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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2252 (ES-V)
AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 237 (1967)

1. In its resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 on humanitarian assistance, the General Assembly, after welcoming Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967, commended the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for his efforts to continue the activities of the Agency with respect to all persons coming within his mandate, endorsed the efforts of the Commissioner-General to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who were displaced and were in serious need of immediate assistance as a result of the recent hostilities and appealed to all Governments, as well as organizations and individuals, to make special contributions for the above purposes to UNRWA and also to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned. On 19 December 1967, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2341 B (XXII), in which it reaffirmed its resolution 2252 (ES-V) and reiterated its appeal for special contributions.
2. This human problem arising out of the situation in the Middle East has been further enlarged by events in the last few weeks. Governments now considering their response to the appeal of the General Assembly may wish to consider the situation described in the following report from Mr. Laurence Michelmore, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, on recent developments. In particular, the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to paragraph 8 of the Commissioner-General's report and appeals to all Governments to make urgently whatever contributions they can to meet the new emergency refugee situation now facing the Government of Jordan and UNRWA.

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Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on the
Exodus from the Jordan Valley

1. Recent military incidents along the River Jordan, particularly those of 8 and 15 February 1968, have caused casualties and widespread alarm among the civilian population living on the east side of the Jordan Valley. The Jordanian authorities have stated that forty-six civilians lost their lives and fifty-five were injured in the latest of those incidents on 15 February. The cumulative total of civilian casualties reported by the Jordanian authorities in the military incidents which occurred in the Jordan Valley between November 1967 and February 1968 now exceeds eighty deaths and 140 persons injured. Among those who have lost their lives or suffered injuries have been displaced persons from areas occupied by Israel in June 1967 and some of the refugee residents of UNRWA's long-established Karameh Camp. The UNRWA warehouse at Karameh was destroyed and several UNRWA schools, health and other facilities were damaged.
2. The cumulative effect of these incidents has been to cause about 75,000 refugees and displaced persons and many of the villagers in the Valley to abandon their homes and temporary shelters and seek refuge on higher ground to the east, away from the scene of the firing. While the movement out of the Valley had begun prior to 15 February 1968, it became a flood after the military action on that day, and was continuing as of 1 March.
3. At the beginning of February 1968, the seven tented camps in the Jordan Valley, run by UNRWA, sheltered 57,000 Palestine refugees and other Palestinians who left the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the hostilities of June 1967. There were also some 23,000 pre-1967 Palestine refugees resident in Karameh Camp. By 1 March, there were less than 2,000 persons remaining in the tented camps and 500 in Karameh. Other refugees not resident in UNRWA camps and many, perhaps half, of the inhabitants of the villages in the northern part of the Valley are also reported to have moved towards Amman, but their numbers are not yet known.
4. At the request of the Jordanian Government, UNRWA is continuing its services for persons remaining in the Valley and is working closely with the Government in providing emergency assistance to the persons newly displaced from the Jordan Valley at the places where they are now located. Many of those from the UNRWA

tented camps took tents as well as blankets and other personal possessions with them and are now re-erecting their tents at various sites where they have taken refuge.

5. The Jordanian Government has established a new tented camp - Baqa - near Suweileh (north west of Amman) and 40,000 persons were there by 1 March, with more reported to be on their way. At the request of the Jordanian Government, UNRWA has assumed responsibility for running this camp. Arrangements are proceeding with the utmost speed to install a water distribution system, erect latrines, and establish health services and facilities for distributing food rations and for providing hot meals. In the meantime, bread, sardines and cheese are being distributed. Large tents, school desks and supplies are being brought from the Jordan Valley, so that classes may be resumed soon.

6. A further 6,000 newly displaced persons have moved to the site of a former tented camp at Souf near Jerash, and 5,000 are at Marka, on the outskirts of Amman. Other smaller groups have gathered at various locations in and near Amman and Zerka. Still others have moved in with families in and around Amman, further increasing the congestion there, and swelling the population of existing UNRWA camps. Several new camps may be required outside the Valley, and UNRWA has offered to collaborate with the Government in establishing and administering them.

7. These developments confront the Jordan Government and UNRWA with a new emergency of large proportions. While the dimensions of the problem cannot yet be fully assessed, there will certainly be a need for thousands of additional tents and for funds to establish health, sanitation, water distribution, food distribution, supplementary feeding, educational services and other facilities.

8. UNRWA already faces a deficit of \$4 million for its existing services, and the new burdens resulting from the exodus from the Jordan Valley increase the need for funds as well as for additional tents. Unless special contributions are forthcoming at this critical time, it is hard to see how the essential needs of the refugees and displaced persons can continue to be met.
