

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11, 1968 -- Congressman Bob Dole today said the United Nations is helping perpetuate the Arab refugee problem.

In a statement before the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee meeting here, he said, "The end result is a merry-go-round of indolence, nonproductivity and dependence from one generation to another."

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency, to which the U. S. contributes about 70 per cent of the funds, has been responsible for maintaining the refugees since 1948.

"Of about 1,300,000 refugees on the UNRWA register," Dole said, "over half are food recipients."

"Many of these people," he added, "are second-generation names on the relief rolls, with no concrete assurance or hope they will ever become productive, economically-independent individuals.

Dole explained a lack of jobs prevents many UNRWA-trained refugees from self-support.

Urging U.N. and U.S. review of money and manpower to help upgrade training and provide jobs, the Kansas Congressman said, "If we can assist these displaced persons in helping themselves and thereby stave off eternal dependence and disillusionment, then we must proceed."

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Commending Israeli efforts to create jobs, Dole said, "Israelis rightly believe welfare should be available only to the disabled, the very young and the very old. They believe able-bodied men and women should not be welfare recipients and doomed to a life of dependence."

Dole and two other Congressmen, all members of the House Foreign Agricultural Operations Subcommittee, traveled to the Middle East last summer to study the Arab refugee problem.