

UNITED



NATIONS

**PROGRESS REPORT
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ACTING MEDIATOR
ON PALESTINE**

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRD SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 11A (A/689, A/689/Corr.1 and A/689/Add.1)

PARIS, 1948

UNITED NATIONS

PROGRESS REPORT

OF THE

**UNITED NATIONS ACTING MEDIATOR
ON PALESTINE**

**SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS**

*(Supplement to Part Three of the Progress Report of the United
Nations Mediator on Palestine (A/648))*



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APPENDICES

(Document A/689/Add.1)

APPENDIX A

Number of refugees

1. From the Statistical Abstract of Palestine 1944-45, 8th edition (No. 15 of 1946, Government Printer, Palestine), it appears (page 16) that at the census of 1931 the population of Palestine included 693,147 Moslems; 174,606 Jews; 88,907 Christians; and 10,101 others (mainly Druzes). The estimates for 31 December 1945 showed the following totals: Moslems 1,035,012; Jews 554,329; Christians 139,285; and others 14,858.

2. As incompleteness of records of immigration by the Jews had tended to cause understatement in the estimates of the Jewish population, the Government Statistician stated that an attempt was made to revise these figures *de facto* "from current estimates of the Department of Statistics of the Jewish Agency and from those of the Food Controller" (page 16). On these bases a figure of 579,227 Jews was reached, and was accepted as a "rather conservative" total, for 31 December 1945.

3. From 1931 to 1945, therefore, the Moslems, who have a very high birthrate (over 50 per 1,000) increased to the extent of 49 per cent; and the Jews, whose birthrate in Palestine is 30 per 1,000, increased, "mainly by migratory increase" to the extent of 230 per cent.

4. In actual distribution, the Jews are essentially an urban population; the Moslems, a rural one. The Jews with their smaller population form relatively and absolutely the larger part of city populations. In 1944, for example, only 138,220 of the 553,600 Jews, i.e., 25 per cent of the *de facto* estimate for that year (*op. cit.* tables 9 and 11, pages 21 and 22) lived in rural areas, as against 693,820 of the 994,724 Moslems (87.5 per cent).

5. At the date of this report, the Jewish forces occupy the sub-districts of Jaffa, Ramleh, Haifa, Nazareth, Beisan and Tiberias, a large part of the sub-districts of Acre and Safad, the coastal strip of the Tulkarm sub-district, and the new city area of Jerusalem.

6. The Moslem populations of Jaffa, Ramleh, Haifa, Nazareth, Beisan and Tiberias (increased arbitrarily by 10 per cent for the period 1945-48 to correspond with the increase of 1942-45) total 350,800 persons.

7. The Moslem populations of Acre and Safad sub-districts (1944 figures plus 10 per cent) total 100,870 of whom 20,689 were in the two cities themselves. A considerable part of these sub-districts is still occupied by Jewish troops. From local observation it is considered justifiable to add 70,000 persons from these sub-districts to the *potential* refugee total.

8. The Moslem population of Jerusalem (1944 figures plus 10 per cent) was 33,690; from local observation about 6,000 remain. For the Jerusalem area and from the coastal strip of the

Tulkarm sub-district, another 70,000 persons might justifiably be added to the potential refugee total. If the whole Moslem population of the sub-districts mentioned in paragraph 6 is added, the total potential Moslem refugees from all areas occupied by Jewish troops will be 490,800 persons.

9. But there are also 89,716 Christians and 15,070 "others" in these areas of Palestine, and a "considerable majority" of those are Arabs. If over 75 per cent of them are added, say 80,000, leaving only 24,786 for all groups or nations together other than Jews and Arabs, the *absolute potential refugee total for men, women, and children would be 570,800 persons.*

10. The Jewish authorities, however, have stated that there are from 50,000 to 80,000 Arabs still within the territory occupied by their forces. If this is the case, the number of refugees could be estimated tentatively at a figure potentially between 490,800 and 520,800, say, 500,000.

11. Estimates made by Arab authorities go much higher and reach totals of between 740,000 and 780,000: checks made by officers of the Disaster Relief Project, however, have failed to substantiate such figures. In the most northerly area, for example, (North Syria) a figure of 30,000 refugees was quoted, distributed as follows: Latakiah, 5,000; Aleppo, 10,000; Hama, 7,000; and Homs, 8,000. Actual investigation showed that in round figures the numbers at these places were 880; 8,000; 3,500; and 3,200 respectively, and the total was not 30,000 but only 15,800. Similar examples have been found elsewhere.

12. On the basis of estimates made by officers of the Disaster Relief Project, the present distribution of the refugees is at this date approximately as follows:

	<i>Number of refugees in thousands</i>
Palestine	
North	154*
South	83*
Syria	73*
Lebanon	61
Transjordan	88*
Egypt	9
Iraq	4

TOTAL 472

The distribution, especially in the localities marked by an asterisk, is changing daily; there is a constant flow of refugees from place to place under the impetus of cold or reports of larger food supplies. These movements are at present most evident away from Transjordan and North Palestine and towards Syria on the one hand and south Palestine (Gaza) on the other. The actual total is also rising and will, it is believed, reach 500,000 within the next few weeks.

APPENDIX B

Requirements of food and estimated cost

The estimated number of refugees accepted as a basis for calculation is 500,000. Not all these, however, are adults; the Arabs have a very heavy birth-rate, and on the average of the years 1926-44, 18.6 per cent of the population is between the ages of 0-4 years, while a further 13.1 per cent is between 5-9 years. The actual percentage is higher, since the numbers of males of military age among the refugees is naturally smaller than it would otherwise be, and inflates age distribution percentages of other groups. Children of 0-4 years require a half-diet and those from 5-9 years a three-quarters diet. They therefore save

12.7 per cent of the food requirements or slightly more than 62,500 diets, reducing the 500,000 to 437,500.

On the basis of a diet of 2,000 calories and estimating the period as *ten months*, the following estimate in *dollars* for goods *delivered at Beirut* was provided by an officer seconded by the International Refugee Organization to the Disaster Relief Project. It is necessary to reduce this figure by approximately 10 per cent for cost of carriage; and the result by 10 per cent for a nine-months' as against a ten-months' programme. The calorie value accepted is 1,800 as against 2,000 in the original estimate, while the number to be fed is calculated at 437,500 full diets as against an original estimate of 400,000 persons.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATE

	Per person per day (grammes)	Total metric tons	Cost per ton (dollars)	Total cost (dollars)
Wheat } Barley } Maize } All as wheat flour	440	52,800	139.00	7,339,200
Rice	35	4,200	176.00	739,200
Pulses	35	4,200	202.00	848,400
Oil	20	2,400	660.00	1,584,000
Sugar (Cuba)	25	3,000	182.00	546,000
Canned meat } Canned fish } Cheese } All as canned beef.....	20	2,400	700.00	1,680,000
Milk, spray powder				
Non-fat	—	1,666	305.00	508,130
Whole	—	834	1,021.60	842,014
Local fruits and vegetables, etc.				
143 calories per day at \$0.02 per person				
400,000 by \$0.02 by 300				2,400,000
				\$16,486,944

The figure of \$16,486,944 does not include carriage on local fruit and vegetables, but does (at 10 per cent) upon \$14,086,944 worth of other produce. Subtracting a corresponding amount, the net figure becomes \$12,578,250. The value of the food estimated at nine months instead of ten is \$11,320,425, to which it is necessary to add \$2,169,000 for fruit and vegetables (nine months) making a new total of \$13,480,425.

A reduction from 2,000 calories to 1,800 calories is expressed in cost by a further reduction of 10 per cent in this figure, which provides a total of \$12,032,380 for 400,000 people. To bring this to the total for 437,500 persons requires an addition of \$112,800 or a final figure of \$13,160,380, say \$13,200,000.

This represents a dietary unit of approximately 11 cents daily per person.

APPENDIX C

Shipments received by 11 October 1948

VESSEL	DATE OF ARRIVAL (1948)	CARGO	QUANTITY	SOURCE
<i>Bosphorus</i>	12 September	Olive oil	30 tons	French Government
<i>Providence</i>	14 September	Peanut oil	10 tons	French Government
<i>Exemplar</i>	16 September	Salt	40 sacks	UNICEF
		DDT	29 drums	
		Corned beef	1,667 cartons	
		Corned mutton	1,150 cases	
		Margarine	834 cartons	
		Sugar	200 sacks	
		Milk, powdered	2,000 cartons	
<i>Empire Roach</i>	20 September	Tents	2,500	British Government
		Sacking	1,000 yards	
		Bedsteads	50	
<i>Andria</i>	20 September	Salt	40 sacks	UNICEF
		DDT	36 drums	
		Corned mutton	2,200 cases	
		Margarine	400 cases	
		Sugar	200 sacks	
		Milk, powdered	2,000 cartons	
<i>Montague</i>	5 October	Meat and gravy	7,022 cartons	American- Arabian Oil Co. through ECA Greece Greek Government Greek Red Cross
		Cheese	1,571 cases	
		Lard	2,929 tins	
		Flour	5,595 sacks	
		DDT	525 cases	
		Olive oil	10 tons	
		Medical supplies	6 cases	
<i>Diana</i>	5 October	Olive oil	20 tons	Italian Government
<i>Isabelle</i>	6 October	Cheese	50 tons	Swiss Government
		Milk, powdered	12½ tons	
		Milk, condensed	37½ tons	
<i>Exchequer</i>	7 October	Clothing	100 bales	Lutheran Church Service
<i>Banaderos</i> ¹	15 September	Fish products	50 tons	Norwegian Government
<i>Herefordshire</i> ¹	30 September	Rice	30 tons	Burmese Government

¹ The last two vessels unloaded in Egypt.

Shipments due

VESSEL	To	PROBABLE ARRIVAL (1948)	CARGO	QUANTITY	REMARKS
<i>Kades</i>	Beirut	18 October	Sesame oil	20 tons	Turkish Government
			Dried fruit	50 tons	
<i>Pres. Steyn</i>	Alexandria	Mid-October	Meat	984 cases	South African Government
<i>Hermione</i>	Suez	End October	Cheese	50 tons	Australian Government
			Butter	50 tons	
			Wheat	500 tons	
<i>Nyhorn</i>	Suez	End October	Wheat	500 tons	
<i>Helvig</i>	Beirut	End October	Clothing	384 bales	Church World Service, Inc.
<i>Borealis</i>	Beirut	End October	Fiskaroni	667 cases	UNICEF

APPENDIX D

Replies from countries to which telegrams requesting specific commodities were dispatched (15 October 1948)

COUNTRY SOLICITED AND COMMODITIES REQUESTED 16 AUGUST 1948	TONS	DATE OF REPLY	QUANTITIES DONATED
ARGENTINA			
Wheat	500		
Meat	150		
Butter	50		
Dried fruit	50		
AUSTRALIA			
Wheat	1,000	25 August	Full quantity
Cheese	50		
Butter	50		
BELGIUM			
Peas	50	25 August	Intermediate reply
Haricot beans	50	1 October	Full quantity
BRAZIL			
Meat	150	27 August	Intermediate reply
Dried fruit	25		
BURMA			
Rice	300	19 August	Intermediate reply
		1 September	30 tons rice arrive 30 September 1948 (will try supply balance)
CANADA			
Wheat	1,500	27 August	Intermediate reply
Cheese	50	21 September	Offer canned fish and dried apples
Egg powder	50		
CHILE			
Potatoes and general list	200		
CUBA			
Sugar	250		
FRANCE (incl. North African Colonies)			
Oil	30	28 August	Full quantity
Dried fruit	150		40 tons oil arrived 12-14 September 1948
GREECE			
Oil	10	30 August	Intermediate reply
		31 August	10 tons oil arrived 5 October 1948
HAITI			
Sugar	100	1 September	Nil
IRELAND			
Potatoes	200	26 August	Full quantity awaiting advice
ITALY			
Oil	20	21 August	Full quantity. Arrived 5 October Beirut
NETHERLANDS			
Peas	50	25 August	Full quantity awaiting advice
Haricot beans	50		

COUNTRY SOLICITED AND COMMODITIES REQUESTED 16 AUGUST 1948	TONS	DATE OF REPLY	QUANTITIES DONATED
INDONESIA			
Rice	350	25 August	Asking if in co-operation with Netherlands Government
Sugar	250	4 September	Will try supply in full, awaiting advice
NEW ZEALAND			
Wheat or barley	500	21 September	No wheat or barley
Butter	50		Shipping full quantity butter and milk powder
Milk powder	25		
NORWAY			
Fish	50	20 August	Full amount arrived 15 September
PHILIPPINES			
Rice	250	27 August	Nil
Sugar	100		
PORTUGAL			
Fish	75		
SWITZERLAND			
Cheese	50	20 August	Full quantity, 50 tons cheese; 12.5 tons milk powder; 37.5 tons condensed milk arrived 6 October
Milk powder	20		
TURKEY			
Oil	20	9 September	Intermediate reply
Dried fruit	50	1 October	Full quantity <i>care of I.R.C.</i> due 18 October
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA			
Wheat	500	21 August	50 tons meat (no wheat) due 15 October
Meat	50		
URUGUAY			
Meat	100		
UNITED KINGDOM			
		12 August (Sec. Cncl)	£100,000 (for tentage and medical supplies from Near East)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			
Wheat	2,500	22 August	Working with voluntary agencies to provide quantities. No governmental aid available
Meat	100		
Cheese	50		
Butter	50		
DDT	20		

APPENDIX E

Replies from countries to which the general telegram was dispatched
(16 August 1948)

COUNTRY SOLICITED AND DATE OF REPLY	DONATION	REMARKS AND/OR ANY FURTHER ACTION
BYELORUSSIAN SSR		
BOLIVIA 7 September		Intermediate reply
BULGARIA		
CEYLON 18 August	50,000 rupees	Received and in course of utilization
COLOMBIA 19 August		Intermediate reply
4 September	Nil	
COSTA RICA 2 September	Nil	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA		
DENMARK 11 September	Nil, but aid from Save the Children Fund and Red Cross	See appendix F
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
EL SALVADOR 11 September		Intermediate reply
ECUADOR 11 September	Nil	
ETHIOPIA 23 August	£5,000	Received and in course of utilization
GUATEMALA 20 August		Intermediate reply
HONDURAS		
INDIA 23 August	100,000 rupees	Received and in course of utilization
LIBERIA		
LUXEMBOURG 4 September	10 tons barley 14,228 tins canned meat and vegetables	Awaiting advice
MEXICO 24 August		Intermediate reply
NICARAGUA		
PANAMA 3 September	Nil	
PARAGUAY		
PERU		
POLAND		
ROUMANIA		
SWEDEN		
UKRAINIAN SSR		
USSR		
VENEZUELA 27 August	50,000 bolivares	In national products
YUGOSLAVIA		

APPENDIX F

Supplies promised by agencies other than Governments to which appeals were sent

AGENCY	DONATION	REMARKS
<i>Egyptian Red Cross</i> ¹	50 tons medical supplies	Donated for S. Palestine Already sent by 23 August (for IRC)
<i>Egyptian Government</i> ¹	40,000 doses antityphoid vaccine Further quantities typhoid, cholera, plague vaccines, sulphadiazine, atabrine	Donated for Amman Already despatched (for IRC)
<i>Greek Red Cross</i>	6 cases medical supplies	Includes dusting guns for DDT
<i>American Arabian Oil Co.</i>	\$200,000 to pay for 200 tons flour 100 tons canned meat 50 tons beef fat 50 tons cheese	Shipped from Greece to Beirut through good offices ECA Greece
<i>American Middle East Relief Inc.</i>	5 ambulances	Not received by Disaster Relief Project
<i>American Red Cross</i> ¹	2 ambulances \$250,000 worth medical supplies 20 tons DDT Medical supplies, value \$200,000 Milk valued at \$35,000 Cereals	To Lebanese Red Cross Already distributed
<i>Church World Services Inc.</i>	384 bales used clothing 2 tons powdered milk. 150 lbs. vitamin tablets Small quantity DDT Hospital supplies, value \$25,000 Cash \$2,020	} Already shipped Beirut Not yet received
<i>C.R.O.P.</i> (<i>Co-operative Relief Overseas Programme</i>)		Working with voluntary agencies with view to providing balance of 2,300 tons wheat requested from the United States of America
<i>World Relief Service of National Catholic Welfare Conference</i>	\$25,000	Purchase flour in Egypt, not yet received
<i>Lutheran World Relief Inc.</i>	5 tons clothing	Arrived Beirut
<i>Near East Foundation</i>	Will expand services and personnel	
<i>International Bechtel Inc.</i>	\$100,000	At disposal Near East Foundation.
<i>Danish Save the Children Fund</i>	Credit up to 300,000 crowns for Danish team of workers and supplies	To supply soup daily for ten thousand children in camps
<i>Turkish Red Crescent</i>	10 tons husked cereals 5 tons macaroni 2 tons semolina 2 tons chloride of lime 1 ton milk powder 5,000 metres cotton goods 200 woollen blankets	To be distributed by IRC

¹No further information available on total Red Cross programme or supplies.

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