

# ARAB REFUGEE RELIEF GOES TO GUERRILLAS

NEW YORK: The Arab-refugee problem has long been a source of bitter controversy but recently a new note was injected. Representative Jonathan Bingham, Bronx Democrat, and other Congressmen were talking about withholding funds from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees because they had been informed that relief supplies were being diverted from Arab refugees to Arab guerilla groups. The United States has quite a stake in all this. The contribution of the American taxpayers over the years has been over \$450 million—some 70% of the total cost. The aid agency denied that this diversion was taking place, but it acknowledges that Arab commandos have occupied 14 of the 15 refugee camps in Lebanon. The Israelis have charged that the commandos are using the camps as bases for terrorist attacks against innocent men, women and children in Israel.

Many Palestinian Arabs have been refugees since

1948, living in camps in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Their plight is tragic. Jewish people know keenly the meaning of being a refugee because there is hardly a Jewish family today that has not had to care for refugees and their families. Jews, therefore, share with others the concern and compassion of these unfortunate peoples. Dr. Elfan Rees of the World Council of Churches, one of the greatest living authorities on world refugee problems, has pointed out that since World War II there have been 40 million refugees in the world who have been rehabilitated by their own people and returned to a decent human existence. Only the Palestinian Arab refugee problem has resisted a solution.

For many Jews, the refugee problem in the Middle East is made even more agonizing as a result of the helplessness and terror against the remaining Jewish communities in Arab countries. In Iraq, for example, the entire Jewish popula-

tion has been confined virtually to house arrest and have been prevented by the government from leaving. Deprived of their means of livelihood, and many of them imprisoned, their plight is even more desperate than that of the Arab refugees, who at least have a United Nations caring for their needs. Except for the voices raised by the Jewish community and a few Christian leaders, the conscience of mankind has been incredibly silent about the terrible plight of Jews in Arab countries.

Ironically, this month marks the tenth anniversary of World Refugee Year—a United Nations project that has been far from successful in making progress toward its major goal -- to find solutions for the refugee problem -- not only of Arabs and Jews but of 18 million African, Far Eastern and other refugees in various parts of the world. No one-- regardless of his ideological or political sympathies -- wishes to see in-

nocent persons subjected to starvation or other deprivation. Yet, despite the best of intentions, millions continue to suffer.

In the Mid East, of course, the refugee problem can be resolved in the contest of an overall peace settlement. Unless this is attained, we can look forward with pain and sorrow to more hardship, more hunger, more hatred. This anniversary month of World Refugee Year is a month during which men of all countries and politics might well consider the terrible consequences of continued strife, and the need for finding new alternatives in the present stalemate.

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this nation's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- "Let us help beam light into dark places, and hope into human hearts," said Mrs. Michael Shapiro, International President of B'nai B'rith Women, launching a national project on behalf of over 1300 American prisoners of war held incommunicado and under barbaric conditions by Hanoi, in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- President Nixon has expressed his thanks to Israeli Premier Golda Meir for her letter congratulating the President on "his meaningful speech" on Vietnam. She said the President's speech "contains much that encourages and strengthens freedom-loving small nations the world over, which are striving to maintain their independent existence."

PHILADELPHIA (WNS) -- An Institute for contemporary Jewish civilization will be established at the new Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. The Institute, known as the Abraham, Mollie and Anna Goodman Institute for Contemporary Jewish Civilization, will provide the fifth year of the core curriculum for students at the college.


BONN (WNS) -- As West German voters prepare to go to the polls next month in another test of German democracy, two reports indicate that Nazi followers and myths linger in the hearts and minds of many Germans. A German pastor who banned the word "hallelujah" from his services in 1939 because of its Hebrew origin in the number one candidate of the ultra right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) in next month's elections from Lower Saxony.



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