U. S. OFFERS ARABS REFUGEE SOLUTION
Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 25, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 3

U. S. OFFERS ARABS REFUGEE SOLUTION

Suggests Their Lands Absorb Displaced Palestinians as Permanent Citizens

Special to The New York Times.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 24—The United States made a strong plea today to the Arab states to absorb several hundred thousand Palestinian Arab refugees as permanent citizens.

Four of the Arab states—Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt—are sheltering 900,000 refugees who fled across the border six years ago during the Palestine conflict. The host states insist—and Saudi-Arabia repeated the Arab states' stand today—that the refugees must be repatriated to Israel.

Opposing this, Israel has contended that their return would be a security risk and an economic burden to the already overcrowded country.

James J. Wadsworth, United States delegate, also urged Israel to allow repatriation of the refugees or provide compensation to them for lost holdings.

The United States statement was made in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee, which is considering a joint resolution to extend for five years the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. The resolution, sponsored by the United States, Britain, France and Turkey, would allocate $25,100,000 for food and relief operations and $36,200,000 to finance works programs to make the refugees self-supporting.

Stronger Economy Urged

"We wish to urge upon our Arab colleagues," Mr. Wadsworth said to the committee, that settlement of the refugee problem "rests not in looking back but in looking forward to a new and stronger economy for the Arab states, coming to regard many of their Arab refugee brothers not as temporary residents but as fellow citizens and co-sharers of the Near East's future."

The United States delegate also urged the host states to agree to carry out new land-development programs and other projects aimed at getting the refugees off the United Nations relief lists and making them independent. The United States pays between 65 and 70 per cent of each year's budget, and has contributed $150,000,000 so far toward the agency's operations.

Aouny W. Dejany, Saudi Arabian delegate, charged that Israel had confiscated the property of the refugees. He also criticized the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission for taking "no action and no notice" of the enactment of Israeli laws that, he said, deprived the refugees of their legitimate rights.

The United States, France and Turkey are members of the commission set up in the hopes of promoting a settlement of lingering Arab-Israeli disputes. Virtually its only achievement so far has been to get an agreement to release from Israel the blocked bank accounts of Arab refugees.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.