



THE LINK

PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR MIDDLE EAST UNDERSTANDING

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HOW THIS NEWSLETTER WAS BORN AND CAN GROW

Solid friendship between the people of the Middle East and the people of the United States is essential to the peace of the world. Americans can make major contributions toward this goal by spreading understanding of the history, values, religions, culture and economic conditions of the Middle East and--in this context--pressing toward greater fairness, consistency and integrity in U. S. foreign policy toward that area.

Working away at this sometimes puts a person in the mood of the prophet Elijah who--exhausted by the well-organized opposition to his struggle for justice, democracy and the rights of the individual--whimpered the protesting prayer, "It is enough I, even I only, am left." But when it was revealed to Elijah that there were 7000 others who had not "bowed unto Baal," his morale perked up, his energies multiplied and he returned to battle through to victory.

A.M.E.U.--exhilarated to discover how many-times-7000 Americans care about what happens to, with and among the people of the Middle East--has decided to produce this newsletter to link such folk together in awareness of each other. We hope that some of the examples will stimulate you to want to "go and do likewise," and that the addresses given will lead you toward acts of cooperation and support. In all of this we also ask you to take seriously--and mail in--the questionnaire on the last sheet of this issue.

We note that this first effort is long on academic, charitable and religious activities, but short on reporting the many significant things that are being done in commerce, the arts, the media and elsewhere. We solicit your help in making our next issue as fully rounded as possible. Remember, of course, that there are at least two sides to most issues in the Middle East. In the interest of fairness, we particularly seek significant but unpublicized items which can help redress any imbalance in the news coverage normally available to the general reader.

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES MIDEAST

In addition to the Yale conference and the New York Theological dialogues described elsewhere in this issue, several institutions of advanced learning have focused on the Middle East with extensive special programs. Wisconsin University devoted a solid week of its "Alumni Summer School" to the theme. In May, Case Western Reserve University and Georgetown University held two-day convocations on, respectively, "A Cool Look at The Middle East" and "The United Nations in the Middle East." Earlier in the year Brown University and Pembroke College had "The Middle East: A Society in Transition" as the theme of their 3rd joint Annual International Conference, and Baldwin-Wallace College had a similar emphasis in its Second Annual Conference on The Non-Western World, while Duke University concentrated on clarifying the bearing of International Law on the Middle East. Yeshiva University held a lecture series on "Israel After the Six-Day War," presented by faculty members and Israeli visitors. And perhaps this is the place to announce two new books--from Columbia and Harvard respectively: John Badeau's The American Approach to The Arab World and David H. Finnie's Pioneers East.

NATIONAL RESPONSES TO "NEW REFUGEE" NEEDS

The refugee tragedies stemming from the June, 1967, Arab-Israeli conflict have called for new organizations on a national level, some of which are described elsewhere in this issue. Meanwhile, you may be interested in how many existing church and philanthropic agencies have broadened their scope to include the recently uprooted Palestinians. We trust that you will want to be in touch with one or more of the following :

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, 20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19107; AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST REHABILITATION, INC., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N. Y., 10017; THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, 2025 E. St., N. W., Washington, D. C., 20006; CARE, INC., 660 First Ave., New York, N. Y., 10016; CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION, 330 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y., 10017; CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, 350 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., 10001; CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y., 10027; HOLY LAND CENTER, 225 East 49th St., New York, N. Y., 10017; LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, 315 Park Ave. South, New York, N. Y., 10010; MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 21 South Twelfth Street, Akron, Pa., 17501; UNITED CHURCH BOARD OF WORLD MINISTRIES, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y., 10027; U. S. COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, 20 West Fortieth St., New York, N. Y., 10018.

NUBIAN NEWS

The American Committee to Preserve Abu Simbel has begun defraying UNESCO's hard currency costs for re-erecting the two Nubian temples of Abu Simbel. The project, which includes a reconstruction of the sandstone cliffs in which the temples were originally carved, will soon be completed.

The temple of Dendur, which dates to the reign of Augustus, has been prepared for shipment to the United States. The temple was offered to the United States by the Egyptian government in appreciation of American aid in preserving the other Nubian monuments. It will be reconstructed in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

LAY CONSULTATION POSSIBLE

The Committee on American Laymen Overseas, Room 653, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. 10027, has asked Dr. Paul Loeffler--who is going to Beirut later this year--to encourage American "expatriates" to face their problems and opportunities in a closer relationship with the Near East Council of Churches and with the Orthodox, Latin and Uniat communions of the region. A possible ecumenical conference on the theme is foreseen within the next two years.

MORE DIALOGUES ON PALESTINE?

Plans are in the wind for Fall follow-through on the brisk inter-faith dialogues on "Palestine Today" held on three April Tuesday evenings at New York Theological Seminary, 235 East 49th Street. The questions addressed, all with lively audience participation, included "A Biblical Basis for The Modern State of Israel?" with Zionist Rabbi Balfour Brickner and Anti-Zionist Dr. Norton Mezvinski, "What Does Jerusalem Mean to My Faith?" with Dr. Pinchas Peli, Visiting Professor of Hebrew Literature at Yeshiva University, and Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf, Director of the Islamic Center of New York, and "Christian Alternatives in The Middle East?" with Dr. Alford Carleton of the General Board of the National Council of Churches and Kuwaiti diplomat Dr. Fayez Sayegh, son of a Palestinian pastor.

"These dialogues," says the Seminary's President, Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, "were one response to the National Council of Churches Resolution on the Crisis in The Middle East which pled for encounter, study and action among Jews, Christians and Muslims and for creating a 'ministry of listening' to the concerns of all three faiths." (A.M.E.U. had raised the funds to place the full text of that resolution in a half-page New York Times ad, January 14.)

We eagerly await news of what his and other seminaries will be contributing to these purposes in the academic year ahead.

CAMPUS INTEREST GROWS

The annual summer conference of the University Christian Movement (which embraces Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox campus activities) led to the creation of a new Committee on Near East Concerns. Its chairman will be William Bengtson, a New York Theological Seminary senior, who was on the American delegation to last May's World Student Christian Fellowship conference in Beirut on "Peace with Justice in the Middle East." UCM's field secretary, Rev. Henry H. Bucher, Jr., Room 748, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y., 10027, will be responsive to inquiries about developing related programs on the campus closest to you. Such programs might well benefit by lively contact with members of the Hillel foundation and the Organization of Arab Students.

FORREST TO RE-VISIT MIDEAST

A. C. Forrest, editor of the United Church of Canada Observer, is en route to the Middle East to write up the work and needs of the churches and church agencies there for publication in North American denominational magazines. His last trip to the area resulted in the multi-million circulation, through the church press, of his 13-page picture story of the refugees from the West Bank of Jordan. That report is credited with the large response to the special refugee offering taken up in the churches on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 1, 1967.

WELCOME TO MELKITE PATRIARCH →

The visit to New York City by His Beatitude Maximos V Hakim, Patriarch of Antioch and of all the East, of Alexandria and of Jerusalem, provided an "ecumenical first" in which Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy and laity collaborated. The occasion was a luncheon given in his honor in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Biltmore by Catholic Near East Welfare and the Near East and Europe Department of the National Council of

Churches--the first public event ever sponsored by the two groups jointly.

Introduced by Archbishop Terence J. Cooke as a "tireless, fearless man of God," the Patriarch pled for help in stemming the tides which threaten that "in 10 or 15 years there will be no more Christians in the land of Christ." Part of this, he said, is due to the attractiveness which Communist promises hold out to hopeless Palestinians in the refugee camps. The other is the difficulty that Christian Arabs have in finding employment in the Middle East, especially in Israel, so that many of them are emigrating.

After the luncheon, many American church leaders, like the four in the photo below, discussed with him their hopes for fuller ecumenical collaboration in serving the needs of Palestinian refugees and in building Christian bridges of understanding between the Arab world and the West.

Left to right are the Rev. Frank L. Hutchison, Church World Service Director for Interpretation of the World Hunger Priority Program; Ellsworth Stanton III, Overseas Mission Treasurer for the National Council of Churches, the Rev. Harry G. Dorman, Jr., NCC Executive Director for the Middle East and Europe Department; and the Rev. Newton M. Fink, Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City.



A wise, if ungrammatical, scout-master once commented, "If there ain't no troop, there ain't no scouting." Similarly, international friendship that doesn't find expression on the local level can't amount to all it should. Here are a few thumbnail sketches of grassroots undertakings which we'll be glad to add to in future issues if you'll write us about them.

The American Arabic Association (AMARA), P. O. Box 18217, Boston, Mass. 02118, produces a 50¢ magazine-sized newsletter which, in addition to news items, carries analytical correspondence from the Mideast, research on the Palestinian refugees, examination of U. S. foreign policy, and insights into Arabist and Zionist ideologies.

American Aid for Arab Refugees, P. O. Box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11209, whose president is Mr. Robert W. Thabit, has been actively soliciting funds for refugee relief ever since the June war. The organization has also begun a monthly newsletter, called Conscience, which tells of a nation-wide appeal for funds in December, a clothing drive which is still going on, and a fund-raising party held in June by the United New Jersey Organizations for Arab Relief.

The American Committee for Justice in the Middle East, (P. O. Box 3211, Boulder, Colo. 80302, Sec. Mrs. Louise Hicks) has been actively trying to bring the facts of the Palestine problem to American attention. They are distributing materials, lecturing, writing letters to Congressmen, editors, and friends, and maintaining a lending library of dependable publications--all in the belief that such activity is both humanitarian and in the best interests of the United States.

The New Haven Committee on the Middle East Crisis (Mt. Carmel P.O. Box 5242 New Haven, Conn. 06518), largely composed of Yale faculty, has done an excellent job of providing a presentation of their case on a level as high as their concern for the Palestinians is deep. They sponsored a conference at Yale last November, and have published, at 75¢, a collection of the addresses given on that occasion.

Dr. Fayez Sayegh, back in the States after a decade's absence, finds American audiences eager for the kind of perspective an expert can add to newspaper coverage on the Middle East. In four months, sponsored by the Kuwaiti Embassy, he has delivered 70 addresses in 15 states, has appeared on 57 broadcasts from 115 radio and TV stations and has held 10 press conferences.

The 34 campus groups and 27 non-campus organizations he addressed included:

Associated Students, U. of Redlands; Council on World Affairs and Faculty Forum on Public Issues, Kent U.; Indiana U. Committee on Middle East Affairs; Institute for Civic Education, U. of Akron; Institute of Foreign Affairs, Earlham College; Institute of International Relations (Middle East Desl.), Associated Students of Stanford U., International Club, Miami U.; International Relations Club, U. of South Carolina; School of Education, and International Relations Commission, Associated Students of California State College at Long Beach; International Students Society, George Washington U.; Middle East Center Student Association, U. of Chicago; Middle East Club, U. of Akron; People-to-People, U. of Washington; Program in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton U.; Special Events Board, Colorado State U.; Warren Austin Club, U. of Vermont, YMCA and YWCA, Miami U.; The Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco; The Comstock Club, Sacramento, Calif.; Fourteen West Hamilton Club, Baltimore, Md.; Junior Chamber of Commerce, St. Paul, Minn.; Sigma Delta Chi (Press Association) and Society of Petroleum Engineers (of A.I.M.E.), Dallas Section, Dallas, Texas; United World Federalists; American Baptist Convention, Dept. of International Affairs, New York, N. Y.; Church of Virgin Mary, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, Washington, D. C.; Action Committee on American Arab Relations, San Francisco, Calif.; American Arab Congress for Palestine, Chicago, Ill.; American Committee for Justice in the Middle East, Boulder, Colo.; American Univ. of Beirut Alumni Club, Dallas, Texas; United American-Arab Congress, Los Angeles; Ramallah Club and U. S. OMEN of Northern California, San Francisco, California.

Several recent 16 mm. soundfilms help the viewer grasp something of the continuing plight of the Palestinian refugees. Two of these come from United Nations sources. The U.N.'s "International Zone TV" has produced "The Arab Refugees" to give, as far as 28 minutes permit, the present critical situation against a background of history. Rentable at \$8.00 from Contemporary films, 330 West 42nd St., N. Y., N. Y. 10036, it is black and white, as is "Aftermath," a 46-minute UNRWA report on the problem as seen from East Jordan between June, 1967, and February, 1968. This latter you can get on free loan (\$3.00 service charge) from Association Films, 600 Grand Ave., Ridgefield, N. J. 07657.

Association Films also has, in every one of its dozen regional libraries, copies of Don Roper's 20-minute Presbyterian color production, "The Holy Land-- Ruin or Reconciliation?" available on the same basis. It was Roper who acted as consultant to CBS in the filming of the documentary "Presence in The Wilderness," telling of church aid to the most recent refugees.

Also, two Arab governments have made black-and-white soundfilms of the refugee situation as they see it. The Jordanian "Exodus, 1967" is in documentary style and may be ordered from the Arab Information Office, 3711 Chrysler Building, New York, N. Y. 10017. The Kuwaiti "Palestine in Turmoil" features an interview of Dr. Fayez Sayegh by three newsmen, with Dr. John Davis (former UNRWA Commissioner General, now an AMEU board member) as moderator. 30 minutes in running time, it may be ordered from the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the U. N., 235 East 42nd St., New York, N. Y. 10017.

The Israeli government film "Six Days in June," 30-minutes, black and white, approaches the crucial events of 1967 from a different perspective. The official distributor is Alden Films, 5113 16th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11204. There is a \$2.50 handling charge.

CRAGG GIVES COURSES

Canon A. Kenneth Cragg, Great Britain's leading interpreter of Islam to Christians (and vice versa), is back at Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10027, for the semester opening Sept. 25. He will teach two courses, officially listed as History of Religions 221 and 371, both meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 221, on "Religion in the Middle East: The Contemporary Situation," convenes at 2:10 p.m.; 371, on "The Mind of Islam" at 9:00 a.m. Cragg's writings include The Call of The Minaret and Sandals at The Mosque.

LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS

Parish churches provides a natural setting for friendship-generating activities. At New York's Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian) guests from Middle East consulates and U. N. missions mingled with Americans at an Arab-style dinner addressed by Dr. Harry Dorman of the National Council of Churches (and of AMEU!) Marble Collegiate Church (Reformed) overflowed its capacious dining room for an interfaith luncheon promoted by the Holy Land Center which featured Arabic cookery and entertainment, and booths demonstrating the contributions to peace offered by Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

TOWARD MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING

Intimate, exploratory conversations are taking place regularly between Protestant and Muslim theologians on their contrasting views on such subjects as "The Meaning of the Koran," "The Person of Christ," "The Nature of Revelation" and "What Is Prophecy?" Meetings alternate between the Islamic Center of New York, 1 Riverside Drive, with Dr. M. A. Rauf as host, and Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, with the Rev. Harold Vogelaar presiding. All participants comment on the warmly friendly candor and uninhibited conviction with which these conversations proceed.

WHO'S WHO IN AMEU?

The Board of Directors of Americans for Middle East Understanding includes Dr. Henry G. Fischer, Curator of Egyptian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Mrs. Helen C. Hilling, Ph. D., Professor of Public Administration, New York University; I. Emmett Holt, Jr., M. D., Board Chairman of American Middle East Rehabilitation; Jack B. Sunderland, President of the American Independent Oil Co.; President Emeritus Henry P. Van Dusen of Union Theological Seminary, past chairman of the Study Committee of the World Council of Churches; and Charles T. White, former Near East Foundation and AID Financial Executive, in addition to Dr. John H. Davis, Dr. Harry G. Dorman, Jr., Msgr. John G. Nolan and Rev. L. Humphrey Walz referred to elsewhere in this issue. The President is John V. Chapple, Arabist editor with the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

MONSIGNOR INTERPRETS

Msgr. John G. Nolan, Executive Secretary of the Catholic Near East Foundation and President of The Pontifical Mission for Palestine, has included the Catholic Student Mission Crusade (Notre Dame, August 22-5) and the Teachers' Institute for the Diocese of Buffalo (October 10) among the forums he has been addressing on the present situation on the Middle East. Other groups have been the Northern Lieutenancy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, the United N. J. Associations for Arab Relief, the New Lebanon Junior-Senior High School, the Southern Federation of Syrian-American Clubs, and the WRGB-TV "Capitol News Conference."

ECUMENICAL REORGANIZATION

The year-long process of restructuring New York City Presbytery's Committee on Ecumenical Relations has now been completed. Instead of dealing with refugees, foreign students, international personnel, and interdenominational, interfaith and international co-operation under separate, geographically all-inclusive sub-committees, it now deals with these themes on a regional basis. Palestinian refugee

matters are, for instance, no longer the responsibility of the group dealing with Cuban and Iron Curtain refugees, but are assigned to the Near East sub-committee, of which the Rev. Humphrey Walz is chairman. Mr. Walz, concerned for the application of Biblical truths and spirit to all the issues of today, is particularly eager for help in clarifying widespread misunderstanding of how the Bible's teachings bear upon the present Palestinian crisis. Send him pertinent materials at 7 West 11th St., New York, N. Y., 10011.

WORLD COUNCIL CALLS FOR PEACE

The World Council of Churches, at its Assembly in Uppsala, Sweden, called for special efforts for peace in the Middle East, Nigeria and Vietnam. On the Middle East, the Assembly's statement declared, "The resolutions of the United Nations have not been implemented, the general integrity of the nations involved is not respected, occupation continues, no settlement is in sight, and a new armament race is being mounted." As summarized by Richard Philbrick of the Chicago Tribune, it also "called for a guarantee of the territorial integrity of nations involved and said annexation by force must not be condoned. Other provisions of the resolution asked for a guarantee of free access to holy places and a limitation on armaments to those needed for national security."

INTERFAITH "CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS"

Eager to explore measures that might lead to peace and stability in the Middle East, Dr. Carl Soule, Executive Secretary of the United Methodist Division of World Peace, and Dr. Dana Klotzle, Director of the U. N. Office of the Unitarian-Universalist Association, have initiated "creative conversations" on the theme at the Church Center for the U. N., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10017, where both have their headquarters. They invited Zionist and anti-Zionist Jews, Muslims and Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians to meet with them on July 30 and September 5 and have asked a Muslim-Jewish-Christian committee of three to explore future possibilities.

- First of three presentations to New York City Presbytery on crucial issues in the Middle East

Steps Toward Peace in the Middle East

By L. HUMPHREY WALZ

WHEN the National Council of Churches' Conference on Church and Society was drawing to its close in Detroit on October 26, four work group reports were selected from the total of twenty-nine for special presentation and questioning in plenary session. They dealt with world hunger, Vietnam, the urban crisis and—the one I was with—the Middle East.

Perhaps the still festering wounds of June's Six-Day War—fresh tensions between Christians and Jews, an all-time low in Arab-American distrust, and new refugees requiring a special offering at Worldwide Communion—would have given our theme a favored position in any case. Front-page news stories during our days in Detroit, however, tragically conspired to assure our priority.

Arms Sales Were Resumed

The Israeli destroyer *Elath*, darting in and out of Egyptian territorial waters, they reported, had been sunk, with a toll of 49 lives, by Russian-made Styx rockets from two Egyptian torpedo boats like the ones she herself had destroyed on July 12. Next came the Israeli shelling of the Port Suez refineries that had produced all of Egypt's cooking and heating gas and 80 percent of its oil. The U.S. then announced its resumption of arms sales impartially—or was it cynically?—to both Israel and some Arab countries. And Soviet warships were steaming into the Eastern Mediterranean.

Amidst this mounting crisis, it was up to our score of participants to recommend to the churches some concrete first steps toward establishing a durable peace, for we were not at a pronouncement-making conference. Here the assigned task for each work group was, in the course of four mornings and three afternoons together, to outline achievable goals and the procedures for reaching them in practical and Christian terms.

The make-up of our unit led the worldly wise to predict utter confusion! We had two Muslim students, a prominent rabbi, denominational executives, a bishop, missionaries just evacuated from the Middle East, two writers on the Arab refugees, a Jordanian Christian whose

Mr. Walz, who has helped arrange this joint presentation for THE OUTLOOK and New York City Presbytery, is minister of public relations of the UPUSA Synod of New York. He has had extensive experience in working with German refugees, the Communist orbits and Palestine, and has been a consultant on refugee problems for agencies of the United Nations, the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and the Near East Council of Churches.

mother and doctor father were in territory newly under Israeli control, a Hollander who had served in the anti-Nazi underground, a Danish churchman who had worked in Israel, and other laymen and clergy, some of them clearly oriented to Arab or Zionist sympathies. All had been deeply involved in some aspects of the current Middle East turmoil. Partisan emotions could, indeed, have choked out the eagerness all felt for achieving peace with compassion and maximum justice. Yet under the skillful chairmanship of Presbyterian John Coventry Smith, the constructive spirit prevailed.

There were tense moments. Sparks sometimes flew. Frustrations were felt when pet solutions could not command unanimity. Yet the prevailing candor of expression and the openness of listening led to the agreements outlined below. We were actually working together to put more "teeth" into these recommendations when time was called on us! (Items in parentheses were jelling as we adjourned.)

The background, merits and faults of our statement will be clearer in the light of the contributions by Ralph Chandler and Kurtis Naylor in THE OUTLOOK's next two issues. Review by a special panel and then by the NCC General Board will reveal further weaknesses and strengths. What I would stress here is the value of the kind of dialogue which, on the basis of our own experience, we press for in paragraph II. It not only corrected misunderstandings; it also brought out into the open, where they could be dealt with, those fears, noted in section 11, which can do such damage to our objectivity, powers or reason, and influence for reconciliation.

Two-Edged Fears

Zionists are afraid of the Arabs who surround and outnumber the Israelis. The Arabs are troubled by Israeli General Moshe Dayan's alleged boast: "Don't forget we can take Cairo, Amman or Damascus in a day." Mideastern Christians are apprehensive lest the current strife bring about the near-disappearance of their church in a manner reminiscent of seventh century North Africa. Knowledgeable Americans hesitate to speak up for fear of being branded pro-this or anti-that.

Frank voicing of these anxieties brought quieting facts from the "opposition" in each case. They also revealed how much of our insecurity and distrust had been fanned by the news media. And they underscored the theological dimension of which we only scratched the surface:

"The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" says the Psalmist. "God is love. . . . Love driveth out fear," adds the New Testament. These latter emphasizes our small-group worship reenforced, but we felt the need to go much deeper.

In the following full text of our statement, the Roman numerals indicate our targets, the Arabic numbers our "strategies" for hitting them. We hope you'll find at least a few to act on. We're especially eager for you to talk with your Jewish neighbors on these themes as candidly as courtesy permits. And seek out Arabs—harder to find, but well worth the effort—for equally frank and tolerant exchanges of views.

From the Detroit Conference

"We recommend to the National Council of Churches and its member churches the implementation of the following goals and strategies through the proper channels. All strategies and goals emanate from the determination of the churches, expressed in this group, that equitable and lasting solutions of Middle Eastern issues be found now.

"I. Re: Arab refugees

"1. Urge the governments of Israel and Jordan to arrange for the repatriation to the West Bank, without further delay, of those refugees who fled the area in June and desire to return.

"2. Urge the government of Israel to resettle permanently the refugees now in the area under her control, giving full consideration to the wishes of the refugees themselves, restoring them to their former homes whenever possible, and in any case providing adequate opportunities for true development and freedom.

"3. Support UNRWA and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the comprehensive handling of the total refugee problem, including immediate attention for those refugees in Syria.

"II. Re: Fear

"4. Reduce tensions by urging at every point the rejection of the policy of deliberately arousing and exploiting fear. Specifically we recommend communication in this regard with radios Cairo and Amman, authorities in Tel Aviv, and the mass media in the U.S.A.

"5. Work for the education of people in the U.S.A. as to the depth and complexity of the situation in the Middle East, the significance of and limitations upon American power, and the arousing of overarching concern for the human values involved in the M.E. struggle, and the necessity of strengthening the hand of the U.N. (Continued, p. 6.)

(Specifically we recommend that the WCC marshal world Christian opinion to broaden this objective and bring massive influence to bear on the churches and the governments in Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, U.S.A. and USSR with particular reference to the use of mass media as instruments of fear and distrust. . . .)

“III. Re: Political Settlement

“6. Develop effective channels of influence through the NCC and WCC which encourage the establishment of peace and security in the M.E. states within boundaries to be mutually agreed upon and to be guaranteed by international commitments.

The Legitimate Hopes

“IV. Re: Development

“7. Take practical and effective steps of support for the legitimate hopes of all peoples of the M.E. for economic development. We urge attention to water resources, modern agricultural techniques, international banking facilities and the training of human resources. This should

include development of avenues for the investment of funds from Christian churches and their agencies.

“8. Appreciate understandingly those movements for wide social change, including some now going forward in the M.E., which release the human resources of the area. (E.g., we recommend the promotion of such producers' and consumers' co-operatives, democratic socialism, agrarian reform, land reform, industrial welfare, literacy and health campaigns as may fit this aim.)

“V. Re: Détente in the Cold War

“9. Support action in the U.N. and by the U.S. government of conversations between the USSR and the USA seeking cooperation in the establishment of peace in the M.E. rather than making it an arena of their struggle for power. This would involve restriction on the supply of arms in the area which could well become another step toward world-wide détente. We especially deplore the resumption of U.S.A. shipments of arms to Israel and certain Arab states at this

time.

“10. Assign a staff person in the appropriate NCC department to gather information about world armaments and to focus attention on the arms race. This concrete strategy will underscore our conviction that the policy of attack and reprisal newly illustrated by the sinking of the *Elath* and the shelling of the Suez refineries is futile and anachronistic.

“VI. Re: Inter-group Relations

“11. Promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue which will involve Christians, Jews and Muslims, whether in the Middle East or in the U.S.A., in order to reduce misunderstanding and provide a new depth of theological and human understanding. This will require profound theological reflection on our part.

“12. Send a representative delegation of the NCC to the appropriate U.S. government offices to encourage the conscious deployment of American resources and influence toward the achievement of humanitarian aims in the area.”

The above Presbyterian Outlook article by one member of AMEU's Board of Directors and the item below (from page 1 of the Osservatore Romano) praising the work headed by another, have been in such demand that our supply of reprints is almost exhausted. We therefore have felt impelled to re-publish them, for the first time together, in this issue of The Link.

La benedizione e i voti di Paolo VI alla Pont. Missione per la Palestina

Nel XIX anniversario della Pontificia Missione per la Palestina, il Cardinale Segretario di Stato ha inviato questa lettera al Presidente della Commissione stessa, Mons. John G. Nolan.

Right Reverend
and dear Monsignor,

The Holy Father was deeply interested in your summary report on the activities of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine over the last nineteen years in favor of Palestinian refugees, particularly the victims of the recent Arab-Israeli conflict.

The inhabitants of that unfortunate area refer touchingly to this organization as «the Pope's Mission», in natural consequence of the Mission's profoundly humane concern for the sufferings and needs of the refugees, to whom it ministers in the name and on behalf of His Holiness.

Particularly praiseworthy is the vital contribution of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, which, through the unflagging generosity of the Catholics of the United States of America, provides most of the means of alleviating the pains

of the Mission after the recent conflict led to distribution of many tons of food, clothing, medical supplies, temporary shelter and cooking equipment to the newly dispossessed, as well as the construction of homes for those who had lost their own.

Over the past nineteen years, the outstanding achievement of the Mission has been its encouragement and endowment of training and educational programs, to enable the refugees to help themselves through newly acquired skills and trades, and to accede to literacy and higher schooling. Orphans and the blind are cared for and trained, and a fine library provides opportunities for useful reading and reunions.

No other agency surpasses the Pontifical Mission in length of actual service, and its identification with the paternal interest and concern of the Holy Father merits His encouragement, His blessing and His prayerful good wishes.

His Holiness desires, above all, that His Mission continue and increase its activities in favor of the

refugees in Palestine, bringing to them the loving aid of Our Lord through His Vicar on earth. For this purpose, as a further testimony of paternal affection for the homeless and of grateful esteem for the Pontifical Mission, He bids me send you the enclosed check for five thousand dollars, to which the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Churches will add a further amount; and requests that, during your forthcoming Easter visit to the refugee camps, you kindly distribute the total sum in His name to all the needy.

Moreover, invoking God's constant protection and assistance, He lovingly imparts to you, to all the personnel of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, to those you visit and help, and to all the benefactors of your organization and its sister agency, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, His special fatherly Apostolic Blessing.

With sentiments of regard and consideration, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

s. H. J. Card. CICOGNANI

Vatican City, April, 10, 1968.

AMERICANS FOR MIDDLE EAST UNDERSTANDING, INC.

Associate Status and Contributions

Mr. ()

Mrs. () Miss ()

Last Name

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Middle Initial

Street or RFD Address

City

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Zip Code

Present Occupation: _____

Special interest in the Middle East (such as type of business; subjects taught or re-
searched: _____

With which localities in the Middle East are you most familiar? _____

May we have your suggestions for action to achieve the aims of AMEU as described in
the Statement of Purpose: _____

In what activities may we have your help? Writing _____ Preparing bibliographies _____

Recruitment Associates _____ Organizing local programs _____ Study groups _____ Other _____

May we have your permission to refer your name to an associate or correspondent who
is seeking help such as you can give? _____

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? _____ (U.S. Citizenship is an
eligibility requirement for Associate status which is subject to Board approval.)

This is an association of volunteers; success will depend on the personal effort and
support of many Americans. Please indicate below the nature of your contribution.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------|
| () | Life Associate | \$1,000.00 |
| () | Sustaining Associate | 100.00 annually |
| () | Associate | 25.00 or more annually |
| () | Contributor | 10.00 or more |

Kindly mail contributions to Americans for Middle East Understanding, P. O. Box
98, Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003. Associates will receive veri-
fication.

Date

Your Signature

WAR PRODUCES NEW GROUPS

Out of the emergencies created by those six fateful days of Arab-Israeli conflict in June, 1967, came several important new groups of which we list four below :

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East (P. O. Box 19227, Washington, D. C. 20036; Sec., Frank C. Sakran), has been active in the Washington area ever since that war. It has done much to bring the Arab situation to the attention of members of Congress.

American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc. (Room 900, Woodward Building, 15th and H Streets, Washington, D. C. 20005) is acting as a coordinating center for established refugee service groups, and is seeking ways of broadening assistance to Arab refugees. Its new president is UNRWA's former Commissioner-General John H. Davis. James F. Sams, who took the initiative in forming the organization, continues as Treasurer and General Counsel.

Near East Emergency Donations, Inc.,

(NEED, 610 Fifth Ave., N. Y., N. Y. 10020), which was organized immediately after the Israeli invasion of Syria, Jordan and Egypt, has raised approximately \$9,000,000 for Arab refugee relief. The organization, which has ceased active fund raising, is allocating its funds primarily through UNRWA, though it has helped refugees substantially through numerous other organizations as well.

Americans for Justice in the Middle East, P. O. Box 4841, Beirut, Lebanon, consists of professional and business people, mostly in their 20's and 30's, who want to give their fellow-Americans back home a fuller comprehension of the Arab world in which they work. Believing that Americans are largely uninformed or misinformed on matters crucial to area peace, especially on the Arab view of the central Palestine issue, they produce a monthly Middle East Newsletter for all who take out membership at \$10 a year. The president, Rev. James Pierce, presently in the U. S., may be reached at Room 924, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. 10027, phone 212-870-2506.

Americans for Middle East Understanding
P. O. Box 98 Cooper Station
New York, N. Y. 10003

**Non-Profit
Organization**