
The Lebanon War

Vatican undercutting the Jesuit gameplan?

by Thierry Lalevée

The Roman Catholic Church is deeply involved in the Lebanon crisis and deeply divided over it. On the one side, Pope John Paul II has begun to intervene in an effort to preserve Lebanon's integrity as a sovereign nation and to prevent further slaughter. On the other side, the Jesuit Order and the Order of Malta are working at many levels on behalf of the fragmentation of that nation into an array of backward, cult-ridden, perpetually warring fiefdoms.

The Pope has called on political leaders everywhere to do their utmost to halt the extermination being committed in Lebanon by Israeli troops and their Lebanese-based allies. After having offered to go to Lebanon to directly mediate a peace agreement, on July 9 the Pope sent a message to President Yitzhak Navon of Israel stating that the Vatican has received numerous letters, from Jews as well as others, requesting John Paul to "make every effort to prevent further loss of life, destruction, and suffering." "World opinion is looking upon this tragedy with horror and indignation," the Pope concluded.

As sources close to the Vatican have confirmed, these public statements betoken a deeper level of Vatican-led diplomacy. One such indication came from an article published in the Italian Communist Party daily *L'Unità* on Vatican discussions with Syrian and Lebanese representatives. The Syrian Ambassador to the Holy See was received by the Pope on June 29, while the exiled Lebanese Maronite Christian leader Raymond Edde was present at one of the Pope's numerous masses for Lebanon. The Vatican, continues *L'Unità*, views the Paris-based Edde as a potential President of Lebanon who could oust Falange chief Beshir Gemayel (a fascist pseudo-Christian) and preserve Lebanon's integrity. This option is a subject of discussion between the Vatican and the Reagan administration, reports *L'Unità*, by way of the Vatican's representative in the United States, Monsignor Laghi.

Edde—who claims to *EIR* that he is not aware of any Vatican efforts to renew his role within Lebanon—represents the nationalist, Gaullist tradition in that country.

It is not clear how precisely plans have been developed for a coalition that could put Edde forward as the ecumenically minded nationalist alternative to the current Maronite leadership of the Gemayels. According to Lebanese sources, the key Lebanese Sunni Muslim negotiator in Beirut, Saeb Salam, is a close friend of Edde's.

The Jesuits, the British, and Mitterrand

The Jesuit counterpolicy against reconstituting the Lebanese nation is manifest in France—a chief conduit since the 19th century for both good and evil influences on Lebanon. The Socialist government in Paris, having fully backed Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's evil invasion of Lebanon, is now angling for a role in drawing Arab nations into enforcing the final evacuation of the Palestinians, and in the re-drawing of the Middle East map.

President François Mitterrand is acting at the behest of 1) Great Britain directly, and 2) the "lobbies" associated with the worst elements of the vanished French Empire and Vichy France, many of whose pro-Nazis transformed themselves, like Mitterrand himself, into Socialists. Those "lobbies" have restored the 1916 Sykes-Picot policy of chopping up the Middle East among themselves and Great Britain, at the expense of the region's modernization potential and of U.S. influences. Supervising this strategy are the old French imperial families who head the "lobbies," advised by the Jesuit Order.

Mitterrand's policy controllers are mulling over various drafts of plans for Lebanon's future. In Paris, a gathering of Lebanese bankers recently discussed the idea that the expulsion of the Palestinians from Lebanon might lead to a Palestinian state in Jordan, as advocated by Sharon adviser General Baum; they see this as an opening to invite King Hussein of Jordan to realize his grandfather's dream of annexing the entirety of southern Syria up to Damascus, a region which is predominantly inhabited by Sunni Muslims, leaving the Syrian Alawites to establish their own little state in and around the Port of Latakia.

As we have reported (see *EIR*, June 22 and July 7), these ideas reflect the geopolitical approach voiced by the Paris-based Jesuit Father Riquet and his superiors: a systematic process of "cantonizing" the Middle East. Riquet is a spokesman for groupings such as the Comité d'Aide aux Chrétiens Libanais founded in 1976 by Pierre de Lassus Saint Genies, a former colonial governor of Lebanon. Says Pierre's heir Xavier: "We have a good understanding with the British."

(He recalled, as if to underscore the point, that although his father had led Vichy's troops against the British in the Levant in the early 1940s, the British had

been “fair enough” not to accede to the anti-Nazi Free French of de Gaulle; instead, the British commander, General Wavell, sent them all back to Vichy with weapons.)

The de Lassus family, which doesn't like to be named publicly but is open to discussing its strategic viewpoint, wants to revive *La France traditionnelle* of the imperial and Vichy eras; it controls the Falangist Gemayels, through noble Lebanese families such as the Sursoks, whose last heiress, Yvonne (Lady Cochrane through her marriage to a Scottish aristocrat), is still active: this summer she donated one of her palaces in the Christian Beirut quarter of Achrafiyya as a hospital for the Falangists.

Another branch of the Jesuits' Franco-Lebanese networks is the Comité Catholique, which openly and bitterly opposes the Vatican. The Comité works through the Freemasonic Grande Loge Nationale de France, which traditionally regards Britain as “the Brother Empire” and has been named as a correspondent lodge to the fascist Propaganda-2 Lodge of Italy. The Comité is also associated with various associations more publicly concerned with Lebanon, such as the Comité de Soutien aux Forces de la Résistance Libanaise, led by Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, a veteran of the British intelligence-controlled wing of the World War II French Resistance. It is among these groups that Beshir Gemayel's Falange representative in France, Commandant Malek, receives moral, political, and financial support.

The Order of Malta

Yet these groups in turn are only lower-level extensions of the oligarchic forces who invented European fascism and succeeded for so long in keeping the Middle East in bestial backwardness: the ancient Order of Malta, which originated in the effort to use the Crusades to crush the Arab scientific and technological centers of world culture.

The Maltese Order, in recent history overseen by the ostensibly Catholic Hapsburg dynasty and the Jesuits, had its role in the Lebanese slaughter underscored when the Begin government, which has rejected the offers of other organizations to provide help for the wounded and homes in the Lebanese cities of Sidon and Tyre, ordered Israel's invading armed forces to welcome Prince Lobkowitz, the order's current Grand Master, together with the Order's ambulances, while Israeli authorities were denouncing the Vatican as pro-Arab.

The Order of Malta should provide “international brigades” in Lebanon, the Jesuit Father Riquet proposed a year ago. Now it is said privately in these circles that the Order will have to play a “spiritually guiding role” in the planned multinational force there.

Interview

Raymond Edde on the crisis in Lebanon

Raymond Edde was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1913, the son of Emile Edde and Lody Sursok. He is a Maronite Christian. After his father's death, he was elected Amid, or party chairman, of the National Bloc, and over the years became the symbol of Lebanese opposition to the Syrians. After two assassination attempts against him in 1976 in Beirut, Mr. Edde chose to continue his fight outside Lebanon and exiled himself in Paris. Although he diplomatically denies knowledge of Vatican efforts on his behalf in the interview excerpted below, other sources have confirmed that the Vatican sees him as a preferred candidate for the Lebanese presidency. The interview was conducted on July 13 in Paris by EIR Paris Bureau Chief Sophie Tanapura.

EIR: What do you think of American policy in the Mideast after the departure of Mr. Haig?

Edde: The impression one gets is that Haig was a clear ally of Israel. We all hope that his replacement, George Shultz, will be more fair concerning events in Lebanon. Since the Israeli invasion, several U.N. resolutions—501, 508, 509—continue to be unheeded by Israel. The epitome of it all was the American veto against the French resolution. . . .

Now let's take the case of Syria, and I am on very bad terms with Hafez Assad simply because he had ordered me shot at twice. I must admit that I am getting pretty used to it because I am now at my ninth assassination attempt. . . .

Now, if the aim of the Israelis were to decapitate the Palestinian resistance, they could have launched an Entebbe-style operation against the leadership. They could have kidnapped these gentlemen, one after the other, instead of totally destroying Beirut. In reality, Israel wants to occupy part of Lebanon. And I accuse Israel of having a long-standing agreement with Hafez Assad so that each could take a part of Lebanon. . . . By sending the MIG 21s and 23s, Assad wanted to show that he represented the only force opposing the Israelis. This all occurred over Lebanese territory and nothing happened to Syria. I truly believe that there is a secret agreement between the two countries. The MIGs could have at-