

## Kissinger's Lebanon policy is 'insane, morally dangerous'

by Thierry Lalevée

The refusal of the U.S. administration to take any action whatsoever to stop Syria's bombardment of the city of Beirut, which has led to hundreds of civilian casualties in recent weeks, has drawn angry denunciations from Lebanon's Interim President Gen. Michel Aoun, as well as from French officials who are seeking international support for a peace effort. Jean François Deniau, deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Parliament and a special governmental envoy to Lebanon, placed the blame for the incomprehensible U.S. policy squarely on the shoulders of former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. Returning from a fact-finding trip to Lebanon on April 9, Deniau declared: "U.S. policy on Lebanon goes back to the insane and morally dangerous thesis of Kissinger, who wanted to trade off Syrian neutrality in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations by [giving Syria] Lebanon."

General Aoun, the leader of Lebanon's Christians, vented his amazement at the U.S. treatment of a country which has long been a Western ally, in an April 13 interview with the London *Times* and the Spanish weekly *Diario 16*: "I do not know what is happening with the American administration, but it is certainly harming me. These big people are not so great. They are only big. They cannot tell the truth. Maybe these countries are strong, but their hearts are too small to support their own friends."

Both Deniau and Aoun pointed to the reason for the Syrian bombardment of the Lebanese Christian forces: that Aoun had blockaded the ports through which the Syrian drug traffic moves!

While the Lebanese civil war entered its 15th year on April 13, Syrian shelling has returned Lebanon to an intensity of conflict not seen since the worst days of the crisis. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas traveled to Washington for

meetings with Secretary of State James Baker and other officials on April 11; Baker told him flat-out that the United States would do nothing in Lebanon, and would not back a French call for an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to condemn Syria's actions. The basic hands-off policy line had been laid out on March 20, by Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy secretary at the State Department and former president of Kissinger Associates, who said that "the withdrawal of Syrian troops will not improve, but worsen the situation" in Lebanon.

Should anyone fail to see the footprints of Kissinger in this murderous policy, Henry himself was asked at a press conference of the Trilateral Commission in Paris on April 11, "On Lebanon, Mr. Kissinger, what can you tell us? Do you think the Syrians are or are not assets of the Russians?" Kissinger replied: "No doubt Syria is aggravating the situation in Lebanon. God may punish me, but I rather like [Syrian President] Hafez el Assad. He is a cold analyst of the national interests of his country. He views Syria's aim as making sure no one becomes dominant in Lebanon. As an American I think we should be quiet if we are not willing to back up our preferences. Moral indignation will not persuade Assad."

### Part of the 'New Yalta'

The U.S. support for Syria is part and parcel of the "New Yalta" deal which Kissinger and his friends are engineering with Moscow, and which will be America's foreign policy in the coming period, once the long-awaited "foreign policy review" is completed. This has come increasingly into focus through articles and commentaries in the European press. For example, the French conservative daily *Le Figaro* has reported on several occasions, that the main brain behind the "foreign policy review" is National Security Adviser Brent

Scowcroft, a former director of Kissinger Associates. At the Trilateral Commission meeting in Paris, Kissinger had to stress repeatedly that he was *not* a member of the administration—clearly a painful admission for his well-renown bloated ego.

A few days later, the Bush administration had to make public a statement, circulated earlier through diplomatic circles, according to which Kissinger's plan for carving up Central Europe was *not* administration policy. At the Paris press conference, Kissinger had to fend off a systematic assault of questions accusing him of planning "Yalta 2" at the expense of Europe, and querying his role as chairman of a "secret society," the Trilateral Commission. This followed an April 5 policy analysis article in *Le Figaro* by editorialist Pierre Bocev, titled: "U.S.-Soviet Union; The Temptation of a New Yalta." In the article, which was seen as representing the thinking of top political and military circles in France, Bocev denounced the process leading from Kissinger's "private mission" to Moscow last fall, to James Baker's endorsement of Kissinger's European plan earlier in the month, and how the "American and Soviet landlords" want to divide and control the "European house."

Such denunciations of American foreign policy have not been heard in European capitals for quite some time, and represent a major problem for an administration whose President is making the headlines for having lied about the extent of his involvement in Irangate.

### **Syria's drug trafficking**

While Kissinger's friends wheel and deal with Moscow, using the Mideast as a pawn in their geopolitical machinations, look at what is actually at stake in Washington's refusal to support General Aoun's national war of liberation against Syria. At the precise point that Washington is proclaiming a renewed war against drugs, it is covering up for some of the biggest drug smugglers in the world!

France's Deniau charged, "The eruption of fighting in Beirut recently followed the decision of General Aoun to close the illegal ports through which drugs were transiting. The United States condemns drugs and terrorists worldwide, and the cultivation of poppies is making possible, among other things, the financing of terrorist groups." He told an interviewer with the *Journal du Dimanche*, "The Americans know that Syria and the militia rake in huge profits from the poppy fields in the Bekaa Valley, where terrorist training camps are situated. . . . The United States condemns drugs and terrorism worldwide, but makes an exception for the Syrians in Lebanon."

General Aoun, in his interview with the London *Times*, hit the same theme: "To those nations which are putting pressure on us to let the traffic of drugs and weapons go freely, we ask them: Please send your consuls back to Lebanon, let them give us visas in 24 hours and stop denying them to us, saying that we are a country of terrorists and drug

dealers. American spokesmen are telling me to dissolve the militias. But at the same time, they want me to keep the illegal ports open."

The commitment of Syria's Hafez al Assad to continue occupying Lebanon, does not merely stem from his ideological commitments to a Greater Syria. It is directly based on practical economic and financial interests and the multibillion-dollar drug trade, which has developed since the end of the 1970s under Syrian control in the Bekaa Valley. And it is no secret that monies from the drug trafficking go directly into the pockets of the Assad family, and of the leading Syrian military officers, ultimately financing the presence of more than 45,000 Syrian occupation troops in the country.

Cultivated in the Bekaa, opium is now refined in no fewer than 10 heroin laboratories operating under Syrian Army control. From there, it goes to Europe through the well-known Bulgarian connection. Likewise, as indicated by Interpol, Damascus has become the transshipment place for cocaine coming from South America, which is then sent to Lebanon and from there to the rest of the Middle East.

And this is being done through the very same illegal ports around Beirut which were closed by Aoun's army.

Yet the U.S. State Department urged Aoun on April 7, as a "good will gesture," to stop blockading the ports!

Contrary to the State Department's line, the Syrian role in international terrorism is also well known and documented. Is it necessary to remind Washington that Ahmed Jibril, the brains behind the Dec. 21, 1988 Pan Am Flight 103 massacre, is a Syrian intelligence captain? Now, the escalated conflict in Lebanon will lead to more atrocities, as Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Druze sect, threatened on April 12 that any direct help to the Christians from outside Lebanon will "endanger the life of the 15 million Christians throughout the Middle East"!

### **What next?**

Despite the American collusion with Syria, General Aoun's nationalist leadership has gathered strong support, and his liberation war has enough support to continue, even though tactical compromises will have to be carried out to relieve the local population from weeks of daytime and nighttime bombardments. On April 5, the French government decided to send two ships, the *Rance* and the *Penhors*, carrying medical supplies and fuel. However symbolic and ill-organized, the gesture indicated that Paris, as well as some other European capitals, will not stand idle.

Likewise, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry announced on April 12 that it will increase its military supplies to Aoun's army. In recent weeks, this has included not only matériel for the ground forces, but also some naval equipment which gives Aoun greater mobility. He is also known to possess 138 mm artillery guns which, should the need arise, can directly hit the outskirts of Damascus. That is enough of a deterrent to force Damascus to tread carefully.