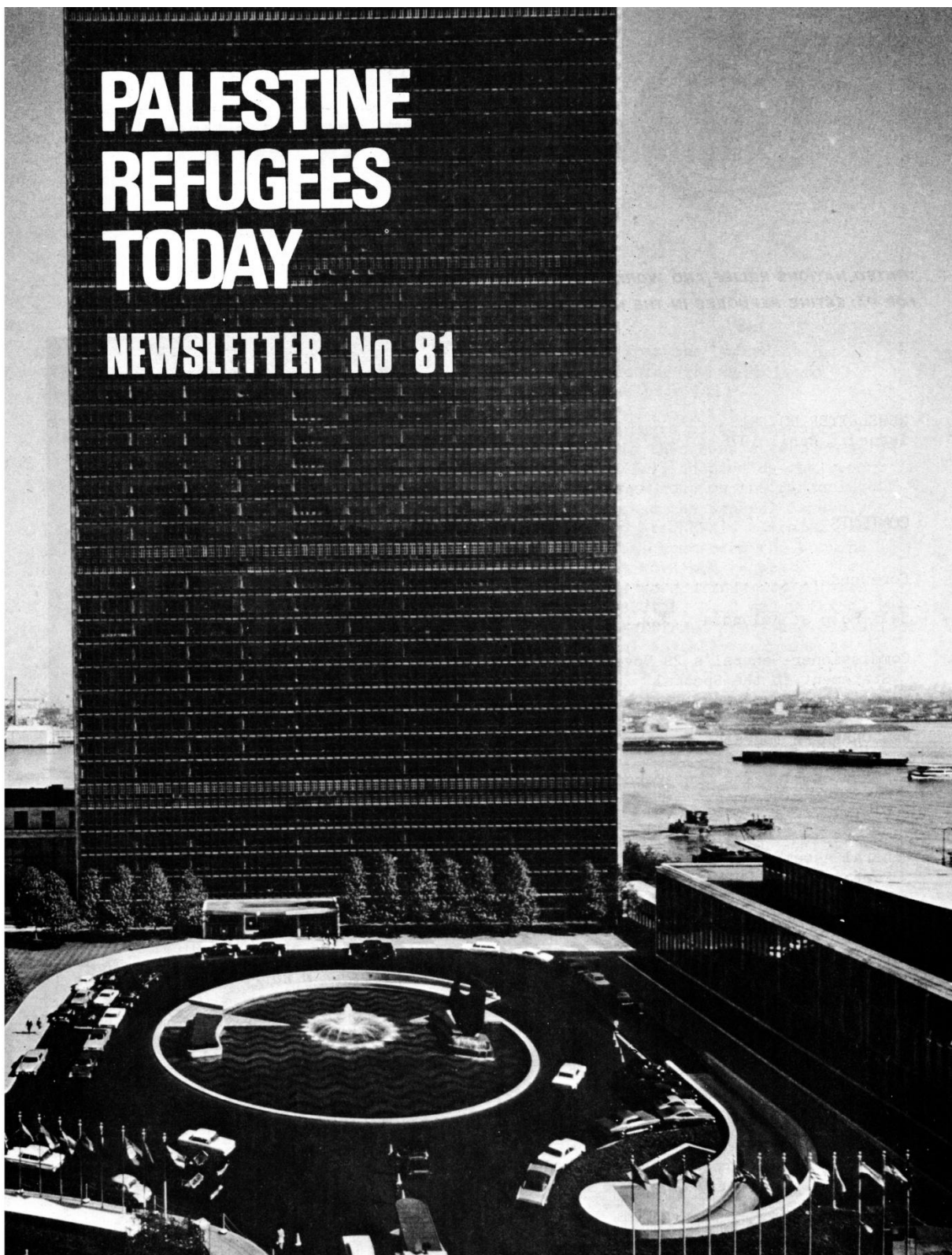


PALESTINE REFUGEES TODAY

NEWSLETTER No 81





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

NEWSLETTER NO. 81
Issued: April 1975

CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Self-Help at Kalandia	4
Commissioner-General's 29 November Statement to the Special Political Committee	7
New UNRWA Photographs	12
Summary of Pledging Conference	14
A Visitor from the USC	15
General Assembly Resolutions Pertaining to UNRWA	18
McGovern at Marka	23

Cover photos

*(front) : The United Nations
Secretariat, New York.*

*(back) : Learning with visual
aids in an UNRWA/Unesco
school at Balata camp
in the West Bank.*



*UNRWA provides a nutritionally balanced
hot meal six days a week for refugee
children up to the age of six and, upon
medical recommendation, to older children
and sick adults.*

UNRWA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

FOREWORD

Each year an issue of the Newsletter covers the proceedings of the General Assembly session relating to the work of UNRWA. This year Newsletter No.81 reproduces the relevant documentation of the General Assembly's twenty-ninth session, including statements by the Commissioner-General.

The Commissioner-General's Annual Report for the 12 months ending 30 June 1974 was considered under General Assembly agenda item 38. In his report the Commissioner-General stated that UNRWA "has now entered a critical year" - the 25th year of its operational existence - in which "there are serious grounds for anxiety about the Agency's viability". Among the critical factors was a budget deficit for 1975 of "unprecedented magnitude". (For details, see Newsletter No.80).

In his 29 November statement to the General Assembly's Special Political Committee the Commissioner-General presented revised estimates of expenditure for 1975 which showed the Agency faced a budgetary deficit of the order of \$45 million. He stated that "the effects of reductions on the scale required to eliminate a deficit of \$45 million would be devastating", particularly to the relief and education programmes. (See page 7.)

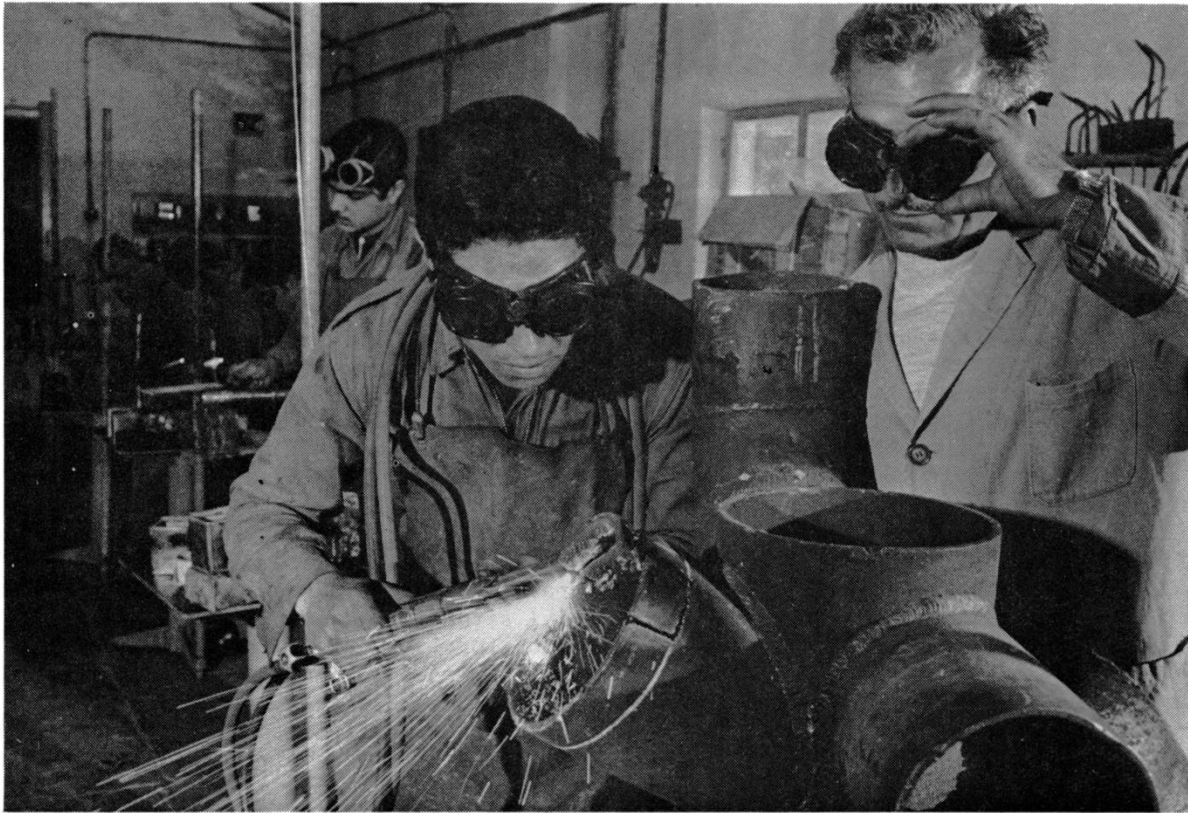
At the 3 December "Pledging Conference" during which 46 governments announced their contributions in support of the 1975 activities of the Agency, the Commissioner-General expressed appreciation for the pledges announced but feared that UNRWA was still "a very long way from meeting the enormous deficit" envisaged for 1975. (In February a special

contribution from the United States Government reduced the deficit to \$36 million. See page 14.)

The complete texts of five resolutions also appear in this Newsletter. Resolution 3330 (XXIX), adopted on the report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, expressed the General Assembly's grave concern at UNRWA's alarming financial situation, commended the Working Group for its work and requested the Working Group to continue its efforts. Resolutions 3331 A, B, C and D (XXIX) recalled and reaffirmed previous resolutions of the General Assembly relating to the rights of the Palestine refugees, including the right of the displaced inhabitants of the occupied territories to return to their homes and camps; extended UNRWA's mandate for three more years until 30 June 1978; decided that the Agency's international staff costs would be a charge on the regular United Nations budget; and deplored Israeli military attacks on refugee camps and called upon Israel to desist from such attacks. (See page 18.)

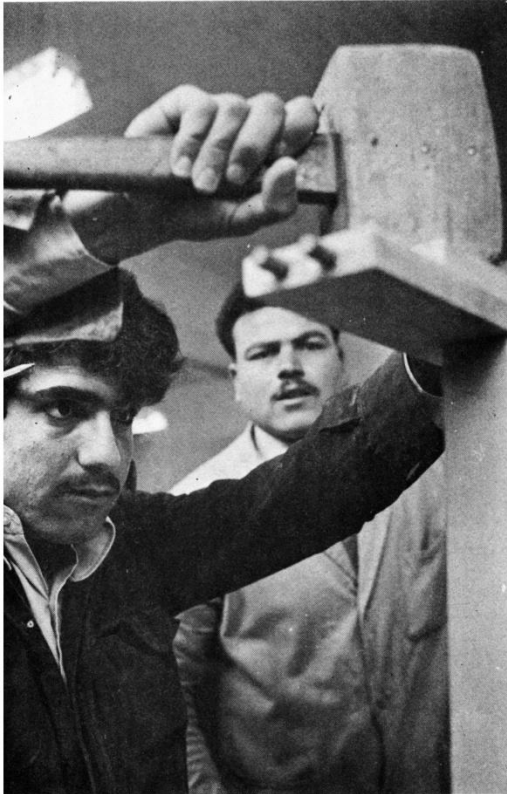
Two other resolutions directly affecting Palestinians were adopted by the General Assembly: Resolution 3236 (XXIX) reaffirmed the right of the people of Palestine to self-determination and national independence, and requested the Secretary-General to establish contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization on all matters concerning the question of Palestine. Resolution 3237 (XXIX) extended observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization at the General Assembly and conferences convened under its auspices. (4)

SELF-HELP AT KALANDIA



*A new wing
is completed.*

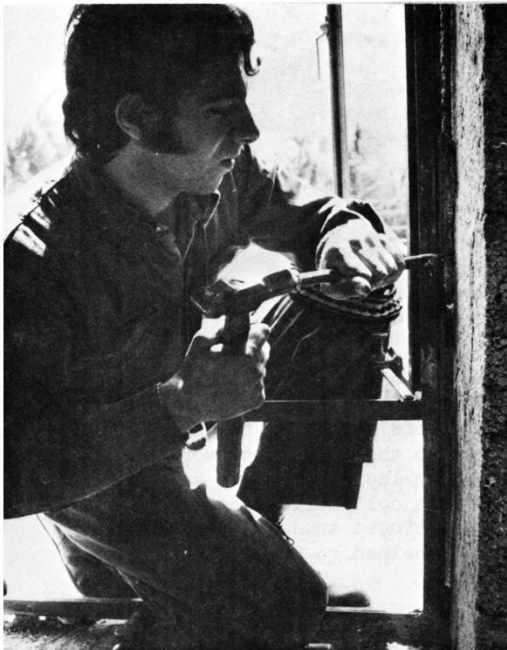




When the first low white buildings with the tin quonset-hut-style roofs were opened for classes in December 1953, Kalandia Vocational Training Centre represented a new phase in UNRWA's efforts to help provide a better future for the Palestine refugees. There, in the rolling hills north of Jerusalem, UNRWA was embarking on a programme of vocational training which it hoped would provide Palestine refugee men with the skills to compete successfully for jobs. Following nine years of general education, the two-year courses at Kalandia were designed to produce craftsmen trained at a higher level than those normally found in the Middle East at the time. In its inaugural year, Kalandia (a residential centre) provided that training for 127 students in the building, mechanical and electrical trades. Since then, of the 15,404 men and women graduates from all of the vocational training centres UNRWA has subsequently established throughout its area of operations, 3,109 of them have been men from Kalandia.

As the programme has grown, so too has Kalandia, most recently with the aid of special contributions of \$2 million for vocational training in 1970-71 and again in 1974-75 from the United States Government, part of which was earmarked by the Agency for expansion and improvements at Kalandia. Four new main buildings were built, containing new dormitories, a new dining hall, and new workshops and classrooms to provide additional places in the auto-mechanic, general mechanic, blacksmith/welder, carpenter/woodmachinist, builder/shutterer and fitter/machinist courses. Alterations were made to existing workshops and classrooms. And "temporary" workshops were converted to storage rooms. As a result of these and other alterations, Kalandia now has 424 places with vastly improved facilities for its 12 training courses.

Significantly, after new building structures were erected, most of the work involved in finishing workshops or other rooms was done by the students as a self-help project. Student carpenters fashioned new table tops for the dining hall,





built storage cabinets in the trade group specialist room and table tops for the technical drawing room, and provided tables and easy chairs for the new common room. Student blacksmith/welders made window frames for the new dormitory wing above the refectory and fashioned the iron gates for a building which housed equipment. Student electricians installed wiring for additional lighting fix-

tures, made new connections and continued to carry out all electrical maintenance at the Centre. Student plumbers laid new pipes. Others helped by transferring machinery to the buildings, working on terracing or laying concrete walks. Through this collective effort, the Palestine refugee students at Kalandia have truly helped to build their own future.

COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S 29 NOVEMBER STATEMENT TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

This is the fourth report, Mr. Chairman, that I have had the honour to present to this Committee, but on this occasion the surrounding circumstances are different in a very significant respect. In introducing last year's report I said that no one in my position could fail to recognize the existence of a political dimension to the problem of the Palestine refugees. At this session, for the first time since 1947, the political dimension has been recognized and given prominence by a debate in the General Assembly; an organization, the Palestine Liberation Organization, representing the Palestinians, and therefore the Palestine refugees in general, has participated in the debate and two resolutions which affect the Palestine refugees have already been adopted. In view of what has taken place in the General Assembly I hope the Committee will feel able to concentrate attention during its consideration of this item on the very serious financial problem confronting UNRWA in the provision of services to the refugees.

As I said in my letter of transmittal to the President of the General Assembly, the report seeks to give some account of the problems encountered during the year ended 30 June 1974 and, to the extent it impinges directly on them, of the economic and political - I cannot find a more neutral adjective - environment in which operations were carried on.

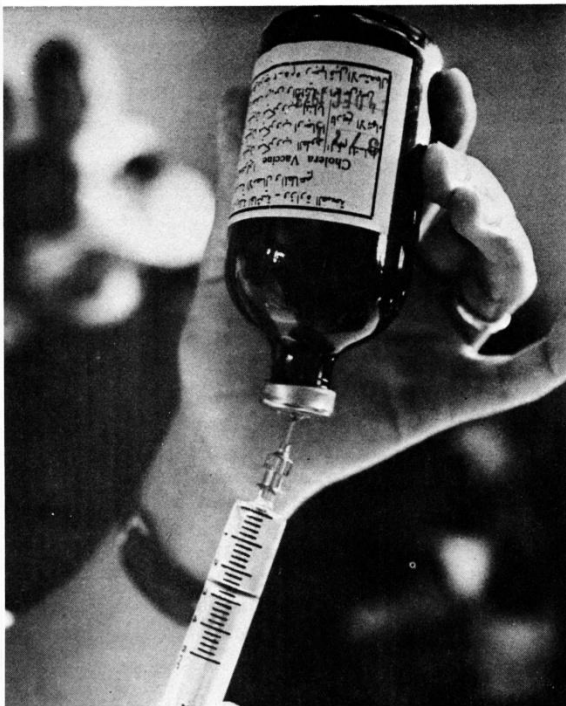
I shall not waste the Committee's time by describing again the services UNRWA provides to the refugees registered with it. I should like, however, respectfully to invite the attention of distinguished delegates to the scale of these services and to the character and complexity of

the operations the Agency carries out in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza. For 1975 estimated expenditure will be well over \$100 million; staff employed number 15,000, 99% of them Palestinians on local terms of service; there are 270,000 children in the UNRWA/Unesco schools and education accounts for nearly half the budget - and would account for more than half, were it not for the inflation of expenditure on basic rations by the high cost of flour and other commodities. The Palestine refugee problem is no ordinary refugee problem; UNRWA's operations are no ordinary relief operations; nor, as I have pointed out before, are these operations a series of projects terminable at short notice without great consequence. Much of the programmes consists of continuing services - education and preventive medicine - of a quasi-governmental nature which - if I may quote the report - "are essential to the refugees, which have become part of the social and economic fabric of the host countries, and which, in the continued absence of a political solution, are an important element of stability in the whole region".

Mr. Chairman, in the second paragraph of the report I have referred to "the effects of institutionalisation over a quarter of a century" on the Agency; I did so having in mind principally the problem of staff relations to which paragraph 19 and much of section D are devoted. I think it fair to say that staff management now demands greater attention throughout the whole of the United Nations family of organizations, but it is of special importance in UNRWA because of the large number of local staff - over

15,000 - the economic and social environment of the area in which they work, and UNRWA's chronic financial weakness. There is also an apparent ambiguity in the position of the Palestinian staff that aggravates any grievances they have. The local employees of UNRWA are United Nations employees but with a difference: they are almost all, with very few exceptions, Palestine refugees, preference is given to them in recruitment, and in fixing their conditions of service regard has always been had therefore to the conditions of comparable staff employed by the local governments rather than, as with the employees of other United Nations organizations, to the conditions of service offered by the local "best employers". Furthermore, because of its temporary status, UNRWA has been unable to provide the same superannuation benefits as are enjoyed by Government employees or, for some occupations, to continue to match Government salaries at all levels and at all times, though in many important respects and for many occupations, the comparison with the local Governments is not unfavourable to UNRWA.

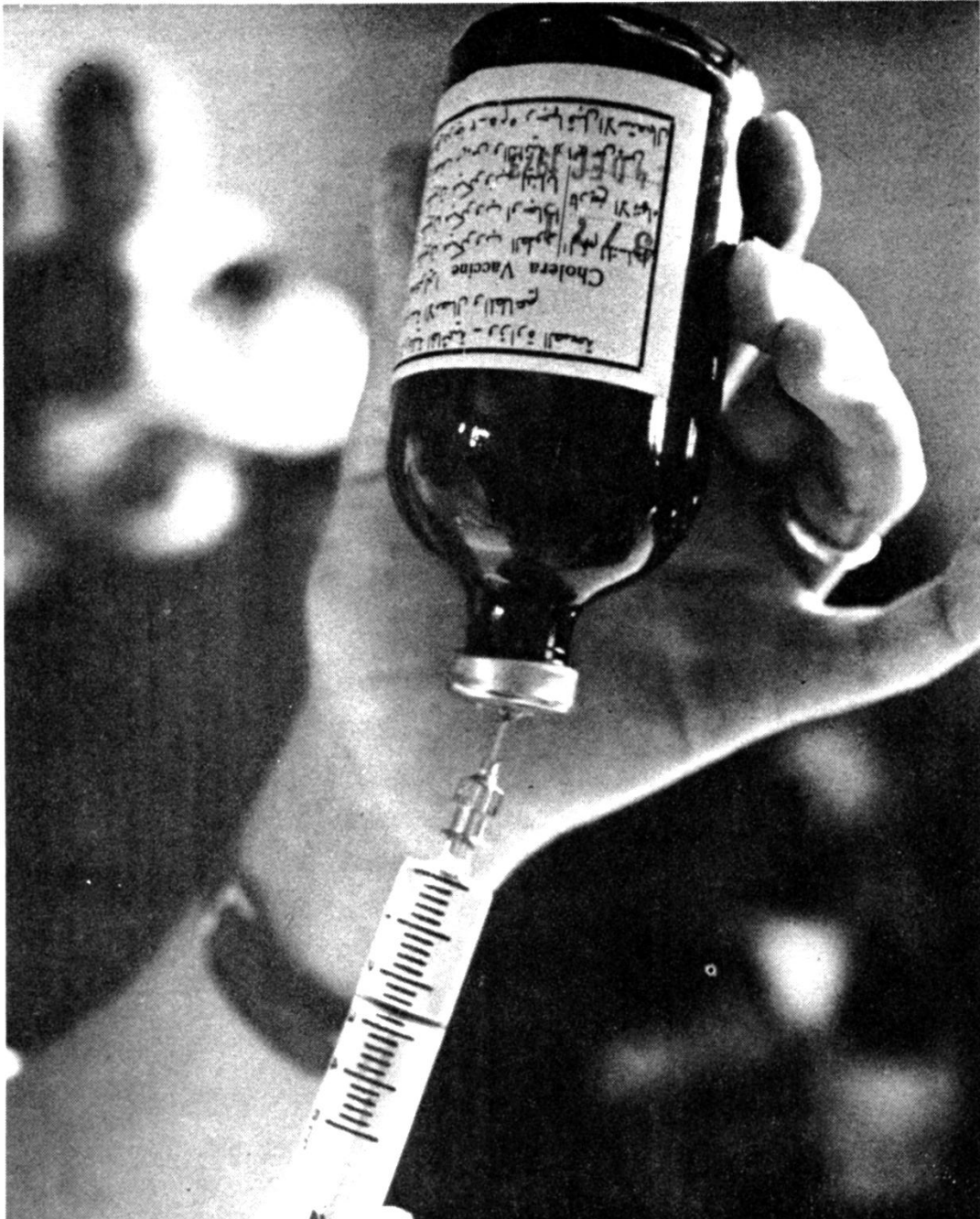
Preventive medicine: part of a continuing service, essential to the refugees.



Paragraph 6 of SPC document A/SPC/172 which contains revised estimates of expenditure for 1974 and 1975, refers to outstanding demands by local staff for improvements in their conditions of service. I feel bound to mention these demands before this Committee because they would normally be brought to the notice of a governing body, and because UNRWA's budget is not examined by the Fifth Committee. In so far as they can be qualified, their annual costs appear to be of such an order as to double the deficit, and they would involve also non-recurrent costs on a similar scale, some immediately and others when the Agency ceased operation. Some of the demands are clearly unacceptable on financial grounds; others are more modest and merit sympathetic consideration, if adequate income can be found to meet them. First priority has had to be given, however, to periodic, and more and more frequent, increases in remuneration to compensate staff for continued increases in the cost of living. In the budget for 1975 an additional \$9.4 million is provided for this purpose and it may well prove insufficient. If the cost of international staff could be accepted as a charge on the Regular Budget of the United Nations, a measure I believe justified on grounds both of principle and of expediency, the funds released in the UNRWA budget could be used to satisfy some of the most urgent, demands of the local staff. The cost in 1975 would be \$3.2 million including the actuarial cost of retroactivity in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for some staff whose full service has not been validated. I hope the Committee will give sympathetic consideration to this course.

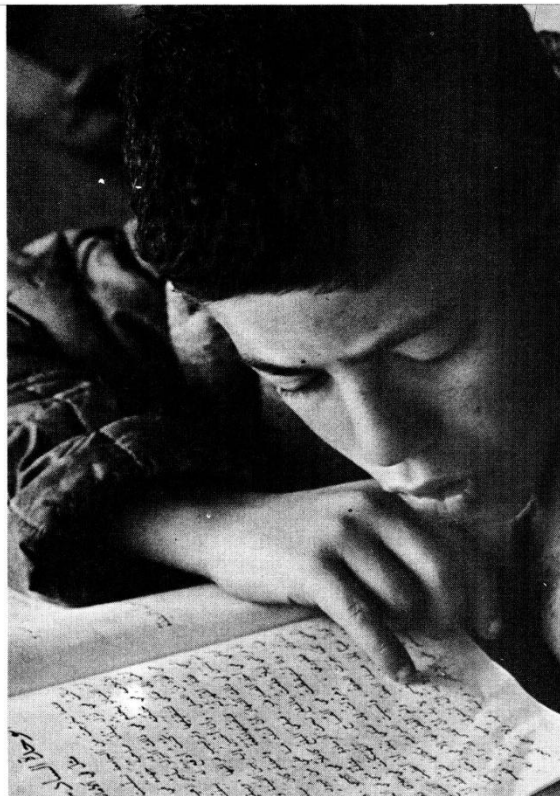
In paragraph 23 of the report I have referred to supply problems resulting from the disruption of shipping caused by the war of October 1973. Some further disruption resulted from the fighting in Cyprus, as Cypriot ports are occasionally used for the transshipment of supplies destined for the Occupied Territories. Much more serious, however, has been the persistent uncertainty about the delivery of supplies caused by shortages and high prices of commodities. An example is the

Preventive medicine: part of a continuing service, essential to the refugees.



sugar component in the basic ration, which is provided by a contribution in kind from the European Economic Community: owing to the world shortage of sugar no offers have been received in response to recent calls for tenders by the Community, the sugar ration has been temporarily cut by half, and the continuing shortage and scarcity prices have put maintenance of any sugar ration at all after the end of the year in jeopardy. As regards flour, most of the Agency's requirements were formerly received as contributions in kind; this is no longer the case and purchases at prices four times or more higher than three years ago represent a heavy drain on cash resources. I have been told by colleagues with long experience of UNRWA that the supply problems of the past twelve months have been worse than at any time they can remember.

Mr. Chairman, the second paragraph of the report, which deals with the extension of the Agency's mandate, contains a reference to the desirability of a review of the Agency's constitution, structure and programmes in order to ensure its ability to respond to the requirements of a changing situation. I have made clear my view that UNRWA must continue, but I felt some thought ought to be given to the future, both because developments might require contingency planning of a rather more fundamental kind than the Agency can carry out itself, burdened as it continually is with operational and financial problems, and also because I was apprehensive that growth in size and complexity was outstripping administrative and managerial resources. I was, in fact, concerned both with the present and the future. Since the report was written there have been important political developments but we cannot yet foresee how they will affect the Agency's role and work. It may be too early therefore to set in train any formal review but I should like to feel free to consult the Secretary-General about the possibility of assistance with a preliminary, internal review, pending the time when the General Assembly may wish to undertake a more far-reaching reassessment and re-orientation. In any event, as regards the present, some strengthening of the



Education: "an important element of stability" in the region.

Agency's administration is urgently necessary.

Immediately dominating all these considerations, however, is the question whether the Agency can survive financially through 1975. I must therefore comment, Mr. Chairman, on the implications of the revised estimates of expenditure contained in SPC document of A/SPC/172.

The Agency's income has always been uncertain, and the uncertainty has been aggravated by currency fluctuations; but expenditure also is now uncertain because of high rates of inflation and soaring commodity prices which cannot be accurately forecast. These developments have further complicated finances that are already complicated by such factors as the important role played in estimating and accounting by contributions in kind, part of which must be carried forward from one year to another. There has been some

recent recovery of the US dollar against local Arab currencies from its lowest point, but this was reached after the figures for the budget in the report had been established. Since the report was written also, the Israeli pound has been devalued, but there was an immediate rise in the cost of living and no significant beneficial effect on the Agency's finances can be expected.

The Committee will note that the revised estimates for 1974 includes two items of non-recurrent costs relating to major reconstruction or repair. The first, amounting to \$483,000, is for shelters and other installations, mainly in Nabatieh camp, damaged in the Israeli raids in south Lebanon. My report gave, in paragraph 16, a figure of \$435,000 for this work but a closer estimate has increased the amount slightly. The Committee will note that the Agency has been unable, for lack of funds, to include provision for roofs of concrete as desired by the refugees, in place of the original asbestos sheeting. The second item is for the repair of the temporary huts erected to replace tents in the emergency camps in east Jordan for displaced refugees and other persons. It has become clear repair can no longer be delayed, and the total cost is estimated at \$330,000, of which about \$50,000 will be spent this year. If the return of those displaced in 1967 were at last in sight, much of this expenditure could be avoided.

There are three aspects to the financial problem that should be noted, all of them most disturbing. In the first place, the deficit is of an order of magnitude never before experienced; secondly, there is a periodic shortage of cash, resulting from the inadequate working capital, which may next month leave the Agency with insufficient cash to meet expenditure; thirdly, as paragraph 243, the final paragraph of the report, relates, the Agency has substantial unfunded liabilities which it may or may not be able to meet depending on the circumstances in which the need to meet them arises.

Assuming payment of outstanding contributions can be obtained in time to avert

the threatened cash crisis for December, the Agency will immediately thereafter be faced with the necessity of planning for early reductions in services unless sufficient assurances of income have been obtained by them. With a deficit of \$45 million, or even of half that amount, it will not be possible to carry on for several months in the absence of such assurances and in the insubstantial hope that something will turn up.

The effects of reductions on the scale required to eliminate a deficit of \$45 million would be devastating. The distribution of basic rations would have to be restricted to what can be provided from donations in kind and by running down the flour inventory, i.e. by further reducing the assets from which the liabilities referred to in paragraph 243 might have to be met. This would be equivalent to a cut in the distribution of flour of more than fifty per cent, affecting the size of the ration or the number of beneficiaries or both. The preparatory, that is to say pre-secondary, cycle of education would have to be terminated after 30 April 1975, five months from now - and the arrangements would have to be made well in advance. The elementary cycle of education would have to be terminated at the end of the 1974-75 school year. In other words, the whole of the system of general education would disappear in the course of 1975, leaving 270,000 children without education and thousands of Palestinian teachers without employment.

And we must bear in mind that the Palestine refugees believe the education of their children to be the most important service rendered to them by the United Nations.

Teacher-training also would be terminated after 30 June 1975, and there would be consequential and supplementary cuts in other services. Even if income were to reach the level of \$80 million, the education system would not survive intact, since the termination of the preparatory cycle after 30 April 1975 would still be forced on the Agency for lack of funds, in addition to the cut in rations and other cuts.

This seems to me, as I am sure it must seem to the Committee, an appalling prospect, one that would make a mockery of the recognition of the rights of the Palestine refugees and of any extension of the Agency's mandate to care for them in the meantime. It may be said that it will never happen, that somehow or other UNRWA has always managed to survive, and that therefore no special action is required, that it will be sufficient to issue an appeal, and to leave it to the Working Group or the Secretary-General or the Commissioner-General. Certainly for my part, Mr. Chairman; I feel that, with respect, I must tell the Committee such an assumption this year would be imprudent. I believe that the Working Group, who gave me an opportunity of discussion with them during this session, fully share my concern. The deficit is of extraordinary magnitude and the ordinary measures will not suffice.

In the final paragraph of the introduction to my report I said it was extremely doubtful if traditional methods and sources of financing can deal adequately with a crisis of this magnitude. To the Working Group I have expressed the view that unco-ordinated voluntary efforts are

no longer sufficient, meaning that those who have a special interest in the maintenance of UNRWA's programmes for the Palestine refugees ought to concert their efforts if they wish to see the financial problem solved.

Finally, now that there is wide and explicit recognition in the United Nations that the problem of the refugees is an aspect of a larger political problem, I should like to express the hope that there will no longer be any inhibition against contributing, and contributing generously, through UNRWA, to the cost of services to the Palestine refugees. The humanitarian problem, the interim problem, cannot be treated as if it did not exist. Only UNRWA can at present provide the valuable services it provides and UNRWA is the agency designated by the General Assembly to do so. Failure to maintain these services could only, I believe, be harmful to the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and failure would constitute a grave disservice to the Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA who constitute such an important part of the people of Palestine. (4)

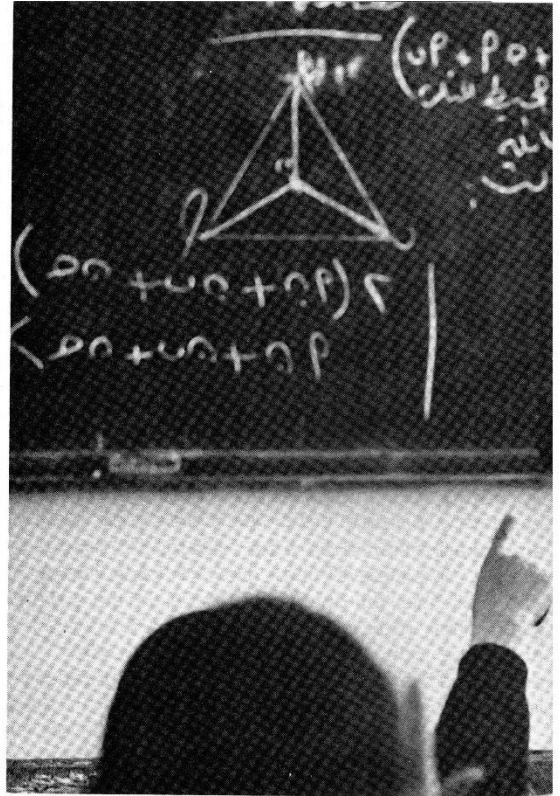
Rations: A "persistent uncertainty about the delivery of supplies".

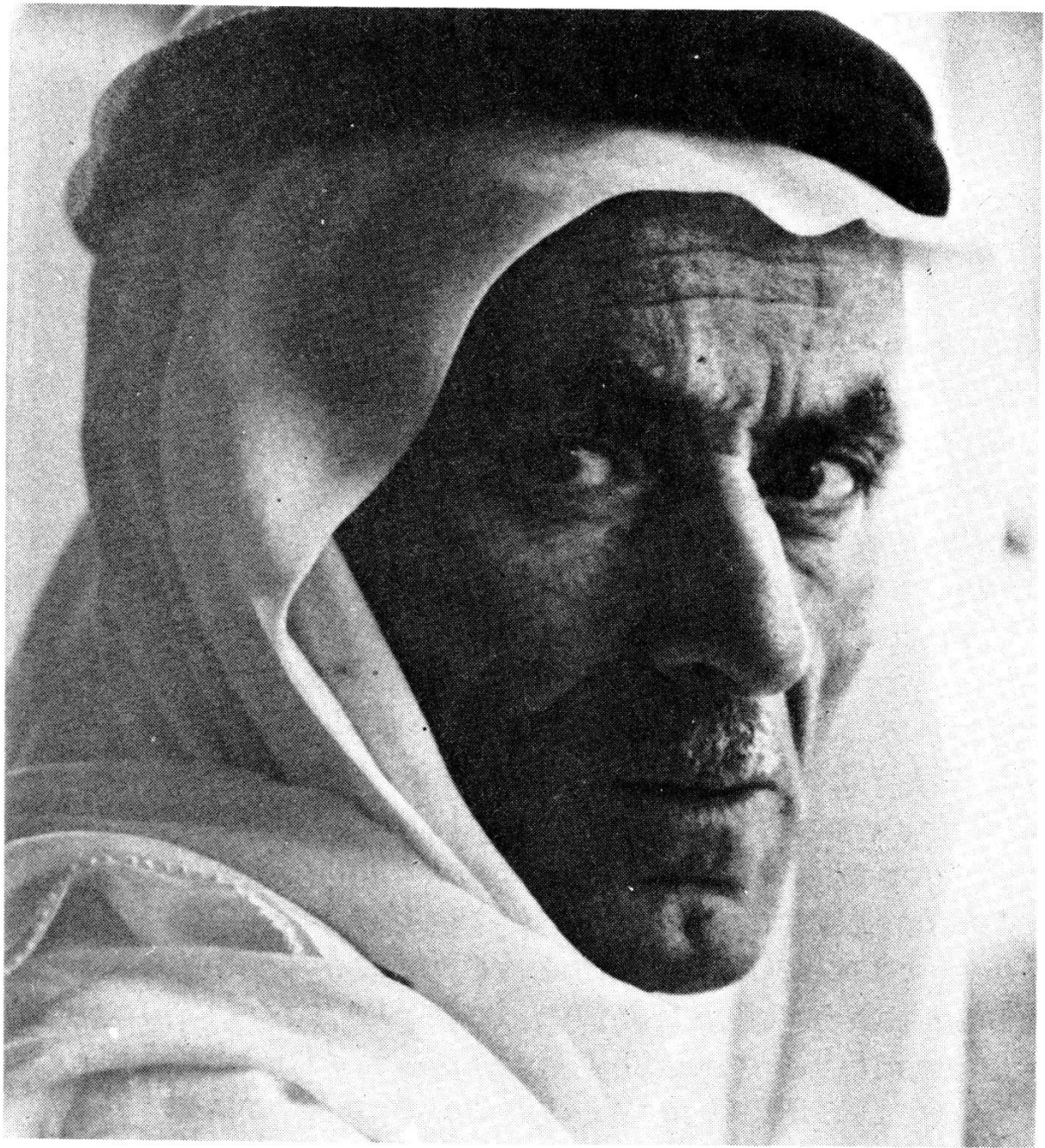


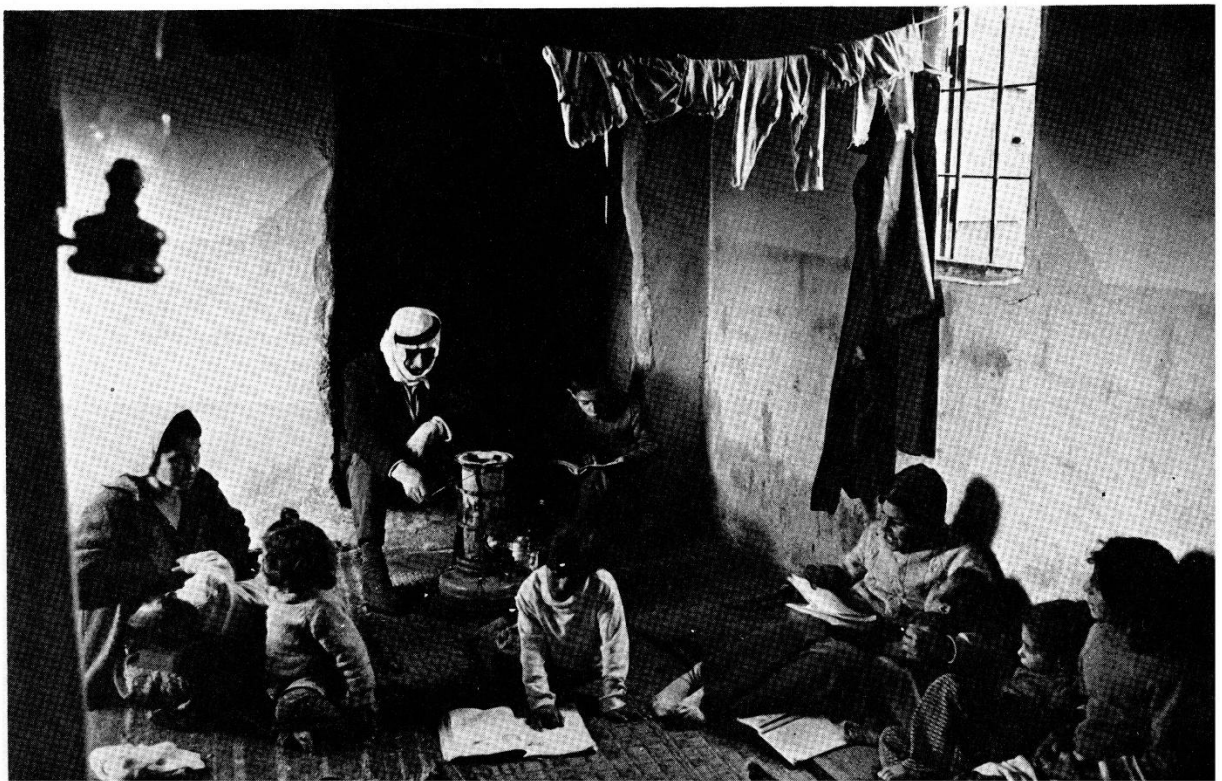
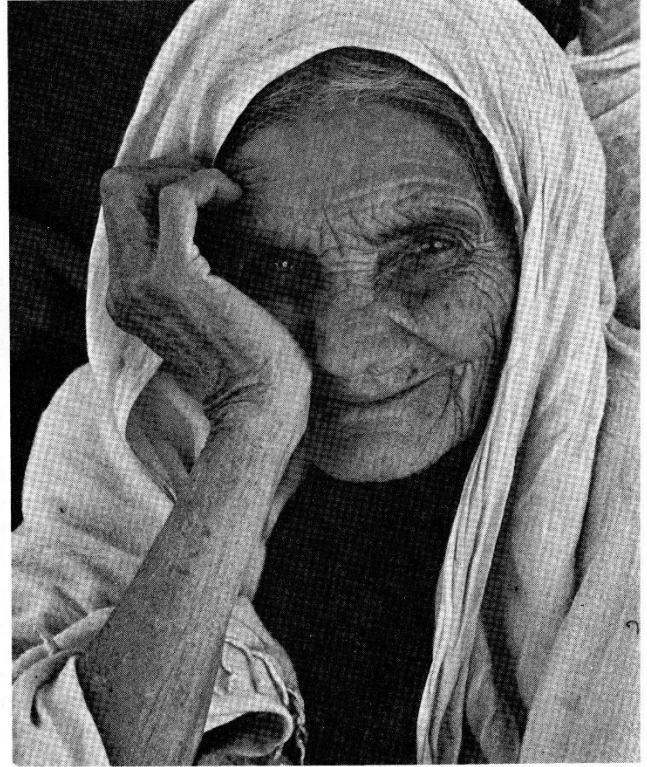
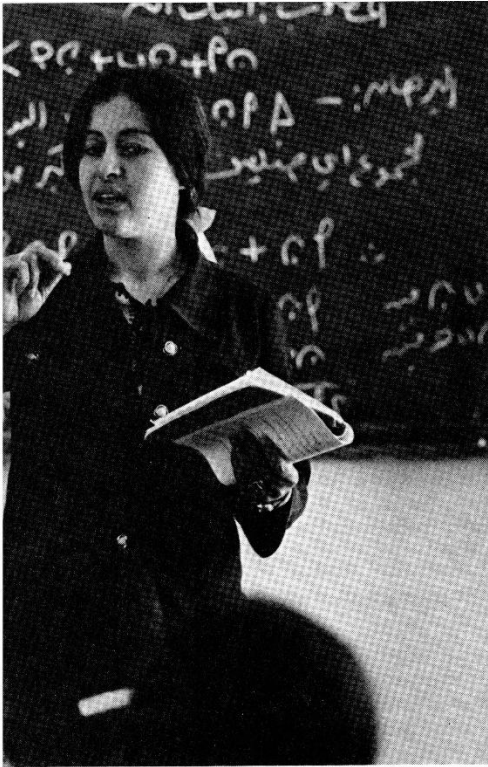


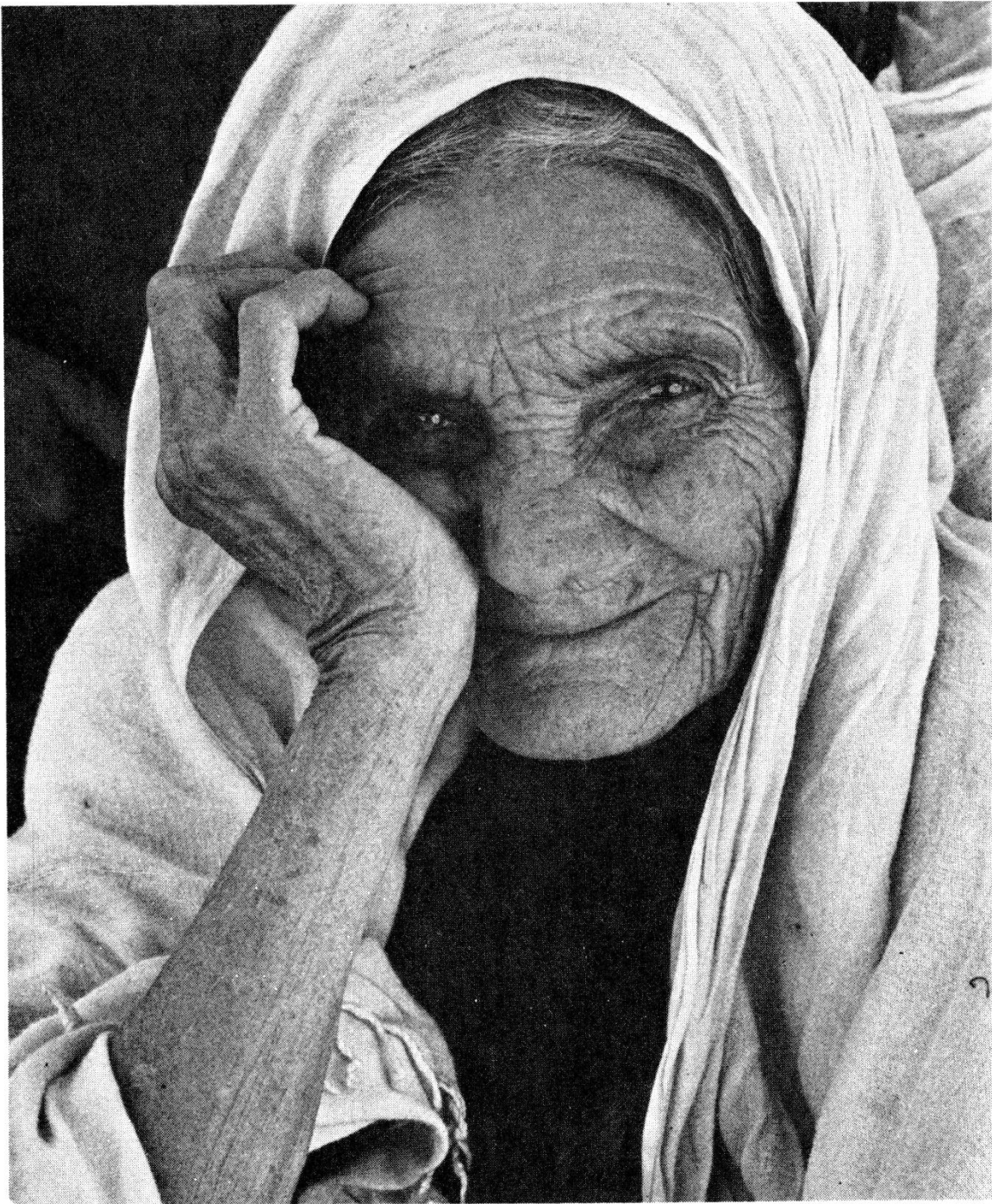
NEW UNRWA PHOTOGRAPHS

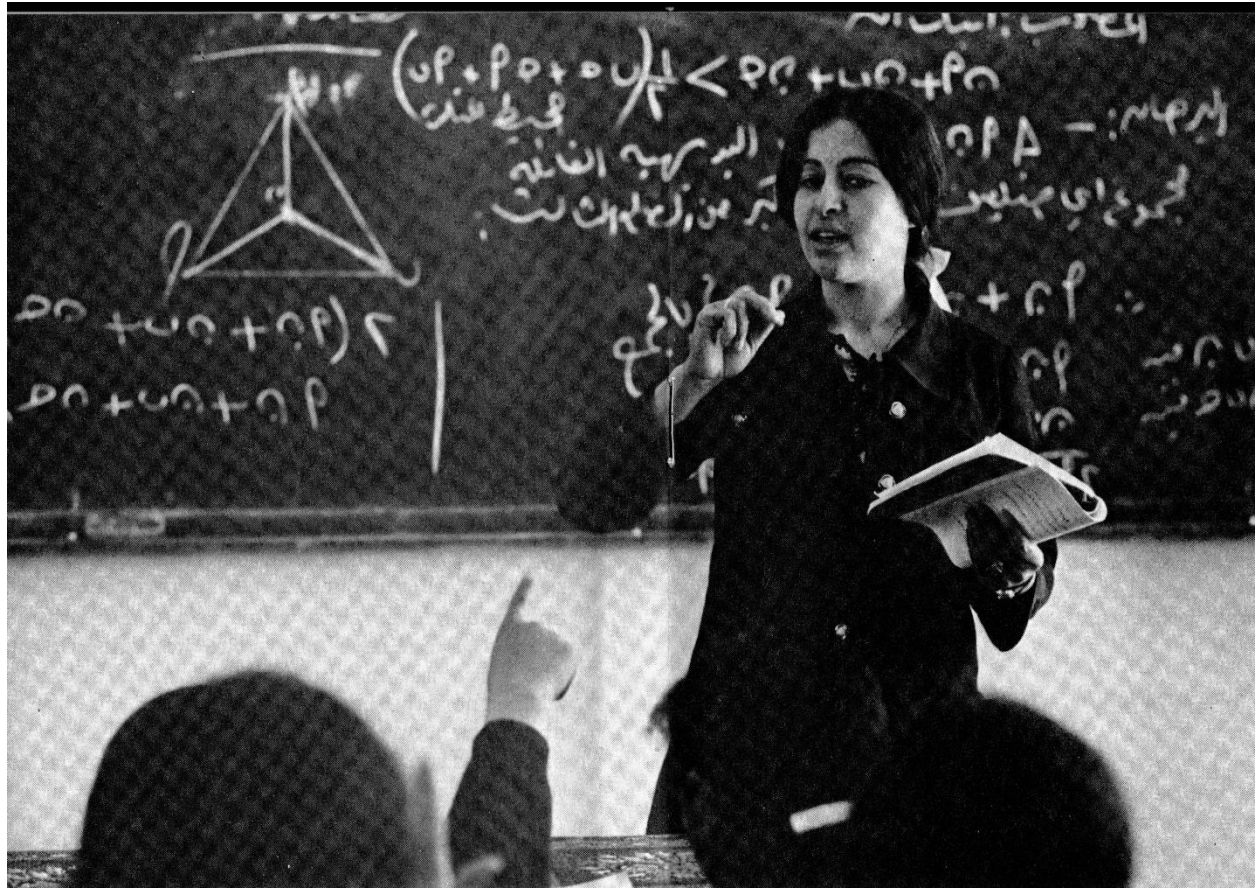
Prints of these pictures and exhibition enlargements are available on request.











SUMMARY OF PLEDGING CONFERENCE

At the annual meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA, held in New York on 3 December, 46 governments announced pledges of cash, goods and services in support of the 1975 activities of UNRWA.

Of the 46 governments represented at the "Pledging Conference", 13 governments to date have pledged increased contributions in 1975. Since the Conference, additional pledges confirmed or received, together with estimates based on the previous year's contributions in respect of those governments which have not yet made known their intentions, allow UNRWA to estimate its 1975 income from governmental sources (including the European Economic Community) at \$94 million.

At the Conference, UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Sir John Rennie, expressed appreciation for the contributions and especially for the increases announced, the number of which was encouraging. However, Sir John said he feared UNRWA was still "a very long way" from elimination of the "enormous" deficit - a deficit estimated at the time at over \$45 million, more than a third of UNRWA's budget for 1975. (In February a special contribution of \$10 million from the United States Government, over and above the regular U.S. contribution of \$23.2 million, reduced the deficit to about \$36 million.)

The Commissioner-General also stated that, if reductions in services to the refugees were required to eliminate a deficit of this order, the reductions "would be devastating, including, as they would, huge cuts in ration distribution and general education. It seems to me unthinkable that the United Nations should allow such a calamity to occur, especially at this time, in the light of the importance attached by the General Assembly to the Palestine question, of which the Palestine refugees are the unfortunate victims." ☹

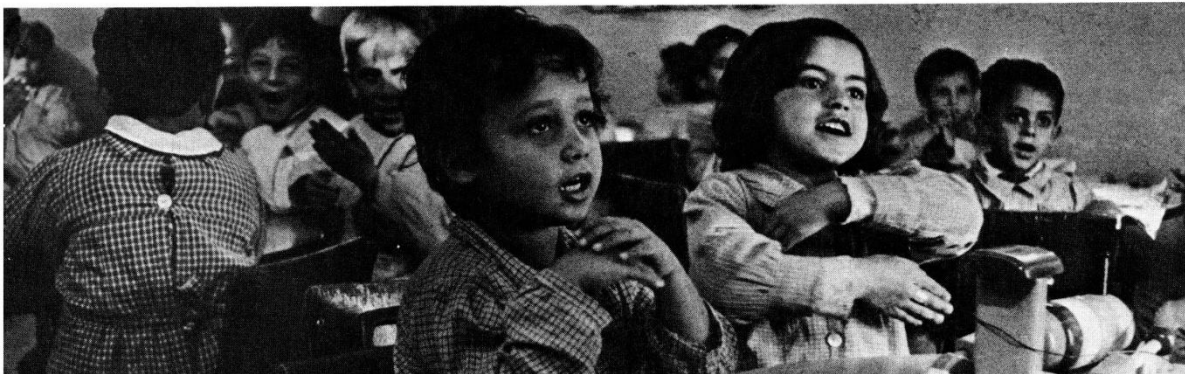
A VISITOR FROM THE USC

At the Rehydration/Nutrition Centre in Maghazi camp in the Gaza Strip, a Palestine refugee infant is treated for gastro-enteritis. In the pre-school Play Centre at El Buss camp in Lebanon, a refugee child is taught to count. A nursing trainee in a Beirut hospital checks a patient's temperature and respiratory rate. And at the Balata Health Centre in the West Bank an UNRWA doctor treats a refugee's broken arm. All these aspects of UNRWA's services to the Palestine refugees are aided by contributions from the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada (USC), a voluntary organization which has supported UNRWA since the 1950s. (See table for support in 1974/75).

UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE OF CANADA
SUPPORT OF UNRWA PROJECTS, 1974/75

<u>Project</u>	<u>Support</u>
Balata Health Centre, West Bank	(U.S.)\$25,700
Maghazi Rehydration/ Nutrition Centre, Gaza Strip (eight beds)	5,900
Pre-School Centres, Lebanon (El Buss, Ein el-Hilweh, Nahr el-Bared, Rashidieh)	4,000
Basic nursing training 1974/75	2,300
Purchase of ambulance for use in the Gaza Strip (Maghazi, Nuseirat, Bureij and Deir el-Balah camps)	6,000
Total	<u>(U.S.)\$43,900</u>

*Learning through games in the Play Centre
at El Buss camp, in Lebanon.*





Professor Merrill (left) with an UNRWA health officer and the new ambulance for the Gaza Strip.

In February Professor Gordon C. Merrill, special advisor to the Unitarian Service Committee, visited UNRWA's area of operations to inspect the programmes subsidized by the USC. At the American University of Beirut's School of Nursing, Professor Merrill met a number of nursing trainees and graduate students whose studies have been financed through USC scholarships. Among them was Ahmad Musa Ali, a refugee from Rashidieh camp in south Lebanon, who was a Dean's honour list student during each of the three years of his nursing diploma course. With a further scholarship from the USC, he is now studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Since 1958, USC scholarships have enabled more than 50 Palestine refugee students to follow courses in basic nursing and midwifery, an important aid in providing trained personnel for UNRWA's health programme.

In Lebanon in El Buss, Ein el-Hilweh, Nahr el-Bared and Rashidieh camps, the USC also sponsors four pre-school play

centres where Palestine refugee children are given the rudiments of kindergarten training, are taught hygiene and receive free milk. Supervised by volunteers, play centres also help enable the Agency to keep an eye on the health of children between the ages of three and six. Up to the age of three, their health is closely supervised through Child Health Clinics, and after six through the school health programme provided in the 574 UNRWA/Unesco elementary and preparatory schools for some 280,000 refugee children. A further benefit of the play centres is that they free mothers six days a week to care for younger children or to work and help support their families.

At Maghazi camp in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, Prof. Merrill toured the Rehydration/Nutrition Centre which is part of UNRWA's Health Centre there. In it, children suffering from gastro-enteric diseases and protein deficiency are treated with anti-diarrhoeal drugs, given intra-gastric (or, if necessary,

intra-venous drip) to restore their body fluids and electrolytes, and put on a special high-protein diet. Meanwhile, their mothers are taught about their proper care and feeding.

During his Gaza visit, Prof. Merrill inspected some of the used clothing collected by the USC in Canada for distribution to needy refugees in Gaza. He presented a number of mothers with layettes, given primarily to hardship cases but also in the event of multiple births. And he was shown the new ambulance donated by the USC to help improve the ambulance service already available to Palestine refugees there.

Near Nablus, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Prof. Merrill paid a visit to the

Health Centre at Balata camp where he saw an example of the wide range of curative medical facilities made available to 1,375,500 eligible Palestine refugees through the 123 health centres operated or subsidized by UNRWA throughout its areas of operation.

With the aid of contributions from voluntary agencies like the USC, UNRWA is able to provide medical care which compares favourably with that provided by the Arab host governments for their indigent populations. By the end of his round of visits Prof. Merrill was able to conclude that: "Work in the fields of health and education is producing tangible results... The USC", he affirmed, "is pleased to be able to assist in this work". (4)



Inspecting used clothing for needy refugees in the Gaza Strip.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO UNRWA

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

/on the report of the Special Political Committee (A/9959)/

3330 (XXIX). Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2964 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972 and 3090 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1/

Taking into account 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 1973 to 30 June 1974, 2/

Gravely concerned at the alarming financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, imminently endangering the essential minimum services being provided to the Palestine refugees,

Emphasizing the urgent need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at their present minimum level, the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its work;
2. Notes with appreciation the report of the Working Group;
3. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of one year;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

2322nd plenary meeting
17 December 1974

1/ A/9815 and Corr.1.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No.13 (A/9613).

3331 (XXIX). United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3089 B (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 and all previous resolutions referred to therein, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

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 1973 to 30 June 1974, 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 by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 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 to 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. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been 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 of that paragraph and to report as appropriate, but no later than 1 October 1975;
4. Directs attention to the unprecedented seriousness of the 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;
5. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions which met the serious budget deficit of the past year, this increased level of income to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements in the coming year;
6. 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;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/9613).

7. Decides to extend until 30 June 1978, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

2322nd plenary meeting
17 December 1974

B

The General Assembly,

Having recognized the continuing responsibility of the United Nations towards the Palestine refugees by extending the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of three years from 1 July 1975,

Noting that in the critical financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East the financing from voluntary contributions of the expenses for salary of international staff employed by the Agency limits the amount available for local costs,

Noting also that international staff are made available to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization on a non-reimbursable basis,

Decides that the expenses for salary of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East which would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions should with effect from 1 January 1975 be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate.

2322nd plenary meeting
17 December 1974

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 B (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 B (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 B (XXVII) of 13 December 1972 and 3089 A (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973,

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 1973 to 30 June 1974, 2/

Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

2/ Ibid.

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII), 2452 C (XXIII), 2535 C (XXIV), 2672 B (XXV), 2792 B (XXVI), 2963 B (XXVII) and 3089 A (XXVIII);
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;
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.

2322nd plenary meeting
17 December 1974

D

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 C and D (XXVII) of 13 December 1972 and 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973,

Emphasizing the necessity of full implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East 3/ and the report of the Secretary-General of 17 September 1974, 4/

Noting that the Israeli occupation authorities have persisted in adopting measures that obstruct the return of the displaced population to their homes and camps in the occupied territories - including changes in the physical and demographic structure of the occupied territories, by the displacement of inhabitants, the transfer of population, the destruction of towns, villages and homes, and the establishment of Israeli settlements - in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 5/ as well as the pertinent United Nations resolutions,

Reaffirming that it considers those measures null and void,

Noting also that the Israeli armed forces have repeatedly attacked refugee camps and that those raids have resulted in heavy loss of life and extensive damage to refugee shelters and installations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

3/ Ibid.

4/ A/9740.

5/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

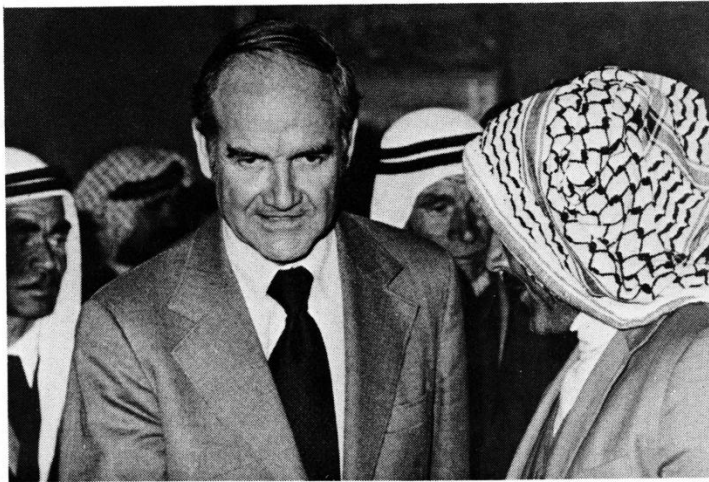
1. Reaffirms the right of the displaced inhabitants to return to their homes and camps and deplores the refusal of the Israeli authorities to take steps for their return;
2. Calls once more upon Israel immediately:
 - (a) To take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;
 - (b) To desist from all measures that obstruct the return of the displaced inhabitants, including measures affecting the physical and demographic structure of the occupied territories;
3. Reiterates its call upon Israel immediately:
 - (a) To take effective steps for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed in the Gaza Strip and to provide adequate shelters for their accommodation;
 - (b) To desist from further removal of refugees and destruction of their shelters;
4. Deplores Israeli military attacks on refugee camps and calls upon Israel immediately to desist from such attacks;
5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report as soon as possible, and whenever appropriate thereafter, but in any case not later than the opening date of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, on Israel's compliance with and implementation of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the present resolution.

2322nd plenary meeting
17 December 1974



Sbeineh camp outside Damascus with more than 6,000 inhabitants is one of 10 emergency camps, established after the June 1967 Arab-Israeli hostilities, which still accommodate about 140,000 displaced refugees and other displaced persons.

McGOVERN AT MARKA



*Senator McGovern meeting with
the notables of Marka camp.*

On a bright sunny day at the end of March, Senator George McGovern, the Democratic candidate for the United States Presidency in 1972, paid an unusual visit. As the new chairman of the Subcommittee on the Near East and South Asia of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he apparently wanted to see for himself the plight of the Palestine refugees. Thus it was that on 30 March 1975, Senator McGovern visited Marka camp on the outskirts of Amman, Jordan. Established after the June 1967 Arab-Israeli hostilities, Marka is an "emergency" camp in which more than 25,000 Palestine refugees and other displaced persons live today.

Accompanied by officials of the Jordanian Government, the Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, Mr. John Tanner, and other Agency officials, the Senator from South Dakota went to the camp's Youth Activities Centre where he met with the representatives of the camp's inhabitants and listened to their views. He was also invited into a refugee's shelter where he talked to two women surrounded by their children. He toured the UNRWA/Unesco girls' school, was introduced to the Head Teacher and heard a speech by one of the students. In one of his encounters with the refugees, Senator McGovern was introduced to a 127-year-old man still going strong. "I wish," said the Senator, "he could teach us the secret for his long life." (4)

Further information, copies of UNRWA publications and audio-visual materials, including prints of photographs appearing in this issue of the Newsletter, may be obtained from :

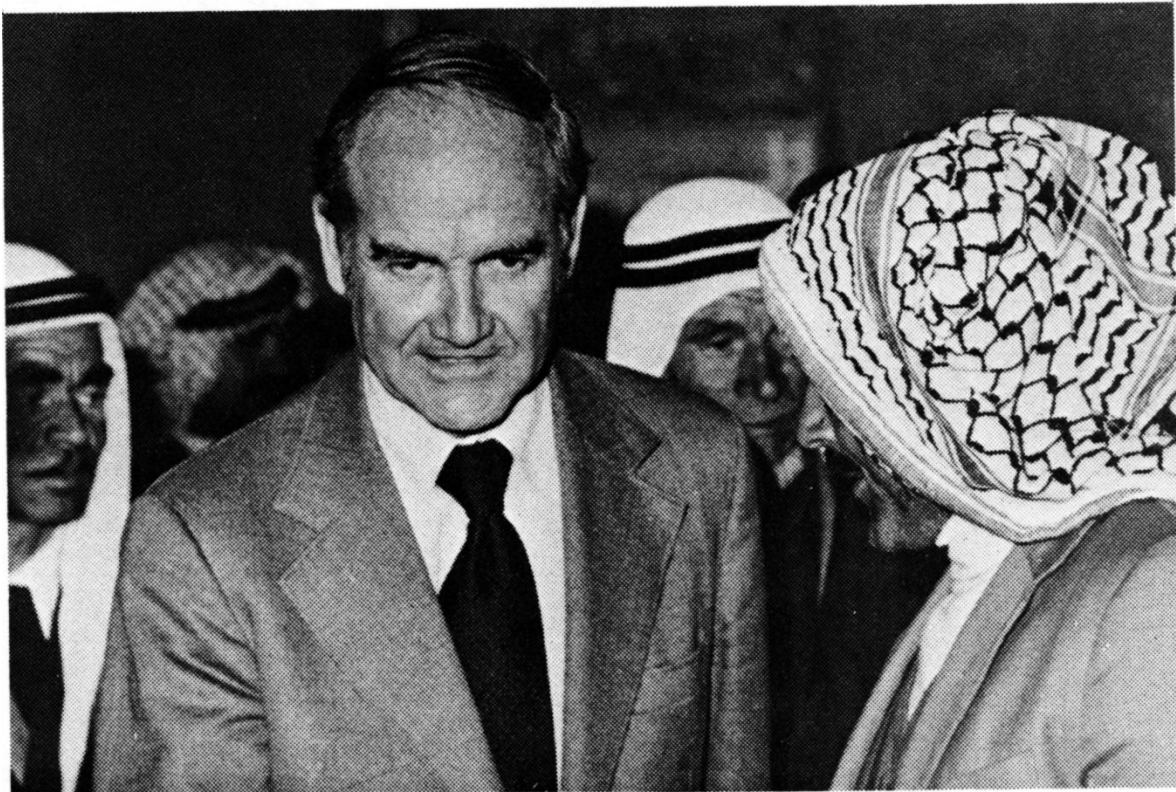
UNRWA Public Information Office
Museitbeh Quarter
Beirut
Lebanon

UNRWA Liaison Office
Palais des Nations
Geneva
Switzerland

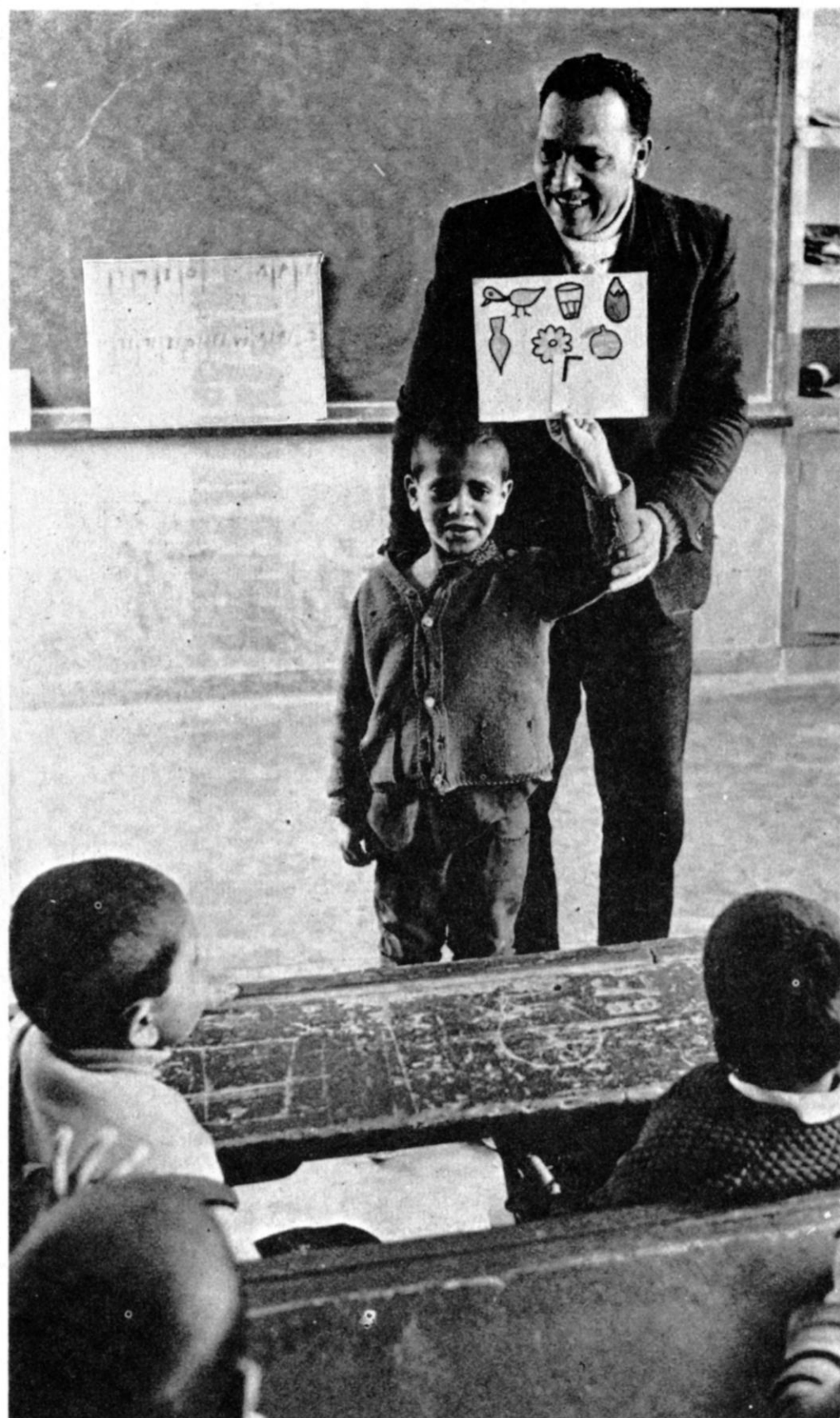
UNRWA Liaison Office
United Nations
New York
U.S.A.

Newsletter articles and photographs may be reprinted without permission. Please credit UNRWA.

McGOVERN AT MARKA



*Senator McGovern meeting with
the notables of Marka camp.*



Distributed in the United States by
UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES
20 West 40th Street
New York, New York 10018



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
U.S. COMMITTEE FOR
REFUGEES