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ISN 982

ATTACHMENT E

BARGHOUN SCHOOL REPAIR PROJECT

PROGRESS MARCH 1 - JULY 1, 1980

In January, 1980, prior to the final disbursement of payments under the Housing Repair Grant 1539, CRS staff determined that a balance of approximately \$15,000 would be unused from the monies allocated for assistance to homeowners. CRS/New York and the local AID mission were subsequently contacted to determine if these funds could be used for a community development project not strictly related to housing repair. After a visit by the USAID representative together with CRS staff, a small project to assist the village school in Barghoun was submitted for inclusion in grant activity. Effective February 29, 1980, Grant 1539 was extended until April 30, 1980 for School Repair activity. On March 25, 1980, an ammendment to the grant stating that "... any AID funds remaining in this grant, may be used for the repair of elementary schools, which will further the grant purpose of providing an incentive for refugee families to resettle in their villáges....." These funds were designated for repair/reconstruction of school buildings, and for the purchase of basic school/supplies, i.e. books, desks, etc.

The school in Barghoun is a primary school serving 40 students from the village and the neighboring village of Badbhoun (also a Housing Repair site). These 40 students are taught in thræe small classrooms. During the war, the roof of the building was destroyed, and although it was repaired by funds donated by a charitable committee is nearby Chekka, the reconstruction was primitive, the bare cement walls and ceiling are exposed in the classrooms, which also remain without electricity or plumbing. 8 families (total of 40) have reported their unwillingness to return to the villages due to the inadequacy of the school.

Upon receipt of this ammendment, a check in the Lebanese currency equivalent of \$15,000 was issued to the legal representatives of the government-chartered Barghoun Social Committee and deposited in a separate book account in their name in Tripoli. It was arranged that the village representatives would withdraw funds from this account on presentation of vouchers for items related to the repair/reequipment of the school. Three site visits were subsequently conducted by CRS in April, May, June to ensure adequate progress (see photos). By June 1, all project monies were reportedly spent on construction activity for a new room for the school and a sanitary bloc. Although it had been anticipated that some funds could be used for the purchase of badly needed equipment, the continuing increase in the price of construction activity limited the project to these two additions. This also included \$2,000 donated by villagers and the Chekka Charitable Committee. \$10,000 was used for the construction of the classroom and

and \$6,000 for the sanitary bloc. \$1,000 was used to buy plaster and paint for the unfinished interior.

By July 1, basic construction was completed, but it was estimated that six weeks more would be necessary to finish the project. This delay is due to the fact that construction activity until the end of June was limited to the daylight available after 4 p.m. when the school was closed. Obviously, it would have been self-defeating to disrupt normal classes to conduct such construction during class hours.

Despite the fact that activity is not complete, the eight families still in Tripoli were interviewed when they returned to the village for the summer, and four have indicated that they will send their children (6 in all) to the school in the Fall term, rather than to Tripoli. This is a substantial measure of project success.

Finally, it is anticipated that before the books on this grant are closed by the auditors in late July, a small balance of about \$1,000 will remain. As the ammendment refers to any unused grant monies, this small balance will be added to project funds for the purchase of School equipment - mainly - books and stationary - upon the approval of CRS/New York.

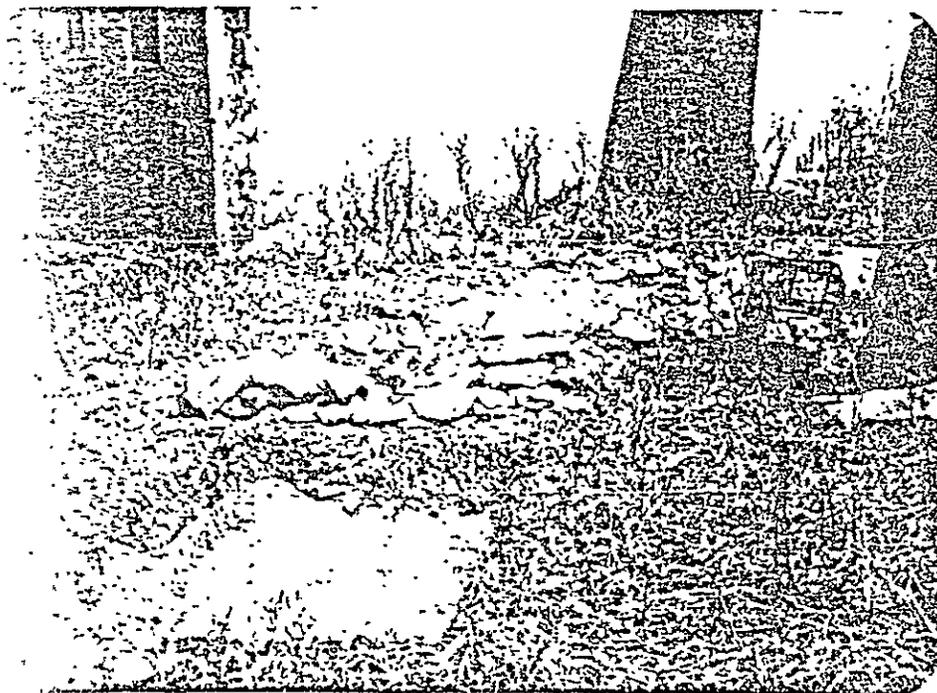
A short Final Progress Report on this project will be submitted to CRS/New York and USAID to close out project activity on September 1, 1980.

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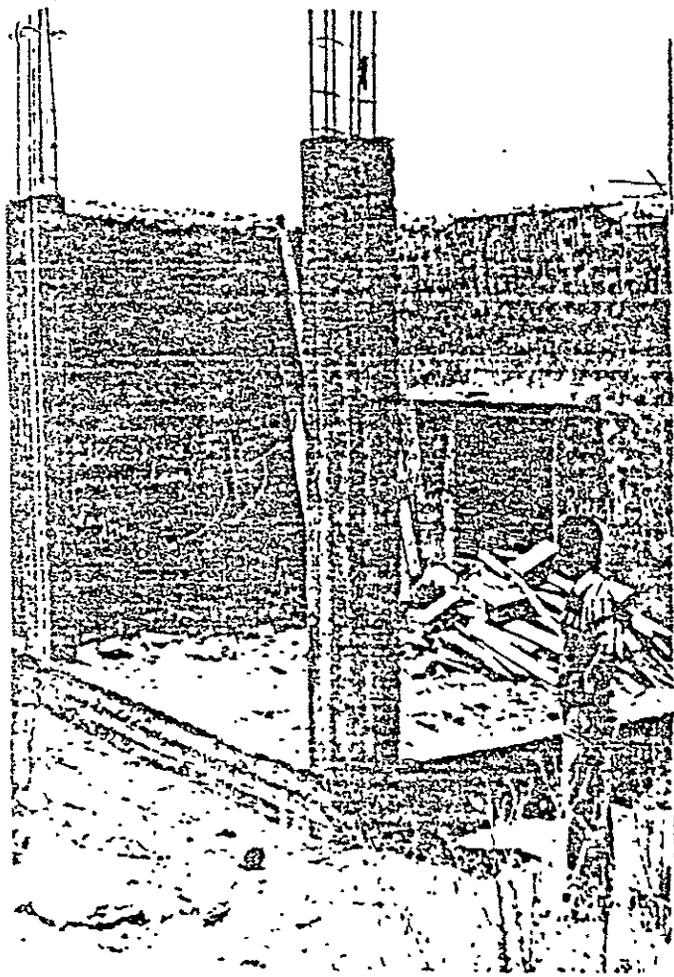


Inspection of May 6.
Digging the foundation
for the classroom extension...

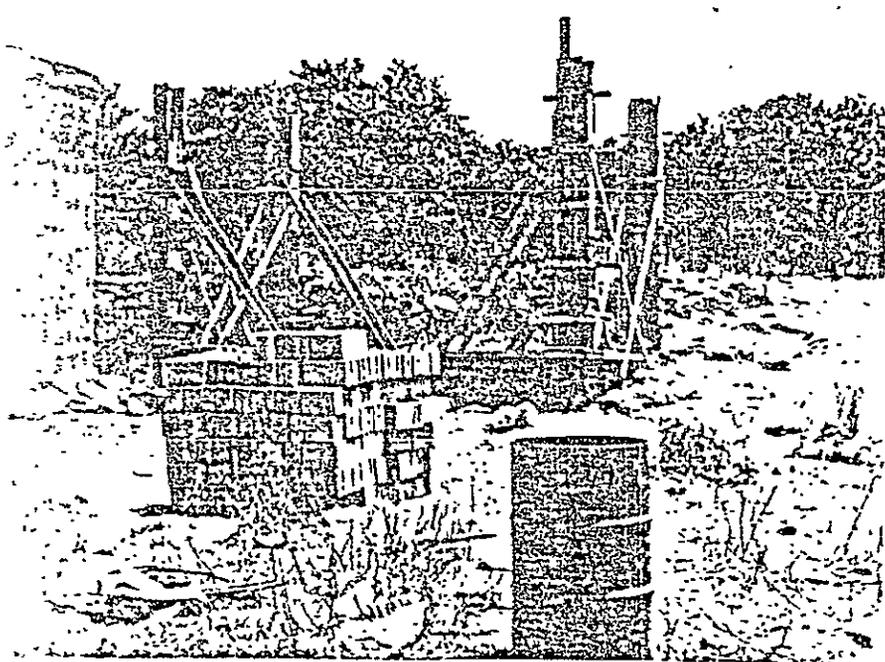


....and for the sanitary bloc.

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Inspection of June 2. Foundation and columns of the new classroom are prepared. The villagers are awaiting delivery that afternoon of cement for the roof



The foundation, columns and septic tanks for the sanitary bloc are completed. Cinder blocks for the walls have been delivered.