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Howard Wriggins  
APSCO/UNRPA  
Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland  
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Dear Howard Wriggins:

I have your numerous and detailed communications at hand, by the hand of  
Dorothy Hedley. The warm spirit of comradeship and helpfulness in all these  
communications have greatly heartened me, and I am very happy that this oppor-  
tunity of working with you has presented itself. I find I am somewhat at a loss  
to organize this particular communication to you, because of the numerous sub-  
jects which should be covered.

I think I will first report on the trip which Dr. Zaki and I made to  
Gaza with Corrinne Hardesty, whom we left in that city as our representative  
for further study and to make further contacts with local people, pending our  
arrival as a unit later this week. We found after a visit to the camps in the  
neighborhood of Gaza that the government authorities had worked out on paper  
a fairly good distribution of supplies. We are skeptical as to the actual  
working of the plan, because of the personalities involved in handling the  
supplies.

Gaza is a small but apparently nice village, at present overrun with  
people. They estimate the present population at some 120,000, and the original  
population at 20,000, the rest being refugees. This will give some idea of the  
confusion and congestion which has resulted there. There are three hospitals,  
of which we understand the Church Missionary Society Hospital is the best.  
There is a Red Crescent hospital which has no directive head and is being  
run wholly by volunteer local doctors. The International Red Cross are running  
a clinic which is doing excellent work but on a smaller scale.

The Church Missionary Society Hospital had approximately 80% of the 60  
beds filled with refugees, and of the others very few were paying any money.  
No charges had been made to the refugees, whose number has been increasing  
steadily during October, November and December. We found Dr. Hargreaves a most  
energetic and probably capable doctor. His hospital is well-ordered, but it  
became very apparent that if Dr. Hargreaves continues to run the hospital  
it would have to be a one-man affair and could not serve as headquarters for  
our medical work. This was apparent because, first, Dr. Hargreaves is such  
an energetic and dominant type of person that capable personnel could probably  
not work with him; second, his evangelical tendencies are so overpowering that  
we would be immediately identified with the Christian proselyting work, so that  
in a nation 95% Moslem I am sure we would be very unpopular. I shall have more  
... had an excellent interview with Ambassador Driffin who outlined his plan of  
... 1200 tons of flour, 175 tons of dates, 100 tons of oil, and 140 tons of

to say in regard to the hospital situation later under that heading.

After our first visit to the hospital we were taken by a Captain Wahid, the one officer in the army charged with the responsibility of caring for refugees. He had accomplished, we believe, a rather monumental piece of work in segregating and organizing refugees in abandoned and dismantled old British camps throughout the area. In these camps improvised roofs were put on standing walls, usable buildings were taken for warehousing, common bread kitchens were set up after a fashion, and a partially organized system of rationing the meager supplies available had been worked out and implemented to some extent. We will soon know how well. Everywhere in the area we met the utmost in cooperation and cordiality on the part of the military and with those civil authorities that we met, such as the town governor and the local chief of police.

As to the camps themselves, I frankly was rather favorably impressed with the condition of the refugees. As compared with those camps where Mrs. Replegle and Moses Bailey are now serving, the situation here does not approach in individual desperateness the conditions I observed there. But these people are short of food, their shelter is very inadequate, and a majority of them who came with some resources have exhausted those resources and are badly in need of clothing, food, shelter, and I strongly believe of some mental and physical activity. It is in these fields where we hope to serve.

There are some eleven camps in the whole area, roughly grouped about three main towns, of which Gaza is the largest. In the middle of the area is a town called Kan Unis, around which are also grouped camps in somewhat poorer condition than those at Gaza. And in Rafa, located on the old Egyptian-Palestine frontier, are a large number of refugees in rather more extensive camps. It seems to rather naturally divide itself into these three areas.

Our present plans envisage the moving of our present available staff, less one person at Cairo and part-time at Port Said and El Shatt, to a headquarters at Gaza where we hope that Corrinne Hardesty by now will have procured a headquarters building which we observed on our recent trip. We are planning to move the whole group by way of El Shatt camp, where we will pick up additional transport equipment with adequate supplies for self-maintenance at Gaza. Once on the field, we hope to establish divisions of our team in KanUnis and Rafa, although our main distribution will probably be by truck from the Gaza warehouse.

#### I. Supplies.

To summarize our supply situation, the following picture presently presents itself:

##### A. Food

There is now being distributed by the army from Gaza enough flour to last for a few days. We expect to receive some 200 tons of milk, margarine, sugar and the like from UNICEF for distribution in that area by the end of this week. On January 8th a new shipment of some 22 tons of beans is due at Port Said, for immediate transportation to the area. Yesterday, upon my return from Gaza, we had an excellent interview with Ambassador Griffis who evolved his plan of buying 1500 tons of flour, 175 tons of dates, 100 tons of oil, and 240 tons of

beans and lentils. Just today we have received word that he has made his deal and the Egyptian government have undertaken to deliver these supplies in Gaza, 25% during the first week of January and the whole amount by January 15th. We doubt if such good news can be real, but certainly some will come through as the terms of payment are dependent upon our receipting the goods in the warehouse at Gaza. If this is true there should be no excuse or reason why our team cannot see that everyone is properly fed during the month of January at least.

#### B. Blankets

The nights are very cold, and these people have very little shelter and have had to huddle together in groups for human warmth. This condition will become more aggravated during the coming month so blankets are highly important, as you know. We have just received, as per Ball's recent cable, 70,000 blankets now being railed to Gaza. We have also received authorization, as you know, to accept 50,000 blankets from the British government, which we are doing and will have them in Gaza within the next week or ten days. UNICEF has some nine or ten thousand blankets on the way, which should give us a total of some 130,000 blankets. They will go a long way towards alleviating the situation.

#### C. Clothing

There is no provision in the UN relief plan for clothing. We are dependent upon local people to supply clothing, as the Anglican Church are doing in some quantities. We now have about one and a half tons of such from Bishop Allen to take with us, and also are expecting the 40,000 pounds of used clothing scheduled to come here from Philadelphia. It is urgently needed, and no hesitation should be had in sending Western clothing to these people. We will know more about the possibility of sewing classes after we get operating, but we do know now that any sewing machines, either used or new, would be useful. Even if we had only two each in the eleven camps, it would be a great boon.

#### D. Shelter

The UN have authorized us, as you know, to accept 336 tents from the British army against their previous gift. These tents are now en route to Gaza. Ambassador Griffis says that from a Turkish gift of 2000 tents, 1000 are to be sent into this area - we hope soon. They are very badly needed.

#### E. Activities

Our present thinking on activities includes taking a few simple games for use in each camp, to help occupy spare time, which our preliminary survey indicates as highly desirable. We have approached Lee Dinsmore, whose salary will be continued by the local Y.M.C.A. as a contribution to our work but whose services will be fully available to us. And while we anticipate the order of our efforts to emphasize (1) feeding, (2) shelter, (3) clothing, (4) activities, we will undertake whatever activity work that can be done without jeopardizing the other features, and Mr. Dinsmore will guide us in these endeavors while physically aiding in feeding, shelter, etc.

(To be continued shortly)