
LEBANON

The plan to force a new partition

by Judith Wyer

Executive Intelligence Review has uncovered a plot involving the Society of Jesus, factions of Israeli intelligence, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and National Security Adviser Richard Allen to partition Lebanon into sectarian mini-states, ending the sovereignty of that war-torn nation.

Allen recently commissioned the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) of Georgetown University, a Jesuit institution, to produce a study weighing the strategic implications of dismembering Lebanon.

Shortly thereafter the worst fighting since the 1976 civil war rocked Lebanon, timed with Haig's arrival in the Middle East. The current violence involving Syrian and Palestinian forces on one side, and Israeli-backed Christian militias on the other, threatens to pull Israel into the conflict. An Israeli invasion on the side of the Lebanese Christians would probably trigger the break of Lebanon into permanent sectarian entities.

Only a week before the eruption of fighting, Allen publicly endorsed Israeli intervention in Lebanon in "hot pursuit" of what he called Soviet-backed Palestinian terrorists. This was the first time that any administration official had openly given Israel the green light to move against Lebanon.

The CSIS connection

A week later, United Nations Ambassador from the United States Jeane Kirkpatrick, herself from Georgetown University and a close collaborator of Haig, warned in a nationwide interview that the "very political fabric" of the Lebanese state is threatening to come apart.

Allen, also a product of Jesuit education, helped found the Center for Strategic and International Studies in the mid-sixties, and has maintained close ties with Georgetown ever since. Haig, who was also Jesuit-trained, is reported to have conferred with various Israeli officials this week on contingencies for a move into Lebanon to counter what Haig called "Syrian brutality" against the Maronite Christians.

Washington sources report that Professor Edward Luttwak of CSIS has been charged with writing the study, which will be entitled "Advantages and Disad-

vantages of Partitioning Lebanon."

Luttwak, widely regarded by the Washington intelligence and military community as "an unstable right-wing Zionist ideologue," was the author of the scenario for a U.S. invasion and occupation of the Persian Gulf oilfields. Both the partition of Lebanon and the infamous invade-the-oilfields scenario share the common policy outlook that national sovereignty—particularly in the developing sector—is a nicety that should be done away with.

During his tour of the Middle East, Haig went out of his way to vocally back up the Lebanese Christians, who are dominated by the Phalangist sect. Phalangist strongman Bashir Gemayal, another product of Jesuit schooling, has been vigorously lobbying for the Reagan administration to back the Phalangist design of carving its own independent mini-state out of a fragmented Lebanon.

Invasion scenario

According to Professor Thomas Ricks of Georgetown University, "there is a strong likelihood now of an Israeli invasion into southern Lebanon." Ricks told colleagues that he foresees an Israeli-allied Christian enclave being carved out of the territory south of the Latani River. In turn, the Phalange would gain control over the northern areas.

The partition scenario for Lebanon would mean a bloody "final solution" to the Palestinian refugee problem, the major obstacle to a lasting overall peace in the Mideast. Lebanon, the last country in the Mideast where the Palestinians have any political freedom, is the headquarters for the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization. A blowup of Lebanon would create mayhem for the 500,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon who do not figure into Georgetown's sectarian blueprint for dividing the country.

Arab sources report that Israel and Syria may have a tacit pact to partition Lebanon. Part of the scenario would be an Israel-backed Christian takeover of the Eastern Bekaa Valley in return for an Israeli evacuation of the Golan Heights, taken from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. This would be conducted within the framework of the Camp David accords, agreements which bypass the Palestinian problem.

European diplomatic sources report that France and the Vatican have gone on a diplomatic mobilization to prevent this scenario from coming to pass, recognizing that it would trigger a wave of Palestinian terror which could jeopardize the flow of Mideast oil. In the last five days, France has deployed two envoys to Syria and Lebanon, urging "restraint and moderation." Lebanese sources report that the Vatican has made a massive intervention through Christian church networks in Lebanon.