



THE LINK

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Seek to End UNRWA Deficit Lest Refugee Aid Falter

"Feeding, Schooling Must Not Be Cut" — Michelmores

Somewhere between Thanksgiving Day and Christmas — God mark the timing — the UN will hold a pledging conference to encourage the nations to increase their contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). How generous the delegates can be in that holiday season will depend in part on how deeply their constituencies' consciences are touched before that.

In his annual report, just published, UNRWA's Commissioner - General Laurence Michelmores points out that the plight of these refugees has intensified during the past two years. With their purchasing power going down and their numbers increasing, their need for international assistance is greater today than ever before in their 21-year history.

UNRWA's mandated task is to provide basic shelter, food, clothing, health care and education for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians uprooted from their homes and sources of livelihood since 1948. And it has done an amazing job of stretching a daily dime per refugee to do this, but recent events have added difficulties.

As a result of the hostilities of June 1967, 170,000 Palestinians became refugees for the second time in two decades, and an additional 350,000 persons were newly displaced from occupied Jordan. For over two years now, UNRWA, with the cooperation of governments in the area and of voluntary organizations throughout the world, has been dealing with formidable problems resulting from this sec-

(Continued on back page)



Hope of ever returning home has almost run out for elderly Palestine refugees like this woman (left) in an UNRWA emergency camp in East Jordan. But the young still have their lives before them. And their future as individuals and as citizens of the strife-worn Middle East depends chiefly on UNRWA care. At right "best friends" learn to read at an UNRWA/UNESCO tent school.



Eagerness for education is not dampened by a watery path to school (left). Tent shelters, schools and clinics in emergency camps are being replaced by sturdy prefabricated units. But many more are needed, as are funds for health care and supplementary hot meals such as this one (right) served to children at Rafah Camp, Gaza. (UNRWA photos)

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aims at maintaining contacts among Americans who believe that friendship with the people of the Middle East is essential to world peace, who would contribute to this goal by spreading understanding of the history, values, religions, culture and economic conditions of the Middle East, and who would — in this context — press for greater fairness, consistency and integrity in U.S. policy toward that area.

It is published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc., whose directors are: John V. Chapple (v.p.), Arabist editor with the Encyclopaedia Britannica; Dr. John H. Davis, past Commissioner General of UNRWA; Dr. Harry G. Dorman, Jr., Executive Director, Middle East & Europe Dept., National Council of Churches; Dr. Henry G. Fischer, Curator of Egyptian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Dr. Helen C. Hilling, (sec.), Professor of Public Administration, N.Y.U.; L. Emmett Holt, Jr., M.D., Board Chairman of American Middle East Rehabilitation; Msgr. John G. Nolan, President of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine; Jack B. Sunderland (pres.), President of the American Independent Oil Co.; President Emeritus Henry P. Van Dusen of Union Theological Seminary, N.Y.; Rev. L. Humphrey Walz (ed.), Chairman of the Near East Subcommittee of the Presbytery of N.Y.C.; and Charles T. White (treas.), past Financial Executive, Near East Foundation and AID.

Program Director: Rev. John Sutton.

LINK Associate Editors: Mrs. Phyllis Kleban, Peter Johnson.

All correspondence should be addressed to Room 625, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y., N.Y. 10027.

SCHECHTER TO BEIRUT COLLEGE

The 673-student Beirut College for Women has begun its fall semester with a new head, Dr. Wm. H. Schechter. A former president of United Presbyterian Men (U.S.A.), Schechter has left the presidency of Tarkio College, Missouri, to assume his new post.

ANTIOCHIAN RESOLUTIONS

At their 24th annual North American convention, held at Miami Beach in August, Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church delegates passed four resolutions unanimously. These pled with the U.S. and Canadian governments to help the U.N. implement its decisions on Jerusalem and on the Arab refugees. They asked the U.S. to adhere more fully to its stated policy of impartiality in the Arab-Israeli conflict. And they begged the news media to be more consistent in presenting both sides of that controversy.

BOOKS

DISCOUNTS: Our policy of mass purchase of important books enables us to pass along to you our consequent savings on two more titles. Listed with our previous offerings on the order envelope accompanying the regular mailings of this issue, they are: 1) *No End of a Lesson*, a view of the Middle East by Anthony Nutting who was British Minister of Foreign Affairs under Anthony Eden (published by Potter at \$5.00 in 1967, offered by us at \$1.00); and 2) *Furnace of the Lord* by Elisabeth Elliot, a devout conservative Christian who recounts the fresh political insights that came to her on a ten-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land (published this fall by Doubleday at \$4.95; our price \$2.90). *No End of a Lesson* was reviewed in our January issue. Our review of *Furnace of the Lord* and several other significant new volumes will appear in our next issue.

A SELECT CHRONOLOGY & BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS Relating to the Middle East. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. 287 pages. \$1.25. Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The first 91 of these fact-packed pages list in order the "more significant events in the region" from April 4, 1946 (Soviet withdrawal of troops from Iran) through April 29, 1969 (Israeli raids against Nile powerlines and bridge). Although the chronology "does not pretend to be all inclusive" and each serious reader will miss certain salient facts, the entries are such, when read at a single sitting, as to give one a sense of the complexities behind Mideastern developments. One reads, for instance: "September 2 (1954). Egypt announced support for the West. The policy statement of the Revolutionary Council declared the only major threat to the area would be an invasion by the Soviet Union." What led to the subsequent deterioration of Egyptian-American relations? One gets no simple answer from these pages, as hopes and disappointments, promises fulfilled and unfulfilled, understandings and misunderstandings, aid and interference follow each other in strange succession.

Since events are listed in order of occurrence rather than by nation or category, the pursuer of this or any other given topic feels a little frustrated at first. But, since full understanding requires the perspectives of parallel history, one begins to value this arrangement more and more as one turns the pages.

Over five dozen documents fill the second section (pages 92-287). The Truman Doctrine, the Eisenhower Doctrine, President Kennedy's 1963 policy statement, President Johnson's of 1967 and President Nixon's of 1969 carry one through successive administrations in their own words. Speeches, reports and press conferences of U Thant, Nasser, Eban, Kosygin, Hussein, de Gaulle and Eshkol are given in full or in sufficiently large excerpts to allow one to grasp the viewpoints of concerned non-Americans. Official U.N. documents on refugees, cease-fires, maritime law and the status of Jerusalem are given for handy reference. And, on page 267, one has the conditions (seemingly overlooked by many news media and politicians) on which the U.S. first promised to sell jets to Israel.

To the extent that a cure depends on diagnosis and diagnosis depends on facts, this handy compendium should be of great value in the hands of those who would be peace makers. Our thanks go to Senator Fulbright and his Committee on Foreign Relations for making it available.

U.S. MILITARY COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST. \$0.95. July, 1969. Current History, Inc., 1822 Ludlow St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

This issue of *Current History*, though a monthly magazine in form, deserves treatment as a permanent reference book. It contains several sections on various phases of U.S. policies affecting the Middle East (pp. 23, 27, 28-30, 34-35, 51, 52). We would take serious exception only to Professor James Huston's inadequate account of Suez, 1956-7. Professor Harry Howard's article on "The U.S. in the Middle East Today" (pp. 36-41) is, on the other hand, full of helpful insights. He states, for instance, that: "In view of the basic role which the United States played in the establishment of the state, it may well have been a kind of moral obligation to support the existence of Israel, although this involves neither military support nor identification with the policies of the Israeli government." He also cites Premier Ben-Gurion to the effect that "America has its own considerations and they differ from Israel's, or even run counter to them." An "even-handed" policy is recommended.

REFUGEE AID AGENCIES WARN OF FINANCIAL CRISIS

Representatives of fourteen agencies concerned with refugee relief in the Middle East have predicted grave consequences in human suffering and political disturbances if the impending deficit in United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) funds is not overcome by increased governmental and private contributions.

At a meeting with Under-Secretary of State Elliott Richardson following a two-day conference they urged the United States Government to exert world leadership by increasing its own allocation to UNRWA. The spokesman for the group was Dr. John H. Davis, a former Commissioner-General of UNRWA who is now President of American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc., a coordinating and fund-raising organization active in relief work for Palestine Arab refugees.

According to State Dept. release #187, "the Under Secretary remarked upon the U. S. Government's role as principal contributor to UNRWA, noting that U.S. contributions to the Agency since 1950 represent almost 70 percent of total governmental contributions to the Agency during its lifetime. He expressed appreciation of the efforts of American voluntary agencies on behalf of Arab refugees, especially those designed to provide additional support for UNRWA, and emphasized the valuable contribution such efforts can make to stability and the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"Among those represented at the meeting were: Dr. John H. Davis, President, American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc.; Reverend Dr. Daniel Bliss, President, American Middle East Rehabilitation, Inc.; Dr. Frank Maria, Chairman, and Mrs. Violet Asha, Secretary, Department of Near East and Arab Refugee Affairs, Syrian Orthodox Church; Mr. Oliver Smith, Associate Director, National Board of Young Men's Christian Associations; Reverend Humphrey Walz, Member, Board of Directors, Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc.; Miss Mary Ann Sigler, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Inc.; Miss Susan Thompson, Lutheran Council in the USA (representing Lutheran World Relief, Inc.); and Mr. John P. Richardson, Executive Director, American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc. They spoke also on behalf of the Armenian Church in North America, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the



Under-Secretary of State Richardson, at head of table, hears pleas from friends of refugees.

USA, the Islamic Center, the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States, the Musa Alami Foundation, the Mennonite Central Committee, and the American Friends Service Committee."

Modern Arabic Bible Planned

Christian Arabs — Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic — may soon have a common Bible in modern Arabic. The preparation of an acceptable text is now under discussion by leaders of these three church groups in cooperation with representatives of the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society. At a conference at the Holiday Beach Hotel in Beirut, Fouad E. Accad, Executive Secretary of the Bible Societies in the Levant, reminded his hearers that the Western World owes its Bible to the inventiveness of its Levantine neighbors. They originated the alphabet, and helped carry the papyrus plant from Egypt to Greece for the making of books (biblia), so it is appropriate that Arabs should be pioneers in the unifying effort of publishing a Bible which will be jointly used by members of the three major faiths.

PROPOSALS FOR JERUSALEM

Gottfried Neuberger of the (American Orthodox Jewish) Friends of Jerusalem has drawn up twin proposals for the Holy City: 1) That the U.N. set up a special U.N. Citizenship status for those in Jerusalem (including some native Orthodox Jews) who do not wish to become Israeli citizens, and 2) That the U.N. appoint a Commissioner to the Holy City authorized to issue passports for those who opt for U.N. citizenship. In cooperation with the Interfaith Committee for Middle East Peace and Development, he secured signatures from Muslims, Christians and Jews and presented his petition to the U.S. Mission to the U.N.

BUCHER'S TORCH TO SUTTON

The Rev. Henry H. Bucher, who left the post of field Secretary of the University Christian Movement to become the first Program Director of Americans for Middle East Understanding, is returning to the academic life. He has entered the University of Wisconsin as a graduate student in History. At the same time, he and his wife, Emily, are acting as foster parents to seven highschoolers in a Madison group home co-sponsored by the United Church of Christ and the county welfare department. His successor at AMEU is the Rev. John Sutton.

Both men have notably international and ecumenical backgrounds. Bucher was born in South China to Presbyterian missionary parents with whom he spent most of World War II in a Japanese detention camp in the Philippines. He received his B.A. from the American University of Beirut in 1958, and spent the following summer building homes for Iraqi Jews in Israel. He did graduate work at Princeton Seminary and the University College of Ghana before his first assignment as a Frontier Intern in Gabon.

Sutton, who comes to us from the Atlantic Methodist Church of Quincy, Mass., has had extensive experience in the Eastern Mediterranean. For five years he was pastor of the St. Andrew's interdenominational American Church in Athens, Greece. Through his travels during this time and study at St. George's College, School of Islamic Studies, Jerusalem, he became well acquainted with the challenges which the Middle East offers one deeply committed to building world peace and understanding. Mr. Sutton is a graduate of Duke University (AB), Garrett Theological Seminary (BD), and Northwestern University (MA). He draws on further experience gained as an Air Force Chaplain, a graduate student at Harvard Divinity School and New College, Edinburgh, and pastor of the American Embassy Church, Bonn, Germany. He is married. Both he and his wife are native Kentuckians.

John Sutton comes to the staff of AMEU at a time when some recognition has been given efforts of this association to help Americans develop a deeper understanding of the Middle East. AMEU has many plans for the future. There are opportunities. The need is great. The Board of Directors of AMEU has faith that its efforts to increase its service will merit and receive generous support.

Some Religious Approaches to Arab/Israeli Peace

(In recent months LINK editor Humphrey Walz has, in the course of many addresses before interfaith groups, been asked to publish more of his research on the above theme. Instead, he has handed Mrs. Kleban a sheaf of his lecture manuscript pages and documentation, asking her to pick out and summarize those aspects she thinks you'd like most to read about.)

Can the three world faiths cradled in the Middle East — Judaism, Islam and Christianity — be more effectively applied toward resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict? Not only individuals but also many church bodies believe so and are consequently pressing for just solutions, and are trying in their relationships with Israelis and Arabs alike to pave the way toward ultimate reconciliation. Such is the gist of recent talks by Editor Walz to inter-faith audiences.

Mohammed's assurance that "God is with those who patiently persevere" he interprets as encouragement for the moderate groups working for better understanding between the two sides. The adoration of the Hebrew prophet Micah, who is honored by all three faiths: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?" summarizes the spirit in which they and all conciliators must work.

Contrition and Concern

Many Christians have acknowledged their individual and collective responsibility for not having taken steps sooner to help avert the tragic situation in the Middle East. In the words of the official statement of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in August 1967, "The present crisis has developed in part because the rest of the world has been insensitive to the fears of people in the Middle East: the fears of the Arab nations because of the dynamism and possible expansion of Israel, and the fears of the people of Israel who have escaped from persecution on other continents only to be threatened, at least by word, with expulsion from their new home."

Since the Six-Day War, the National Council of Churches in the U. S. and the Vatican likewise have issued statements of contrition and concern and have gone on to examine ways in which spiritual and ethical resources may be used to lessen hostility, implementing their statements by endorsement of specific practical recommendations, many of which have been embodied in the U. N. Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967.

Listening to Both Sides

Christians in this country are in a favorable position to maintain contacts with both Arabs and Israelis in what the National Council of Churches' July 7, 1967, resolution called "a ministry of listening." Despite the seeming intransigence of extremists on both sides, some progress has been made among moderates who wish to see the conflict ended with justice for all peoples of the area. By keeping communications open and listening in genuine friendship to the viewpoints of both sides, churchmen are able to interpret one to the other, even though such a function may be subject to misinterpretation by partisans of either side as special pleading for the other. But, as Mr. Walz quotes the Arab poet al-Mutanabi, "In seeking honey one must expect the sting of bees."

In seeking the honey of peace, there is indeed the risk of stings when a religious spirit is introduced into the realm of politics. Official church bodies and individual members know they may be criticized in some quarters for backing the United Nations as a major channel for justice and mercy toward the endangered peoples of the Middle East.

"They feel, however," says Mr. Walz, "that if the Great Powers exert themselves individually, or even collectively, apart from the U.N., narrow outside interests could hurt the broader inside prospects for peace. They note, too, that wherever the U.N. Emergency Force, Mixed Armistice Commission or Truce Supervisory Organization were allowed to function, Arab-Israeli clashes were kept at a minimum . . . They further emphasize that if the U.N. is to merit future respect as a peacemaker, it must pass this test, and to do so, must have our American backing."

Mr. Walz suggests that churchmen—and all Americans — can work for peace by providing broad popular support for the U.N. November 22, 1967 resolution, backed by the major powers, as the best compromise settlement, in that it gives each side as much as is feasible with minimum danger to the other: withdrawal of Israeli forces of occupation; recognition of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Israel and her neighbors, and freedom of navigation, for which Israel has pled; and a just settlement for the Palestinian Arab refugees.

A Climate for Reconciliation

Indispensable to any political settlement, however, is a climate of faith and trust, in which true healing can take place. Such a climate is essentially religious in nature. If reconciliation can

eventually be achieved, there is no end to the benefits that might follow: economic and industrial growth; social, educational and health programs; increased and improved utilization of natural resources; extension of fertile agricultural acreage. Full use of human initiative, skills and money for the benefit of all the peoples of the area can bring about miracles, if the poisons of suspicion and bitterness are replaced by a will to work together in mutual trust.

Jews, Muslims and Christians are bound together in responsibility for having allowed the problems to reach crisis proportions; so too are they bound together by the responsibility to seek just solutions. This can best be done in the context of those aspects of religious faith and ethics that are common to all three, with each still free to make its own unique contributions.

Mohammed's counsel with regard to peace, quoted by Mr. Walz, is also in the spirit of Micah and of the Prince of Peace: "If two parties of believers fall to fighting, then make peace between them. And if one of them wrongs the other, oppose the wrongdoing party until it returns to the ways of God. Then, if it return, make peace between them justly, and act equitably. For God loves the equitable." (Koran 49:9).

URGES MIDEAST FEDERATION

Joseph W. Abileah, an Israeli pacifist, has devoted the summer of 1969 to trying to win audiences in Europe and America to endorse his first steps toward a United States of the Middle East. He proposes that just three states — Jordan, Arab Palestine (West Bank) and Israel — confederate at first, with Jerusalem as their joint capital. At the start they would concentrate only on two developments: 1) A common foreign policy which would reduce the cost of troops to fight each other, and 2) economic integration which, among other things, would speed the solving of the refugee problem. To foster a right spirit and sound ethical basis for this undertaking, he would have a religious council representing all faiths of the area.

Does this sound visionary and impractical? Perhaps. Yet it is only a mellowing of the proposal Mr. Abileah made to the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine in 1947. The perspective of history suggests that his vision might have proved out as a lot sounder than some of the "practical" actions that were taken instead.

U. S. MIDEAST EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR LECTURING

Several Americans who have recently retired from United Nations or U.S. government service in the Middle East are now available to speak to interested groups about their experiences and observations. Their official posts and the freshness of their experiences make them particularly enlightening for serious audiences. All of them command high fees for general audiences, but are willing to make special arrangements for church groups and for organizations actively related to Middle East service. Since AMEU does not yet have a lecture bureau, we give the addresses of each and ask that you make direct contact.

Harry N. Howard

Dr. Howard's career has included a fascinating alternation between professorial and diplomatic duties, giving him both academic and participational perspectives on his fields of specialty.



Harry Howard

Though referred to as "Mr. Middle East" in the Foreign Service magazine when he left the State Dept. in 1963 to become Professor of Middle East Studies at American University's School of International Studies, he is also an authority on the Balkans. He was on the U.S. delegation at the conference to organize the U.N. in 1945, has been chief of the Near East Branch of our government's Division of Research for Near East and Africa, and has served as the U.S.'s U.N. advisor for the same area. He has written books and countless articles on the Eastern Mediterranean countries. At the moment he is writing a volume on the Palestine refugee situation based on his years representing the U.S. on the UNRWA Advisory Commission. He may be reached at 6508 Greentree Road, Bradley Hills Grove, Bethesda, Md. 20034.

Col. Floyd M. Johnson, Jr.

Col. Johnson's wide-ranging and exciting career reached its climax in 1966-68, when he was Deputy Chief of UNTSO (the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine). His key responsibilities for peace during one of the area's most troubled periods gave him rare appreciation of what the U.N. and U.S. are up against in their desire to help resolve the conflict there. Just retired from the Marine Corps, he is extremely articulate. His recent public appearances have included participation in a 3-hour radio talk show, a forum with an Israeli and a Palestinian, and addresses before seminary and other groups. He lives at 7700 High Point Road, Lorton, Va. 22079.

David G. Nes

A Foreign Service Officer, Class I (Retired), Mr. Nes left a journalistic career (Baltimore Sun) in 1941 to join the State Dept. as Divisional Assistant. Since World War II, in which he served



David Nes

as a major in the Burma campaign, his overseas assignments with the State Dept. have included Scotland, France, Libya, Morocco, England, Vietnam and Egypt in that order. But it was as acting head of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo during the Six-Day War that he was precipitated most vigorously into the global limelight. The handiest summaries of his related experiences and conclusions are the printed copies of his addresses before two successive annual Conferences on World Affairs at the University of Colorado. They are *The June War in The Middle East* (1968, 10¢) and *Our Middle East Involvement* (1969, 25¢), and may be ordered from the American Committee for Justice in the Middle East, P. O. Box 3211, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

He prefers to participate — as panelist or lecturer — in foreign affairs conferences where a global setting is provided. However, he is ready to speak on any appropriate occasion about any aspect of U.S. involvement in the Middle East. His home is at Rt. 2, Crestline Court, Owings Mills, Md. 21117.

Evan M. Wilson

A graduate of Haverford and Oxford, the Hon. Mr. Wilson entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1937 and retired in late 1967. At the time of his retirement he had been serving for



Evan Wilson

over three years as Minister-Consul General at Jerusalem. Some twenty-nine of his thirty years of service were spent either in the general area of the Near East and South Asia or in working on the area in Washington or in London, with par-

ticular emphasis on the Arab-Israel dispute. In addition to Jerusalem his Near Eastern posts have included Beirut, Cairo, Teheran and Calcutta. At the time of his retirement he was given the Department of State's Superior Honor Award for his work during the 1967 crisis at Jerusalem. Since that time he has been serving as a consultant to the Department and is the author of a recent article in the *Middle East Journal* and a forthcoming book, both on the subject of Jerusalem. Mr. Wilson, who is a Director of American Near East Refugee Aid, lives at 3145 O St., Washington, D.C. 20007.

Plans for Egyptian Antiquities

Dr. Gamal Mokhtar of the UAR Ministry of Culture announces that the Cairo Museum will loan some of its finest antiquities to America next year to help Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and New York's Metropolitan Museum celebrate their centenaries. The loan is to consist of 43 pieces, most of them statues and reliefs of monumental scale and superb quality, such as the famous diorite statue of Chephren. According to present plans, Boston will show the exhibition during the spring of 1970, after which it will go to New York and remain on view until November.

Meanwhile American activities in Egypt show widespread parallel interests. Chicago House, the University of Chicago's center of Egyptological research at Luxor, has resumed its epigraphic work at the temple of Medinet Habu, the Karnak temple of Khonsu and the tomb of Kheruef. Also at Karnak, the University of Pennsylvania and the Smithsonian Institution are cooperating on a project to reassemble, by means of a computer, thousands of blocks from an enormous temple of Akhenaten. The University of California (Berkeley) in association with Ain Shams University, is continuing an investigation of the internal structure of the Second Pyramid at Giza by means of solar radiation. Palaeopathology is the interest of the University of Michigan's John Harris, who is x-raying the teeth of ancient mummies. The University of Pennsylvania Museum is excavating at Abydos (in cooperation with Yale University) and is documenting Theban tombs at Dra Abu'l Neqqa. Excavations at El Kab have been undertaken by the University of Seattle and excavations of the Islamic site of Fustat have been resumed by Dr. George Scanlon, whose work is supported by several institutions including the American Research Center in Egypt and Princeton University. Professor Fred Wendorf of Southern Methodist University has been investigating geological and prehistoric evidence at Sohag and Fayum.

TO HOLD MIDEAST SEMINAR

The Middle East Seminar, a meeting for the American academic community, will be held from December 29 through December 31 at the Church Center for the United Nations. The conference is being organized with the cooperation of the Campus Commission of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, the Middle East Concerns Committee of the University Christian Movement, the International Movement of Catholic Students, *Pax Romana*, and the United Nations Office of the World Student Christian Federation.

The meeting will concern itself with problems associated with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The issues will be principally dealt with in terms of their relations to the American scene — mass media, economic interests, biblical studies, foreign policy, etc. The Seminar will be limited to approximately seventy-five participants and will operate around several key lectures presented by leading men in the areas being discussed; these lectures will be followed by small-group seminars in specific areas of concern.

The participating groups believe that this meeting will serve to present to the American college student a deeper understanding of the forces at play in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially as they relate to future American action and involvement. Further information is available from: The Middle East Seminar, 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th floor, New York, 10017, telephone: (212) 697-1211 ext. 31.

To Confer on Refugees

The Near East refugee problem will be studied under the auspices of the World Council of Churches in Cyprus, Sept. 29-Oct. 5. The Near East Preparatory Committee, which has been working out plans for the consultation, is proposing "that considerable time be spent in working groups which will consider future forms and structure of the work, program analysis, finances, promotion and interpretation and a lasting solution to the refugee problem." This will be in the framework of the World Council's 1968 statement on Justice and Peace in International Affairs. From its official summary we quote the sixth paragraph:

Specifically with regard to the Middle East, the Assembly reaffirmed an earlier statement involving the following points: (1) The independence and territorial integrity and security for all na-

tions in the area must be guaranteed. Annexation by force must not be condoned. (2) Full religious freedom and access to holy places must continue to be guaranteed to the communities of all three historic religions, preferably by international agreement. (3) National armaments should be limited to the lowest level consistent with national security. (4) The great powers must refrain from pursuing their own exclusive interest in the area.

And to bring this down to earth, we add the concluding paragraph:

Finally, as befits a company of Christian statesmen, the Assembly stressed the relationship between world events and the local scene. "Responsive Christian witness to the world of nations," it said "should be expressed at the parish level. There is no parish so small or isolated that it should feel free of involvement in this common responsibility through prayer, education, consultation with Christians of the nations concerned, and through ecumenical service and action at the local level."

Attending the Cyprus Consultation, representing United States Churches will be **Mr. James MacCracken**, Executive Director, Church World Service, National Council of Churches; **Rev. Raymond E. Maxwell**, Executive Secretary, World Relief and Interchurch Aid, Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, also Chairman, Middle East Europe Department Committee, Division of Overseas Ministries of the National Council of Churches; **Dr. J. Harry Haines**, Executive Secretary, United Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief; and **Rev. Charles Arbuthnot**, Regional Secretary for the Middle East, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. **Rev. Livingston H. Lomas**, Church World Service Director, Middle East & Europe Department of the National Council of Churches will also attend as a consultant and as a member of the Near East Preparatory Committee.

The Middle East and American Power

Dr. Nasrollah Fatemi, Dean of Fairleigh Dickinson's Graduate School, declared recently that Israel is not the chief problem in the Middle East. "I hope she will some day be part of the solution," he said in a discussion on American Policy in the Middle East, which was part of the Ninth Annual West Side Community Conference on *World Problems and American Power* at the Riverside Church, New York. Dr. Fatemi, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, insisted that the existence of Israel is not negotiable, but that the borders prior to June '67 must be accepted by both sides.

Alfred L. Atherton, Jr., State Department Director for Arab/Israel Affairs also spoke. He began by affirming the Arab-Israel impasse as the over-riding problem. He felt that neither the US nor the USSR could control the Middle East. He said America's commitments in the area are centered in the UN Resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, summarized elsewhere in this issue. "For us," he judged, "Gunnar Jarring is the central stage for carrying out the UN resolution, but the situation goes from bad to worse daily."

Other speakers at the conference included: Prof. Uri Ra'anana of Tufts University, and Prof. Allen Pollack, chairman of the executive committee of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East. The panel was moderated by Mike Wallace, CBS news correspondent, who had recently returned from a trip to the Middle East.

AID JERUSALEM FATHERLESS

Ryaiat is Arabic for 'loving care,' and that's what Project Ryaiat seeks to provide for Palestinian mothers and children in Jerusalem who have lost their family bread-winners as a result of the June '67 war in the Middle East. These are not refugees but could readily become so if not helped to meet the costs of home maintenance and child care.

For a tax-deductible \$10.00 a month, you will be put in touch with, and kept informed about, the child you will thus be sponsoring. Your check should be made out to "Greater Kokomo Association of Churches / Project Ryaiat" and mailed to that association's headquarters at 516 West Walnut, Kokomo, Ind. 46901. It will help their planning ahead if your gift is accompanied by an indication of how often you hope to give how much.

This is an interfaith as well as an international undertaking. Sponsorship at the Jerusalem end is by Hilal Ahmar (Red Crescent Society), a member of the League of Red Cross Societies. The whole set-up is the product of the energy and vision of a blind professor, Rejae Busailah, of Indiana University, Kokomo. East Coast residents may secure information from Miss Ann Pett, 513 East 87th St., New York, N.Y. 10028.

IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

Philadelphia now has a Middle East Co-ordinating Committee at 4626 Chester Ave. 19143. Led by M. A. S. Amin (an instructor at Penn. State University) and R. C. Matson and Farid Wissa (graduate students at U. of P. and Wharton), it has asked to hear from individuals and groups who share its two-fold conviction: 1) that U.S. interests are best served by even-handed policies toward the Mideast, and: 2) that stability over there would best be promoted by a secular regime in Palestine that would allow Israeli Jew, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian to live together in peace and equality.

EDUCATION IN ISLAMICS?

A leading theological seminary in the New York metropolitan area has expressed its desire to present a "popular-yet-deep" study of Islam for the better informing of American churchgoers. It would consist tentatively of five lectures which would then be published in paperback. The proposed themes would be: 1) The Religion of Reason and Nature, 2) The Religion of Justice and Social Order, 3) Muslim Decline and Awakening, 4) Islam and World Religions, and 5) the *Ummah* (total body of Muslim believers) and World Order.

To guide in its decision-making, which would involve a cost of some \$2,000, the Seminary has asked us two questions: First, "How valuable would such a series be?" to which we promptly replied, "Extremely so!" But the second question is harder to answer, so we pass it along to you: "Would there be sufficient interest to help cover the costs by sale of books, or by subsidies from people who have a special concern for such a project?"

Dialogue Must Be Unhindered

Dialogue should be possible between Jews and Christians even when Zionist dreams are disagreed on, says Father Raymond Brown, professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. He is also consultor to the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

Addressing an institute for adult studies at Greater Miami's Temple Israel, Father Brown said, "I feel that a Christian cannot be indifferent to the fate of the Jewish people in Israel and I strongly condemn any threat of genocide. On the other hand, to make Christian acceptance of the political ambitions of the state of Israel a condition for the continuance of Jewish-Christian dialogue is, I think, intolerable."

WHAT IS AJME?

So many people have inquired about Americans for Justice in the Middle East (AJME) that we asked its president, Dr. William Ward, to outline its background and goals. From a 3-page account we give the following summary:

AJME was formed as a volunteer, non-profit organization after the June War of 1967 by Americans living in Beirut who were concerned by an apparent lack of fairness both in the U. S. official position and in news coverage of the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Its purpose was to redress the balance by providing access

to impartial documented studies of the Middle East crisis not otherwise obtainable. Its newest study focuses on "Palestine and the Palestinians."

AJME publishes the MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER, which has grown in circulation from 1500 in September, 1967 to a present 15,000, and it maintains information services in Beirut and elsewhere for visiting Americans. Although not a relief organization, it cooperates in emergency operations, its most recent project being a gift of money sufficient to support a West Bank village for a year. Interested persons may write to Americans for Justice in the Middle East, P.O. Box 4841, Beirut, Lebanon.

REJOICING IN RAMALLAH

The latest report from the Evangelical Homes in Ramallah, on the Jordan's West Bank, opens with the words of Isaiah: "I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord . . . according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us." The occasion for this rejoicing is that, after prolonged disruptions following the June '67 war, children from the East Bank, eleven so far, are again being allowed to come as boarders at the Evangelical School. The School and Homes at Ramallah are Anglican sponsored. Americans can make their contributions payable to Evangelical Homes for Children, 212 N. Duval St., Quincy, Fla.

Y'S MEN IN THE EAST

The current illustrated annual report on "Work with Refugees" by the World Alliance of YMCAs gives quick glimpses of its projects for uprooted people in Asia and Africa. In the Middle East, leadership training, recreational programs, English classes and camp-improvement projects were expanded in Jordan. In Lebanon, the Y's staff provided similar undertakings for the youth of four camps. The one sad photograph is of the abandoned Y buildings in the Gaza Strip, with the terse caption, "During the 1967 war, the Gaza YMCA lost its secretary, furniture and equipment. No activities were carried on in 1968. The premises are closed. . . ."

YANKEES PIONEER

Lowell and Lawrence, Mass., were the highly successful guinea pigs for the Community-Wide Arab Refugee Relief Fund-Raising Plan conceived by Dr. Frank Maria, lay chairman of the Syrian Orthodox Dept. of the Near East. Starting with the churches (and, in Lawrence, the synagogue) and en-

listing the backing of the news media, the Plan features meaningful personal participation. For instance, any one contributing \$5.00 is invited to a refugee-fare "luncheon" consisting of soup and crackers. A tag day and downtown store exhibits are also among the tested methods by which the Plan informs the mind and stirs the conscience.

There is no central treasury but each participating church or other group uses its own normal channels to get the funds to the refugees. Dr. Maria has prepared five mimeographed pages of detailed instruction for putting the Plan to work in your community with educational and spiritual impact as well as financial success. He may be reached at Pumpkin Hill, Warner, N.H. 03278, phone 603-456-3454.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in three months to two years in Cyprus, Iran, Pakistan, the Sudan or the United Arab Republic? Have you had experience as a doctor, nurse, teacher, librarian, printing consultant, citrus expert, horticulturist or property manager? Would you thrive on Peace Corps type talent-sharing in carpentry, plumbing, bulldozing, cookery or administration? Then, no matter what your church connections, Presbyterian Volunteer Services, Room 921-B, 475 Riverside Dr., N.Y., N.Y. 10027, will be glad to send you job descriptions of openings available.

FOLK SONGS OF THE ARABS

At education workshops last summer, schoolteachers were excited by *Folk Songs of The Arab World*, the newest of the Bowmar audio-visual kits aimed at giving young Americans a "feel" for the cultures of many lands. Produced by Professor Sally Monsour of the University of Colorado under the editorial supervision of Dr. George K. Evans, it combines academic authenticity with delightful entertainment. The attractively boxed kit, available at \$19.75 from the Bowmar Publishing Corp., 622 Rodier Drive, Glendale, Calif. 91201, contains a double LP record, two color filmstrips and teaching aids. Though the wording on the screen permits children to sing along with the recorded voices of Arab youngsters, the accompanying song book is worth the extra \$1.50 for regular classroom use.

Seek to End UNRWA Deficit *(Continued from page 1)*

and vast population displacement. Established facilities in West Jordan had to be abandoned after the Six-Day War, and new emergency camps set up in East Jordan and Syria. In addition to caring for the 1,380,000 registered refugees who are its main responsibility, UNRWA has also attempted to give all possible assistance to other persons in the area made homeless by the military situation.

Stretching A Thinner Dime Farther

In addition to maintaining all its regular programs for refugees, including those in the occupied areas, UNRWA has gradually replaced tents in the new emergency camps with more solid shelters for 10,000 families, provided sanitation and health facilities, secured prefabricated buildings to replace tents for clinics, schools and food distribution centers and provided basic food rations. It makes supplemental foods available for children, nursing mothers, pregnant women, and others with special needs, and uses its facilities to distribute foods supplied by governments, churches and other agencies.

Creation of new facilities and heavier demands on the food, health and sanitation services have combined to place a severe strain on the agency's budget. Since all reserve funds have been depleted, UNRWA is facing a financial crisis just when its services are needed more than ever. How can it build housing for another 5,000 families before winter sets in? And where can money be found to maintain even a minimum level of nutrition and health services?

Because of the military and diplomatic deadlock between the Arab states and Israel, the prospect of a true solution to the refugee problem seems more remote than ever. Only about 5% of those displaced in 1967 have been allowed to return to their homes. Many who had found temporary accommodation with friends or relatives now have to seek shelter in the camps.

The number in the emergency camps has increased from 86,000 to 100,000 in the past year, and the older camps are overcrowded. The savings of many refugees who had found employment up to 1967 have been exhausted, and jobs are scarce, especially for the untrained.

Cut Education for Self-Support?

A matter of major concern is the need for additional funds for UNRWA's general education, vocational

and teacher-training programs. Over half the refugees are now under 18 years of age, and enrollment in the UNRWA/UNESCO schools has increased from 200,000 in 1966 to nearly 225,000.

Curtailment of any of UNRWA's services would have grave consequences for the refugees themselves, and could only add to the psychological, social and political tensions of the Middle East. The educational programs have special implications for the entire area, the future history of which will be to some degree conditioned by the way in which these thousands of young lives develop. Whether the mass of young Palestinian refugees will grow up thwarted and embittered, or will find opportunities to prepare for mature and constructive adulthood will depend in large measure on the type and quality of their education.

Michelmores report points out that the agency's financial plight has not resulted from a decrease of support from UN member states, which each year pledge their contributions for its work, but rather from the vastly increased demands on UNRWA's services since 1967, and on the higher cost of providing both goods and services. Staffing and operating costs have been kept to a minimum, and because of the excellent co-operation between UNRWA and the voluntary agencies in the area, coordination of programs has resulted in efficient administration without duplication of services.

Whence The Aid?

Before the current emergency, UNRWA operated 54 self-contained camps and 10 residential training centers in four countries (Jordan, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and Syria) on an annual budget of about \$38 million, of which 46% has gone for relief services, 41% for education, and 13% for health services. About 40 member states of the UN have contributed this total through a special committee of the General Assembly. In addition, several governments have given food, clothing, prefabricated housing units and other goods, and have financed special projects outside the regular budget. And the Arab host governments have expanded their fire, sanitation, police and school budgets to help the newcomers.

Because many member nations of the UN are themselves developing countries, receiving technical and other grants through UN agencies, the major part of UNRWA's budget has been

supplied by the United States (about two-thirds), with the United Kingdom the second largest donor. The trend in the last five years, however, has been for other countries to increase the percentage of their pledges, and for the U. S. and the U. K. to reduce theirs proportionately.

Last winter, Secretary-General U Thant and Mr. Michelmores addressed urgent pleas to all nations to increase their contributions at the annual Pledging Conference in December. The promised sum, however, still fell \$3.5 million short of the amount needed to maintain essential services for 1969, and, with a revised minimum budget of \$43,000,000, the prospect is for a greater deficit for 1970 and beyond. This sounds like a great deal of money, especially in view of the needs of populations in other parts of the world. When broken down into small units, however, it would take less than half a cent per American per week to cover the whole cost.

U Thant Pleads

In the words of Secretary-General U Thant, "Of all the humanitarian situations with which the United Nations is concerned, the plight of the Palestine refugees should arouse the most active compassion of all the governments and peoples of the United Nations, for we are dealing here with nothing less than a 20-year-old tragedy for a group of people who considerably outnumber the whole population of a number of the states which are members of the United Nations. Members may differ upon the rights and wrongs of the situation in the Middle East, of which the Palestine refugees are the innocent and long-suffering victims. Efforts may be exerted through the United Nations or outside it to find solutions to the problems of the Middle East, of which the refugee problem is a major one. I believe, however, that everyone will agree that the tragedy of the Palestine refugees, who three times in twenty years have known at first hand the cruel blast of war, demands the United Nations should live up generously and without hesitation to its humanitarian duty towards them. I earnestly hope the action of this Committee collectively and of its members individually will allow the United Nations to meet this responsibility to the fullest possible extent."

If others respond in like spirit, Mr. Michelmores and his UNRWA colleagues should have the wherewithal to discharge the tremendous duties assigned them.