of UNRWA. Many delegates commended particularly the Agency's education and training programmes.

UNRWA'S MANDATE EXTENDED

The General Assembly of the United Nations decided on 10 February to extend UNRWA's mandate for a further one-year period ending 30 June 1966. The Agency's current two-year mandate is due to expire as of 30 June 1965.

The Assembly adopted without objection the following resolution, No. 2002 (XIX), submitted by the President of the General Assembly:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1856 (XVII) of 20 December 1962 which extended the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East until 30 June 1965,

Having noted the statement of the Secretary-General at the 1327th plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 8 February 1965,

Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further year up to 30 June 1966, without prejudice to existing resolutions or to the positions of the interested parties.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT FIGURES SHOW  
BIGGEST INCREASE IN TEN YEARS

Enrolment figures for the current school year show the largest increase in the past ten years in the number of refugee children attending UNRWA-UNESCO schools.

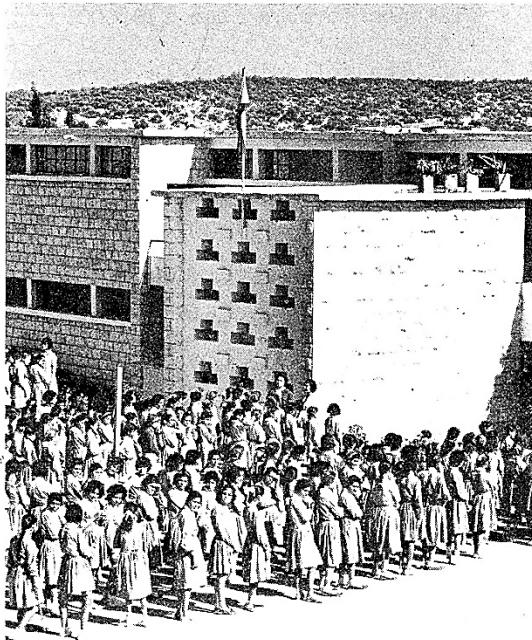
More than 172,500 refugee pupils enrolled in the 401 UNRWA-UNESCO schools at the beginning of the 1964-65 academic year, compared with 159,000 the previous year -- an increase of more than 13,500.

Two factors account for the increase: the expanding population of refugee children due to natural increase and the ever decreasing number of pupils who drop out of school. This second factor is particularly significant in the case of refugee girls, who are attending school in greater numbers and staying there longer with every passing year.

Almost 45 per cent of the children in UNRWA-UNESCO schools this year are girls, compared with 39 per cent in 1960 and 33 per cent in 1955.

In addition to the children attending UNRWA-UNESCO schools, some 60,000 refugee boys and girls are attending Government and private schools subsidized by UNRWA, bring-

Right: Refugee girls gather for morning roll call outside the UNRWA-UNESCO school in Tulkarem camp in Jordan.



ing the total number of refugee children receiving education with UNRWA assistance, to more than 230,000.

The following table shows the enrolment in UNRWA-UNESCO schools at the beginning of the current school year:

	<u>Jordan</u>	<u>Gaza</u>	<u>Lebanon</u>	<u>Syria</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>ELEMENTARY</u> (6 years)</b>					
Boys	30,304	21,881	11,447	10,429	74,061
Girls	<u>27,043</u>	<u>20,041</u>	<u>8,993</u>	<u>8,022</u>	<u>64,099</u>
Total	57,347	41,922	20,440	18,451	138,160
<b><u>PREPARATORY</u> (3 years)</b>					
Boys	6,818	8,241	2,527	3,691	21,277
Girls	<u>3,165</u>	<u>7,074</u>	<u>1,273</u>	<u>1,771</u>	<u>13,283</u>
Total	9,983	15,315	3,800	5,462	34,560
<b><u>ELEMENTARY AND PREPARATORY</u></b>					
Boys	37,122	30,122	13,974	14,120	95,338
Girls	<u>30,208</u>	<u>27,115</u>	<u>10,266</u>	<u>9,793</u>	<u>77,382</u>
Total	67,330	57,237	24,240	23,913	172,720

UNRWA does not run any upper secondary schools (for the three-year cycle after the preparatory - or lower secondary - level) but does subsidize places for refugee pupils in Government and private secondary schools.

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#### IN BRIEF

##### Father Mooney Leaves

Father Denis Mooney, O. F. M., Field Director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, left the Middle East at the end of January after spending 20 years in the area. In his capacity as field director, Father Mooney supervised the relief work of the Pontifical Mission, the agency established by the Pope in 1949 to channel Catholic relief to the Palestine refugees. The Pontifical Mission's assistance includes the operation, in collaboration with UNRWA and with the local authorities, of a centre for the blind in the Gaza Strip, the running of schools in two Christian camps in Lebanon and the

provision of pastoral care for the residents of these camps, and the provision of other relief, including clothing, blankets and medical care, to refugees regardless of their religion.

Father Mooney, who is now in the United States receiving medical treatment, had been connected with the Pontifical Mission since its establishment and served as its field director for five years. His many friends in UNRWA send him their best wishes for his complete restoration to health and look forward to seeing him back again in the Middle East before long.

#### Visitors

President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia paid a visit to Aqabat Jaber refugee camp near Jericho during his recent State visit to Jordan. President Bourguiba was accompanied by Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal.

The Prime Minister of Morocco, Mr. Ahmad Ba Hanini, visited refugee camps and UNRWA's Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre in Jordan during his recent visit.

Mrs. Helvi Sipila, vice president of Zonta International, presented the proceeds of "Operation Skill" in Finland during her recent visit to UNRWA's area of operations. A total of \$7,000 was raised in the campaign, which was initiated by Mrs. Sipila. The Finnish Girl Guides donated \$5,000, and the Boy Scouts, \$2,000. This money has provided vocational training scholarships for 14 young refugees in UNRWA training centres. During her trip, Mrs. Sipila visited the centres and met some of the Finnish-sponsored trainees, including a refugee girl sponsored personally by her.

Mrs. Margaret McKay, a British Member of Parliament and author, visited refugee camps and UNRWA's two training centres in Lebanon. Mrs. McKay stopped in Beirut on her way back to the United Kingdom after attending the 18th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in Teheran.

Film actor Marlon Brando spent two days in Beirut en route to the Far East. During his stay he discussed with senior UNRWA officials the work of the Agency and the plight of the Palestine refugees.

Miss Cairine Wilson, president of the Canadian Save the Children Fund, visited UNRWA installations in Lebanon and Jordan during her recent trip to the Middle East. Canadian Save the Children Fund contributions to UNRWA enabled the Agency to add a wing to its clinic in Khan Younis camp in the Gaza Strip in 1962 and to establish a rehydration/nutrition centre there this year. The centre will begin operation soon.

Dr. Leo Liepmann, a member of the executive committee of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam), and Mrs. Liepmann discussed with UNRWA officials the Agency's operations and possible further assistance from Oxfam.

Miss Hilkka Pietila, secretary general of the United Nations Association of Finland, paid a brief visit to the Middle East, during which she saw UNRWA training centres and refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan.

Donations

The Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) has made a further donation of \$55,000 to provide university and vocational training scholarships for young refugees. The donation, which was presented recently by Mr. Thomas Barger, the president of ARAMCO, to the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, comprises \$40,000 for "ARAMCO Scholarships Through UNRWA," which will enable about 60 refugee students to attend universities in the Middle East for one year, and \$15,000 for vocational training scholarships.

UNRWA has received the first half of a donation of \$25,000 from Bread for the World, a German relief agency, made through the Lutheran World Federation. The funds are being used to establish three rehydration centres in Jordan and to operate them for one year. The centres, two in camps near Jericho and one in Irbed, will treat severely dehydrated refugee infants.

The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam) in the United Kingdom has made a donation of \$7,000 to provide vocational training scholarships for the second year of training of 14 of the 28 young refugees sponsored by Oxfam last year. Oxfam has also pledged another \$7,000 to provide scholarships for the other 14 trainees. Another recent grant of \$2,250 has provided polio vaccine to enable UNRWA to vaccinate some 13,000 refugee babies in Jordan.

The Canadian Junior Red Cross has "adopted" play centres for refugee children in two camps in Lebanon. A donation of \$2,700 will provide the operating costs of one centre for one year and the other for two years. In addition, the donation will enable UNRWA to purchase material for clothing for the children attending these centres, which give preschool children living in refugee camps opportunities for healthy and constructive play. A further donation of \$2,000 will provide training scholarships for four refugee girls enrolled in the infant leaders course at UNRWA's Ramallah Girls' Training Centre in Jordan.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has sponsored six young trainees with its donation of \$3,000, which will provide scholarships for one year's training. This is the third year that the ICFTU has made such a donation.

A number of other organizations, companies and individuals have sponsored refugee trainees at UNRWA training centres by donating one or more \$500 scholarships. Each scholarship covers the cost of one year's training for one boy or girl. The donors include the Ottinger Foundation, NAJDA and U. S. Omen (United States); the Peel County Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada; the Girl Guides of Monaco; Caritas (Austria); Leonberger Bausparkasse, Index-Werke and Allgemeine Rentenanstalt, Stuttgart (Federal Republic of Germany); and the United Nations Association of Australia.

PILLS FOR SKILLS

Measles, one of the most common childhood diseases, may in time become a rarity, thanks to a new vaccine developed recently. And among the first to benefit from the new vaccine will be a number of Palestine refugees.

A token donation of the vaccine, which gives life-time immunity against measles, has been made to UNRWA by AMER (American Middle East Rehabilitation, Inc.). The donation was handed over personally by Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Jr., the president of AMER, to Mr. Laurence Michelmore, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, during Dr. Holt's recent visit to the Middle East.

The donation was made through AMER's "Pills for Skills" programme, under which donations of medical supplies enable young refugees to attend UNRWA vocational and teacher training centres. The medical supplies are needed for UNRWA's health programme, and the Agency is able to divert to its vocational training scholarship programme the money it would otherwise spend to buy the drugs and equipment. The donations from AMER have increased greatly in recent months. From 1961 to the end of 1964, the contributions saved UNRWA a total of some \$51,000. During the first three months of this year, donations totalling more than \$28,000 have been either received or despatched. In addition AMER has donated 10 sets of the Encyclopaedia Britannica for libraries at UNRWA training centres and a number of medical reference books for use by UNRWA health staff.

During his visit, Dr. Holt met many of the "AMER trainees" in centres in Lebanon and Jordan. He also visited refugee camps, where he saw AMER-donated drugs being used in UNRWA clinics.



Above: A small but very grateful "Thank you" to Dr. Holt, buttonholed by some of AMER's students

WENCHE'S TWO FAN CLUBS

Wenche Myhre is a young Norwegian pop-singer with two fan clubs. The first includes admirers in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Germany.

The second is composed of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip.

Wenche's refugee "fan club" was formed as a result of her recent visit to the Gaza Strip, where she met for the first time the refugees that she and her Scandinavian fans have been helping for the past six months. Wenche, one of the top singing stars in the Scandinavian countries, went to Gaza to dedicate "her" rehydration/nutrition centre, which has been built by UNRWA with funds raised in a campaign led by her. So far, more than \$15,000 has been raised -- enough to cover the cost of building the "Wenche Myhre" centre and operating it for two years. The rehydration centre will treat refugee infants suffering from severe diarrhoea and vomiting, and the resulting dehydration, which is common in the area, particularly during the hot summer.

Wenche, a pretty 19-year-old, made her debut at a Christmas party when she was 8 and has been singing professionally since she was 15. When the Wenche Myhre Fan Club was formed in Norway last year, Wenche decided it should have some other purpose apart from only promoting herself. In collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council, she decided to dedicate herself and her fan club to assisting the Palestine refugees and to devote the funds resulting from her appeal to the establishment of a rehydration/nutrition centre. The fund-raising campaign is continuing, to assist the most urgent cases of need among the refugee children in the Gaza Strip.

The "Wenche Myhre" centre is in Rafah refugee camp -- a vast, sprawling "town" of small huts, many of them built of mud-brick. Rafah is the largest refugee camp in the Middle East, with a population of more than 43,500. At the dedication ceremony, Wenche unveiled a plaque which commemorated her generosity and that of her many friends and fans. In a brief address, she thanked in particular the children whose contributions towards the centre would enable the lives of many refugee children to be saved. Mr. Yngvar Holm of the Norwegian Refugee Council, who accompanied Wenche, said that she had devoted all her spare time to the campaign, giving lectures, opening bazaars and donating fees from her performances.

During her week in the Gaza Strip, Wenche entertained troops of the Scandinavian contingents of the United Nations Emergency Force, visited a number of refugee camps and saw UNRWA schools, clinics, training centres and other installations.

In a number of UNRWA schools, Wenche and the refugee children exchanged songs. They sang to her, and she sang to them, adding several hundred more members to her Gaza "fan club."

Below: Wenche sings to the students at an UNRWA school in Rafah camp.



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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 1966.

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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 and American Middle East Rehabilitation, Inc., are organizations cooperating with UNRWA.

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