THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE for Palestinian Human Rights

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ANNUAL REPORT - 1989

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Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

AAPHR was formed in 1987 out of moral outrage regarding violations of Palestinian human rights. The founders of this non-profit educational corporation recognized that many organizations are advocates of Palestinian human rights. We believed, however, that there may be ways to complement their activities. We wanted to enhance their ability to affect public policy regarding the Middle East. Information flow was perceived as the key issue. We saw a need for a non-ethnic, non-political, information clearinghouse intended to:

(1) increase the awareness of the Palestinian human rights issue by persons who are relatively uninformed, and

(2) cause our national leaders to respond more adequately to the human rights violations experienced by the Palestinian residents of the territories occupied by Israel.

Education through modern communications technology was chosen as our modus operandi. In 1989 we installed a computer-based voice information service (VIS). Persons calling our office from a touch tone phone can select a variety of messages - news from the Occupied Territories, excerpts from human rights reports, information about pertinent organizations/publications/federal officials, a calendar of events, and more. In late 1989 the software was improved, and the much simpler VIS was expanded to include *Viewpoints*.

Our plan is that prominent persons will record on the VIS brief statements of their views regarding our national posture concerning Palestinian human rights.

Excerpts of those *Viewpoints* will be published as Bulletins, which will be distributed to all Congressional offices.

Because the VIS is a public medium, AAPHR is no longer a membership organization. There is, however, still a need for donations. The work of AAPHR continues to be done by volunteers, but there are costs for telephones, postage, computer equipment, and office supplies. Funds for publicity are essential. Our ability to perform is limited only by the amount of contributions we receive.

Our advisory board become our editorial board in 1989, and our board of directors was expanded. Joining us were Jerry Levin, the journalist who was the first American hostage in Lebanon, and Cynthia Johnson, who heads legislative affairs at the Washington office of Women Strike for Peace. The expanded board of directors adopted a Mission statement which states the purpose of AAPHR and its operating principles. Copies of that document, and the financial report for 1989, are available on request.

AAPHR was granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status by IRS in 1989, and we received approval for reduced postage rates for mass mailings.

We are poised to do more. Will you help?