UNRWA NEWS

اخبار الأونروا

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تصدرها وكالة الامم المتحدة لاغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الادنى

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Aid to Beirut displaced goes on

UNRWA was completing distribution of emergency food rations and clothing to people displaced by four weeks of fighting in and around Palestine refugee camps in Beirut as this issue of "UNRWA News" went to press. Some 5,700 refugees displaced to other parts of Beirut and 1,300 displaced in the Tripoli, Saida and Tyre areas were receiving assistance.

There was still no complete tally of casualties or material damage from the fighting, but UNRWA's camp services officer in Burj el-Barajneh reported 35 refugees dead and 350 wounded there, and heavy property damage was said to have occurred in the northern part of that camp. UNRWA staff also reported that in Shatila, Agency schools and the distribution centre had been damaged and only about 3,000 refugees remained, compared with some 6,000 before the latest camps war began.

Policies for improved programmes next year

More teachers, expanded health services and a higher ceiling on the number of welfare recipients were among the proposals for expanded Agency programmes agreed in principle for next year by the UNRWA general cabinet at its semi-annual meeting in Vienna on 16-17 June. The changes will depend on funds becoming available.

The cabinet (field office directors and headquarters department heads) made policy decisions to be applied in the 1987 budget, which will be prepared over the next 3-4 months. This will be the first budget under the new three-year medium-term plan (1987-89). The new policy decisions will be implemented as funding of the 1987 budget permits.

The cabinet agreed that additional teachers will be needed in the 1987-88 school year to ensure that no class section in any UNRWA school has more than 50 pupils, as well as to provide for the natural increase in the number of pupils in Agency schools (currently 350,000 and growing at a rate of between 4,000 and 5,000 a year).

Funds permitting, the ceiling on the number of special hardship cases will be raised from the present 106,000 to 122,000 and women's activities will be expanded.

In the health programme, the cabinet decided that additional medical staff should be employed in all fields to reduce workloads, and clinical laboratory and dental-health facilities will be expanded. UNRWA will seek to double the number of subsidised hospital beds for refugee patients in Gaza. Where possible, garbage collection in camps will either be turned over to local municipalities or mechanised for better service.

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Jordan youth centres handed over to Government

After some 30 years of supervising youth activities in the official refugee camps in Jordan, UNRWA has handed over control of its Youth Activities Centres to the Jordanian Ministry of Youth, at the request of the Jordanian Government. At a hand-over ceremony at Amman New Camp (Wihdat) on 15 June, Acting Director of UNRWA Affairs Bernard Mills expressed the Agency's best wishes to the Ministry in its new task.

New centre for disabled in Jordan

UNRWA and the American-based Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) have agreed that the running costs of a proposed new Community Centre for the Disabled at Husn (Martyr Azmi Al Mufti) Camp in Jordan will be financed by the Mennonites, for three years starting 1 January 1987.

The Centre will be modelled on those already run by UNRWA, with financing from Oxfam of the U.K., at Suf and Jarash camps in Jordan. The present Project Co-ordinator, Mr. Aziz Daoud, will be responsible for the new Centre, assisted at first by an expatriate from MCC who will be based at nearby Irbid.

Agency funds are available for construction of a small building and studies are already under way to establish the number and categories of disabled children from Husn camp who will use the Centre.

Staff News

--- With the retirement on 30 September 1986 of Mr. Roy E. Skinner, Director of UNRWA Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic, the following senior staff changes will take place :

Effective 1 October, Mr. Franke De Jonge, Deputy Director and Field Administration Officer, Syrian Arab Republic, becomes Director of UNRWA Affairs, SAR. Mr. G.M. Currie, Deputy Director and Field Administration Officer, West Bank, assumes the same post in the Syrian Arab Republic as of 14 September.

Effective 1 November, Mr. Peter Hawkins, Director of UNRWA Operations, Gaza and UNRWA Representative in Egypt, will become Director of UNRWA Affairs, Jordan. He will replace Mr. Per Olof Hallqvist, who will become Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon, succeeding Mr. Robert M. Gallagher, who moves to New York as Director-designate of the UNRWA Liaison Office at United Nations Headquarters. Mr. Bernard Mills, Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs and Field Administration Officer, Jordan, will become Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza and UNRWA Representative in Egypt.

--- The staff of the Amman Training College in Jordan on 15 June bade farewell to Mrs. Hayat Yaghi, the Principal of the centre for the past five years. Mrs. Yaghi is being transferred to the Jordan Field Office as Deputy Field Education Officer. Acting Director of UNRWA Affairs Bernard Mills paid tribute to Mrs. Yaghi for her distinguished work, her initiative and her drive, which had turned ATC into one of the finest colleges of its kind in the Midddle East.

--- Mr. Helge O. Linnerud joined the Agency on 10 June 1986 as Assistant Field Supply and Transport Officer, Lebanon.

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