

PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

UNRWA Newsletter No. 63
February - April 1970





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

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COVER PICTURE

One of the emergency camps in Syria where many refugees have had to spend a third, hard winter in tents (see p. 6)

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

UNRWA Public Information Office,
Museitbeh Quarter,
Beirut,
Lebanon.

UNRWA Liaison Office,
Palais des Nations,
Geneva,
Switzerland.

UNRWA Liaison Office,
United Nations,
New York,
U.S.A.

COMMENTARY

5 JAN

A LAND-CRUISER FROM TOKYO

During 1969, the Japanese Government (a regular contributor to UNRWA since 1953) called on private Japanese firms to co-operate in giving aid to Palestine refugees.

A Toyota Land-Cruiser, a four-wheel drive vehicle suitable for general duties with UNRWA, was the first gift under this scheme. It was formally handed over at a brief ceremony in Tokyo by Mr. Seishi Kato, executive vice-president of the Toyota Motor Company.

10 FEB

FLOUR FROM SWITZERLAND

The first consignment of a special donation of 2,000 tons of flour from the Government of Switzerland arrived in Beirut early in February and was handed over officially by the Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E. Mr. André Dominicé, in a ceremony at Beirut Port. A second shipment arrived later in the month.

14 FEB

U.S.A. INCREASES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNRWA

The United States Government decided to contribute a further \$1 million to UNRWA in fiscal year 1970 for the expansion of vocational training; this was announced in mid-February. The contribution is additional to an increase in flour contributions for 1970 of 17,000 tons, announced earlier. In informing UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Mr. Laurence Michelmore, of the increase, the United States Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E. Mr. Dwight J. Porter, said: "... My Government has long recognized the value of UNRWA's extensive and varied education programme which has helped many of those displaced... to become fully participating members of society."

1 MAR

"SEQUEL" NOW IN FIVE LANGUAGES

UNRWA's new publication "Sequel", which illustrates the tragic aftermath of the 1967 conflict among displaced Arabs in east Jordan, is now available in five languages: English, French, German, Arabic and Spanish. It can be obtained from UNRWA's offices and liaison offices or, in the United States, through ANERA, American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc., 900 Woodward Bldg., 733 15th Street, N.W. Washington DC 20005, Area Code 202 347-2558.
Price 5/- (U.K.); 75 cents U.S. elsewhere.



Mr. Laurence Michelmore, Commissioner-General of UNRWA (left) receives the cable announcing the increased U.S. contribution from the American Ambassador.

STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL

The following statement was made to the Special Political Committee of the United Nations by UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Mr. Laurence Michelmore, on 4 December 1969, prior to the annual pledging conference for contributions to UNRWA.

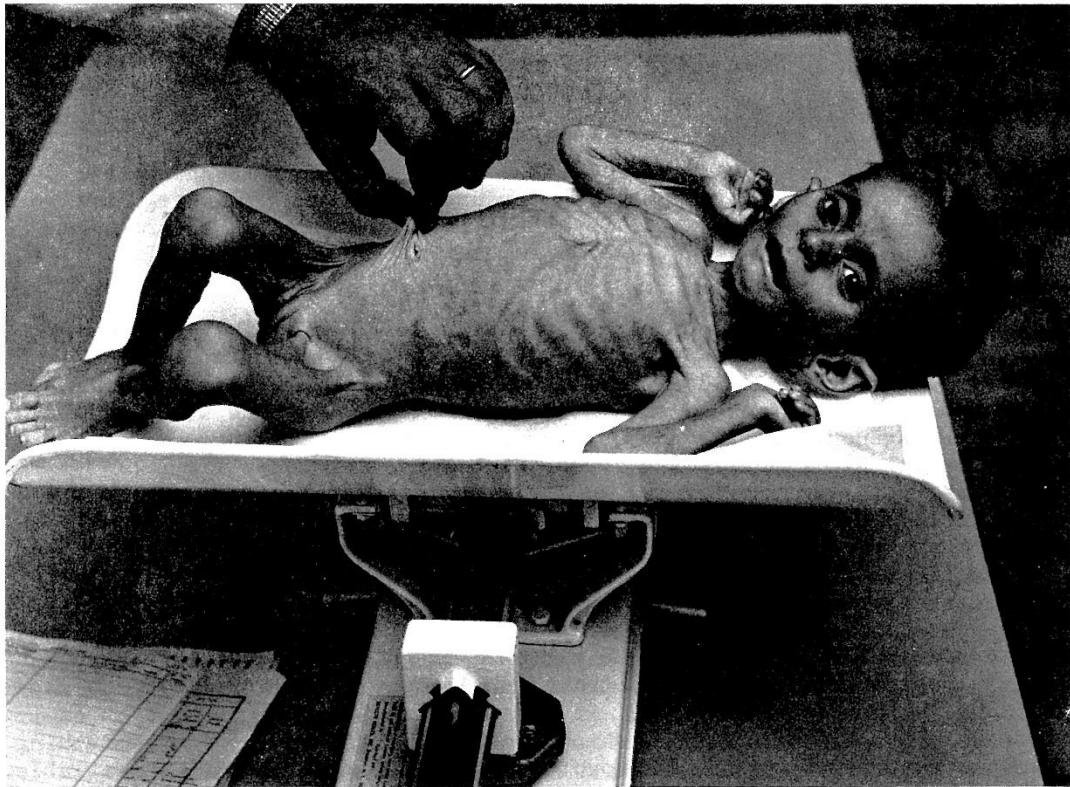
Renewed efforts to raise sufficient funds to enable UNRWA to continue its relief, health and education programmes at their present level have been made since the Pledging Conference, and still continue, but they have so far been unsuccessful in eliminating the deficit in UNRWA's budget. In order to avoid a catastrophic breakdown in services for lack of cash the Agency is now forced to set in motion preliminary arrangements for the curtailment of some of the services listed on page 5.

Many speakers in the general debate have included in their remarks kind references to the work of the officers and the staff of UNRWA. On behalf of all the staff of the Agency, and on my own behalf as well, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for these remarks and to assure the Committee that all members of the staff will continue to do their utmost to carry out the mandate which the General Assembly has given to provide assistance to the Palestine refugees.

All of us in the Agency would be happy to complete our assignment with UNRWA if that meant that a "just settlement of the refugee problem" had been achieved. Until that goal is reached, however, the hundreds of thousands of refugees, and particularly the mothers and infants, the school-age children, the sick and the aged need the help which UNRWA provides in its relief services, its health and sanitation services, and its education and training programme.

I hope that members of the Committee will forgive me if I return again to the financial problem which confronts us and which threatens these essential activities. The magnitude of the financial problem, and its seriousness, has been spelled out in the reports which have been placed before the Committee. The dimensions of the problem have continued to increase.

In the special report on the Agency's finances (A/7577) which was distributed on 31 July 1969 by the Secretary-General, he expressed the hope that the General Assembly would take urgent and effective action on the future financing of UNRWA. In the Agency's annual Report, the introduction ended with an appeal to the General Assembly to set the Agency's finances on a firmer foundation and assure it of funds adequate to its task. In the hope that it might be of some assistance to the General Assembly in considering this question, a note on financing UNRWA operations was circulated on 21 November (A/SPC/134) identifying possible alternative ways in which additional income might be provided. No recommendation was offered concerning those alternatives, as this was thought to be a question for the General Assembly itself. In the general debate, one representative supported the idea of meeting the costs of international staff from the regular United Nations budget, and another representative mentioned several of the alternatives listed in that paper as worthy of consideration. One delegation expressed its opposition to the transfer of UNRWA expenses to the UN budget. Many speakers stressed the need to provide UNRWA with adequate funds, and called for increased voluntary contributions to achieve this purpose.



... the schoolchildren, the sick and the aged need the help which UNRWA provides ...

A number of delegations indicated that they would continue to give financial support, and one delegation yesterday (3 December) announced its intention to increase its contribution by 50 per cent. I am particularly grateful for this very helpful action, and I hope that it will set a new trend, that other contributing Governments may find it possible to follow this example, and that other governments which have not contributed before will now decide to do so.

The annual pledging conference will take place next Wednesday, 10 December. We shall all hope that the contributions which will be announced on that day will assure the funds necessary for UNRWA to maintain its essential services.

I regret to say that the information we have so far does not support this hope, but indicates rather that we shall be several million dollars, perhaps as much as five million, short of what is required. What do we do then?

Of course, we would continue to try to find additional funds from all sources where there seemed any promise of a useful result. I would seek the advice of the Secretary-General, who has shown his deep concern in this matter. I would like to consult the Secretary-General also on the suggestion that was made by the representative of Turkey that a small committee might be appointed by the Secretary-General to study this question and to advise on how the additional funds which are needed might be found. We shall also continue to look for economies in administration and overhead expenses.

But if we come to the beginning of next year with prospective income still short of the amount needed to finance the present programme of activities, we shall have to begin to curtail some of those activities. Because this will

inevitably add to the hardships of the refugees, and will most likely further increase the tensions in the area and handicap the efforts for a just and lasting peace, we have delayed such reductions well beyond the time when they would have been started under normal standards of financial prudence. But we singly cannot delay beyond the next few weeks, or the entire UNRWA programme will be in danger of collapse.

In deciding what kind of reductions should be made, if this proves to be necessary, the most important criteria would seem to be the consequences for the refugees. We should look for measures which would be least harmful to them. Another consideration is the nature of the contributions which are offered to the Agency. Well over one-fourth of the contributions are in the form of commodities - flour, for example. Another significant group of contributions, representing perhaps 15 to 20 per cent of the total, are available only if used for the purpose designated by the donor - such as the construction of refugee shelters, or of school buildings, or of health clinics, or for vocational training, or some other educational purpose. Many such contributions are made by governments from their appropriations for technical assistance or economic development, or from other appropriations which must be applied to particular purposes. Nothing would be gained by curtailing expenditures made from these funds, since the Agency's income would fall by the same amount. One further consideration, it seems to me, is that it would be desirable to retain those activities in which the Agency is able to offer something from its own experience or from the professional skills which it has available in preference to activities in which the Agency serves only as a channel for funds to be paid to some other institution or authority.

The Agency had all of these considerations in mind when compiling the list of possible reductions which appears in document A/7577 as Annex IV. I should repeat that the Agency considers that all the present activities are well justified, and indeed necessary, but if absolutely forced to reduce, the measures listed would in the Agency's judgement be least harmful to the refugees and least damaging to the programme. (It seems inevitable that some reductions would be required in each of the main areas of the Agency's programme - the provision of food and other relief services, health and sanitation, and education and training.)

The other staff members of UNRWA and I are the administrative agents of the General Assembly. We will try our best to carry out the mandate and the directives that the General Assembly gives us. I would welcome any guidance that the General Assembly may wish to give in the situation that may confront the Agency in the near future. Unless the General Assembly directs otherwise, if we should find at the beginning of 1970 that funds are not sufficient to meet all of the requirements of the programme as proposed, I would understand that the General Assembly concurs in the course of action that I have outlined and accepts, if contributions are insufficient, that the Agency proceed with curtailments in the programme.

I am sorry that I have felt it necessary to make this statement, but I believe it is my duty, to the refugees and to the General Assembly, to make clear the consequences that may lie ahead.

POSSIBLE REFUGEE SERVICE CUTS

The following are services provided by UNRWA for Palestine refugees and certain categories of newly-displaced persons from 1967 which may well have to be reduced or in some cases terminated during the year.

Annual rate
of reduction
(in thousands of US
(dollars)

Relief services

1. Reduce basic ration content:	
Soap	320
Pulses	810
Sugar	515
Rice	885
2. Reduce supplementary feeding by 25 per cent	535
3. Eliminate kerosene ration	125
4. Eliminate provision for relief assistance to displaced persons from Gaza in the United Arab Republic	260
	<u>3,450</u>

Health services

1. Eliminate medical subsidies to public health authorities (East Jordan, West Bank, Gaza, Syria)	450
2. Reduce Agency and subsidized private medical services by 10 per cent	305
3. Reduce environmental sanitation by 10 per cent	100
	<u>855</u>

Education services

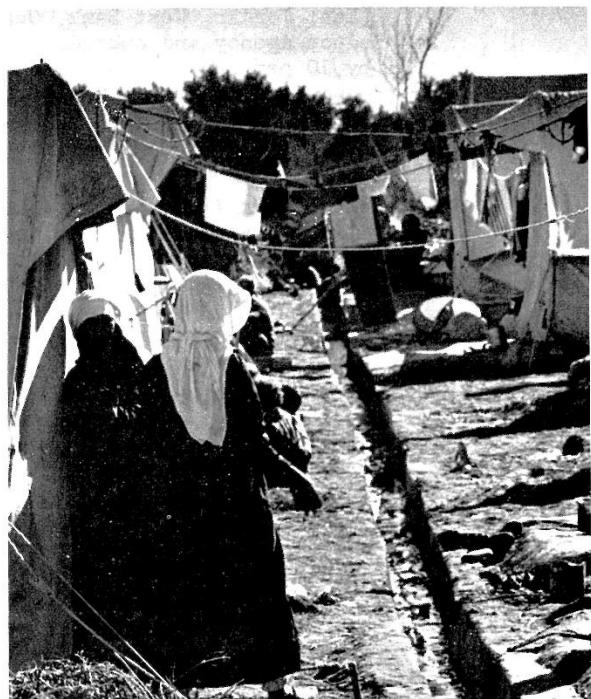
1. Reduce normal university scholarship programme by 50 per cent	180
2. Eliminate preparatory and secondary cycle subsidies to public education authorities (East Jordan, West Bank and Gaza)	575
3. Eliminate preparatory and secondary cycle subsidies in private schools and book allowances in Syria	285
4. Eliminate elementary cycle subsidies to public and private schools	180
	<u>1,220</u>
Total	5,525

This table, which appears in General Assembly document A/7577 lists a larger total of possible reductions than would in fact be required to cover the estimated deficit. This has been done partly to permit some degree of choice of reduction, if this proves necessary, and partly because of the problem of flour contributions referred to in the note below. Reductions in pulses, sugar and rice would be affected by proposals to substitute flour for all or part of the ration of these commodities in order to make optimum use of special donations in kind of flour to the Agency in 1969/1970.

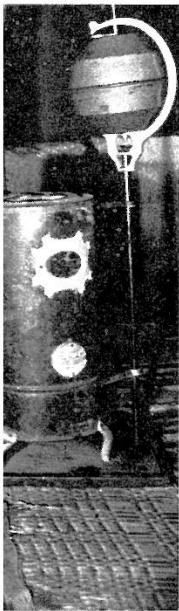
EMERGENCY CONDITIONS IN



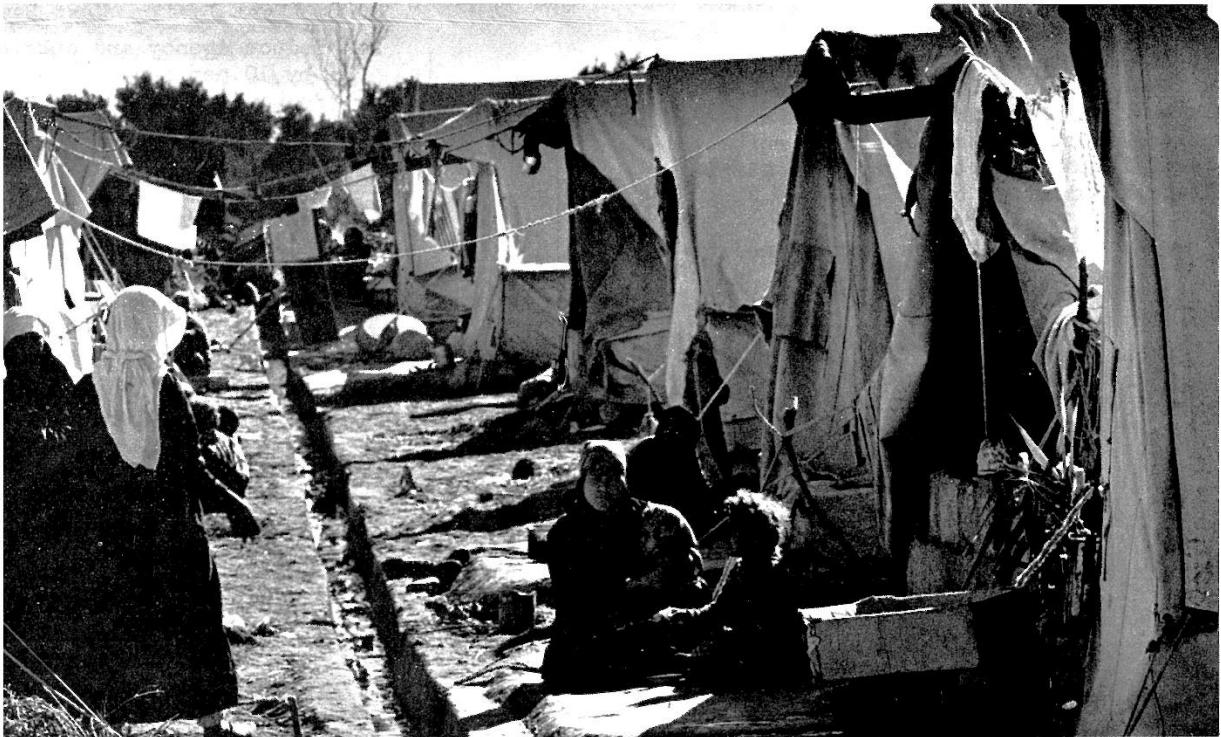
- 1. A home – for three long winter months
- 2. Without a daily hot meal for the children to eat
- 3. There is nowhere to eat lunch
- 4. Qabir Essit Emergency Camp
- 5. Full time employment – rep



CONDITIONS IN TEMPORARY CAMPS



1. A home - for three long winters
2. Without a daily hot meal from UNRWA, these children will have little or nothing to eat
3. There is nowhere to eat lunch-it must be taken back to the tent
4. Qabr Essit Emergency Camp : spring 1970
5. Full time employment - repairing damaged tents



TEMPORARY CAMPS IN SYRIA



A, these children will

be taken back to the tent

70

bed tents



The deteriorating situation in the tented emergency camps for displaced refugees in Syria is now causing UNRWA severe concern.

The 10,000 Palestinians who live in these camps left their homes when Israeli forces occupied the Golan Heights and the surrounding area in southern Syria in June 1967. After fleeing for the second time in their lives, many of them with only the clothes on their backs, they are now enduring the third hard winter since they left their village communities around Quneitra, created by them after fleeing Palestine at the time of the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1948.

The first bitterly cold winter of 1967-68 (when temperatures were at times lower in Damascus than in Moscow) saw the refugees in makeshift accommodation or in tents in emergency camps which had been hastily established during the summer and the fall. In the course of the second and third stormy winters, heavy rains repeatedly flooded the camps. With funds provided by NEED, the tents in the four UNRWA-administered camps at Sbeineh, Dera'a, Qabre Essit and Jaramana were "winterized" in early 1968 by UNRWA, through the installation of concrete floors and low skirting walls and the provision of tent covers - certainly an important improvement but intended only to protect the refugee families for a few more months until they were allowed to return to their former dwellings.

The strain imposed by such conditions over a longer period has told on the powers of resistance of humans and materials alike. Tent canvas has been weakened by extreme temperature changes and torrential rains until it tears like cardboard, and the third winter has almost destroyed many of the tents. UNRWA officials have found, for instance, that the tents in Dera'a emergency camp barely survived this winter, and UNRWA

facing a financial crisis, can scarcely continue to support the increasingly expensive maintenance which has preserved them, let alone purchase new ones. Tent ropes have to be replaced every five months due to strain caused by high wind, and the tents afford less and less protection against the winds and cold which sweep in unimpeded from the Syrian desert: the canvas itself loses its density and resistance, and the quickening pace of deterioration and cumulative effect of wear and tear on the ageing tents mean that overworked repair teams take longer and longer to make the complete round of a camp.

The lack of adequate shelter compounds the other deficiencies - undernourishment, shortage of adequate clothing, crowded health facilities - in the predicament of refugees who depend entirely on the international community for support.

In such circumstances the refugees' physical reserves, and any scant financial resources, are inevitably depleted, reducing them to a state of mind in which fatalistic passivity - or blind rage - can all too easily become the only tenable attitudes. To understand fully the plight of the displaced Palestine refugees in the UNRWA emergency camps, in Syria, it is necessary to know something about how they came there.

The refugees in these emergency camps in Syria are mainly farmers and farm-workers and their families who, before 1948, lived in the north-eastern corner of Palestine around Lake Galilee. Before, during and after the Arab-Israeli hostilities of that year, they crossed the border eastward into Syria, and many settled in the fertile plain behind the Golan Heights. They were fewer in number than the refugees in other Arab host countries, and in most cases they were able, with the aid of the International Red Cross and later UNRWA, in co-operation with the host Government and the voluntary agencies, to organize a tolerable existence for themselves. Working as farm hands or investing some little money or valuables they had managed to bring with them, some of them acquired small plots of land. Others clustered together in simple communities which reflected the composition of their villages in Palestine, living in one or two-room dwellings - usually in mudbrick but sometimes in cinderblock and cement. Through ploughing the land and trading among themselves, these refugees found enough agricultural and economic potential in the Quneitra area to start precariously building a future. Then came the hostilities of 1967.

The fighting and confusion, followed by an exodus of refugees, were a repetition of 1948.

But this time, for Palestine refugees living in Syria the story was rather different: the flight was longer, and harder; in most cases, the displaced refugees moved on foot across country, from fear of air attacks on the roads; for many, it involved a trek of 60 kilometers to Dera'a, a market town in southern Syria where a refugee camp originally established in 1948 could offer immediate medical attention and food.

Moreover, this time the refugees went to areas already saturated with refugees. Thousands of Syrians were also displaced in 1967 - in Dera'a, for instance, the amount of 30,000 Syrians from the Golan Heights meant a crushing new burden on the already overtaxed resources of the area. The 2,000 newly displaced Palestine refugees who walked south to Dera'a, past sombre villages built of the volcano-blackened stones which seem to grow in the fields throughout this region, found themselves - later, when the panic subsided - competing in the labour market with Syrian refugees and with the 20,000 Palestine refugees

who had arrived there in 1948. The tiny bit of income which provided a vital margin for the refugees has disappeared.

For a second time, these people find themselves destitute. The psychological impact of being uprooted twice in a generation is compounded by hard economic facts. These are country people, uneducated except in the ways of the land - for instance, a large family of children is still regarded by many of the older generation as a source of labour and as a natural form of "social security" - and they have to wait for an opportunity to work at the only job for which they have the skills - farming. Now, in contrast with the period from 1948-1967, there is virtually no opportunity for them to supplement their UNRWA rations by farming and local commerce.

Only a tough and hardy people could have survived the rigours to which the Palestine refugees have been subjected this long, particularly since the disastrous second upheaval in 1967. But as the situation is prolonged and the cumulative effect of living in near-emergency conditions grows, the same despair is voiced on every side among the refugee community - "What shall we do...?"

Typical of the sad stories among the displaced persons in Syria is that of Ali Khaled Majed. He is the Sheikh of the Deria tribe. In Palestine, he is said personally to have owned 3000 dunums (750 acres) of wheat and other grain fields. His tribe - 300 families - owned their own land or worked on the lands of other landowners. Like his father before him, Ali was their spokesman in government councils and defended their interests whenever they were at stake.

Today, 56 years old, his hands tremble as he talks of his fate and the plight of his tribe. Plunged into a refugee existence in 1948, he has suffered more than ever since 1967, when the tribe fled from Houral, (the Syrian village where they had started farming again after fleeing from their village in Palestine) and moved to Damascus. They travelled on foot, stopping for two nights in villages before reaching the capital, where they slept in schools, mosques and other public buildings until space became available in the tented camp at Sbeineh, where they live today.

The hardships of life in a tent under these conditions have reduced Ali to a shadow of his former self. In addition to a recent stroke and recurrent intestinal

Ali Khaled Majed with his small family. The stove at left has been their only source of warmth



trouble, he is now suffering from a nervous disorder which leaves him virtually bedridden on his thin mattress - an old, old man before his time.

Weakened by disease and successive blows to fortune and dignity, Ali is fatalistic as he waits for the winter storms to eat away the canvas of his already patched tent. His father, the old Sheikh, was buried in Syrian soil in 1951. His elder son, Mohammed, fell on the Israeli-Syrian border during a skirmish prior to the 1967 war : a photograph of his dead son is the only decoration in the Sheikh's otherwise barren tent.

However, there is some hope of alleviating the immediate plight of Ali and for these other unfortunate refugees. Responding to a request for help from UNRWA, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Archbishop Appleton, and Bishop Cub'ain, the Bishop in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, launched an urgent appeal, at the end of 1969, for funds to aid these homeless people by replacing the worn-out tents with shelters.

The appeal to the Anglican Communion has now raised £25,000 (\$60,000) - enough to build shelters for 300 families - and further sums may be forthcoming. Although the situation of Ali, and many like him, will continue to be tragically difficult, a start can be made to improve radically their living conditions.

ZONTA GRADUATES MAKE GOOD



Suad during her Ramallah days

In a classroom in the government school for girls in Yaabed, a small town near Jenin, on the West Bank of the Jordan, a wall-chart showing a human skeleton hangs on the blackboard - while thirty girls, 11 to 12 years old, listen to the teacher's explanations. This is a lesson in health education, and the teacher is a Palestinian girl, Suad Seid Anabusi. When she was born on 13 August 1947, her father was a merchant in Haifa. In 1948, the family fled to Jenin, leaving all their belongings, their house and their shop. Since then, her father has only been able to find seasonal work as a labourer; like most of those uprooted in the 1948 conflict, he has been dependent upon UNRWA for assistance for himself and his wife, his seven sons and four daughters.

As a small girl, Suad decided she would become a teacher. When she was admitted to the teacher training section of the UNRWA Women's Training Centre in Ramallah, in October 1966, she knew that she was among a privileged minority. For there are about ten applications for each vacancy at this boarding school, and only girls with good academic results are allowed to sit for the entrance examination.

During her two years at the Centre, Suad worked hard and did well. After graduation in August 1968, she found a job in a girls' school in Saudi Arabia. In the years before June 1967, many Palestinian teachers - both men and women - were offered contracts at schools in Arab countries which were rapidly expanding their education services. Young refugees in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip territories who wish to leave for study or employment and to be allowed to return to their homes may still apply for a permit to the Israeli authorities allowing them to stay abroad for up to one year; the permits are renewable. However, at the end of her first year, Suad preferred to look for a teaching post nearer home and to stay with her family. The one offered her was ideal - although it paid much less than that in Saudi Arabia - for now she can walk home every afternoon.

After school she loves to supervise the homework of her younger brothers and sisters and to knit and sew for them. Some of her elder brothers have found work; with their earnings and Suad's, the family has now become self-sufficient and is no longer drawing UNRWA rations.

UNRWA's vocational training programme gives young refugees the chance to learn skills in high demand in the Arab world, thus enabling them to help their families by using their capacities constructively. Of course, such training also provides the developing countries of the Middle East with qualified technicians in many fields. This form of technical assistance has been recognised by many governments and non-governmental organizations which support it by covering the running costs of whole centres, sponsoring classes or paying for individual scholarships for training purposes (a one-year scholarship of \$550 covers board, lodging, education and training for one young refugee; most courses last two years).

During her two years' studies, Suad Anabusi was sponsored by the international professional women's organization, ZONTA, whose members' generous donations over a number of years have helped many young Palestine refugee girls to learn a trade or a vocation.

Another recent Zonta-sponsored trainee is now working as a secretary in UNRWA's Jerusalem office. Wa'ala Khamis Bamieh was born in Jaffa on 27 July 1947. In the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, her parents fled to Ramallah, where they have stayed since. Wa'ala has six brothers and sisters; all of them learned English when they were quite small, as their parents speak it fluently. This knowledge of English made it easier for Wa'ala to pass the entrance examination to the Business Education course at the Ramallah Women's Training Centre, where fluent English is needed to prepare the trainees for learning typing and shorthand. The girls learn Arabic shorthand and typing as well, of course, but English is important because of the large number of foreign firms doing business with the Middle East, or operating in it.

Wa'ala was an industrious student and, on her graduation in 1968, was offered a job by UNRWA. She was all the happier to start earning, as her father and eldest brothers, salesmen of spare parts for cars, do not manage to bring home much in these difficult times and the other children are still at school. At the Ramallah Centre, Wa'ala also learned knitting and sewing, and she often sits during the evening, her hands busy, listening to soft music on her radio. She thinks a secretary's job is always interesting, because there is something new to be learned from each letter or report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON REFUGEES

Text of Resolutions 2535 A, B, C, (XXIV)

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations

On 10 December 1969

- A -

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, 393 (V) and 394 (V) of 2 and 14 December 1950, 512 (VI) and 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952, 614 (VII) of 6 November 1952, 720 (VIII) of 27 November 1953, 818 (IX) of 4 December 1954, 916 (X) of 3 December 1955, 1018 (XI) of 28 February 1957, 1191 (XII) of 12 December 1957, 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, 1456 (XIV) of 9 December 1959, 1604 (XV) of 21 April 1961, 1725 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 1856 (XVII) of 20 December 1962, 1912 (XVIII) of 3 December 1963, 2002 (XIX) of 10 February 1965, 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2154 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, 2341 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968,

Noting 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 1968 to 30 June 1969, 1/

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 in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) 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 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. **Directs** the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue his efforts in taking such measures, including rectification of the relief rolls, as to assure, in cooperation with the Governments concerned, the most equitable distribution of relief based on need;

4. **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;

5. **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;

6. **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;

7. **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;

- B -

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the problem of the Palestine 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,

Gravely Concerned that the denial of their rights has been aggravated by the reported acts of collective punishments, arbitrary detention, curfews, destruction of homes and property, deportation and other repressive acts against the refugees and other inhabitants of the occupied territories,

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

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, calling "upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities",

Desirous of giving effect to its resolutions for relieving the plight of the displaced persons and the refugees,

1. **Reaffirms** the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine;

2. **Draws the attention** of the Security Council to the grave situation resulting from Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories and Israel's refusal to implement the above resolutions;

3. **Requests** the Security Council to take effective measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure the implementation of these resolution.

1/ **Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/7614)**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXIII) of 19 December 1967 and 2452 C (XXIII) of December 1968,

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 1968 to 30 June 1969, 2/

Bearing in mind also the letter dated 24 July 1969 from the Secretary-General addressed to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, 3/

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) and 2452 C (XXIII);

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;

2/ **Ibid.**

3/ **A/7577**

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.

1827th plenary meeting,
10 December 1969

Draft resolution A was adopted by 110 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution B was adopted by 48 votes to 21, with 47 abstentions.

Draft resolution C was adopted by 108 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly of the United Nations established in December 1949. In co-operation with the host governments, 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 for refugee children and young adults including general education, vocational and teacher training, and university scholarships. Since 1967 it has also provided services for tens of thousands of newly homeless Arabs living in emergency camps in east Jordan and Syria.

UNRWA began work in May 1950, and its current mandate expires on 30 June 1972.

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