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

### Joint appeal by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General

The President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations have noted with gratitude the efforts exerted in the course of the past year by the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the generous response by many Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to meet the financial crisis threatening the Agency's services to Palestine refugees.

In spite of these efforts the financial situation of the Agency remains serious. If the Agency is to maintain its present essential relief, health and educational services in 1972, \$6 million more will be required than was provided in 1971 in support of recurrent expenditure on operations.

The President and the Secretary-General feel that a reduction of the Agency's health and educational services to Palestine refugees would not only aggravate the misery and anguish of these long-afflicted people, but would increase the tensions and contribute to the instability of the situation in the area. For both these reasons it is essential that the required funds be obtained.

The President and the Secretary-General appeal to the States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, as well as to non-governmental organizations and private individuals, to join in this collective humanitarian effort to ensure that United Nations assistance to Palestine refugees will continue

unimpaired. They believe this goal could be achieved relatively easily and without painful sacrifice by any Government if the burden was more widely shared. In the conviction that assistance to Palestine refugees is a collective responsibility of the international community, the President and the Secretary-General earnestly hope that all Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and private individuals, will respond generously to this appeal.

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