

stipulates that some of the prisoners will be granted amnesty and will not have to serve the rest of their sentences....This does not apply to those imprisoned for spying, or, to Free Masons, Bahais, and saboteurs in the northern region.

...The decision excludes from the amnesty spies, Bahais, Free Masons, child kidnappers, criminals imprisoned for immoral traffic, sabotage, and arms trading in the northern region....In accordance with the decision, 2,835 prisoners are to be released tomorrow morning.

Commenting on the decision, RCC member Izzat Ibrahim stated that the decision stems from the aims of the Baath Party and its humanist and socialist theory. The minister said that after 10 years, the 17 July Revolution has created deep changes in the Iraqi social structure which are reflected in all aspects of Iraqi life. The revolution, he added, also created deep changes among the strata of society and affected the lives of citizens who suffered from backwardness and who harmed themselves by committing various crimes.

Zionist Agent Abu Nidal Spouts Anti-Arab Hysteria

The excerpted remarks below are taken from a Middle East Magazine interview with Abu Nidal, the renegade PLO member who is now a leading dupe of Israeli intelligence connected to international terrorist Carlos and the Red Brigades.

...We would like to emphasize, however, that anyone who tries to take a hand in our affairs will have his hand cut off.

...I do know that when Arafat states that extremist Palestinian fringe groups could be connected with the Red Brigades or other terrorist organizations, there is no doubt that he is trying to draw attention to me and our forces.

...This is no more than an international campaign led by Arafat and Sadat, supported by Saudi money and Israeli collaboration, to discredit us and those who support us....

We respect martyr Wadei Haddad for he was a great revolutionary fighter but this does not necessarily mean that we agree with his ideas and activities. As to comrade Carlos, who fought side by side with martyr Haddad, I want to emphasize that ours is a large organization with a progressive and popular political line. Of course, we also fight on many fronts and believe that armed struggle is the most important one. But of equal importance for us is mobilization inside and outside the occupied territories. The enemy has often admitted the strength of our presence in the occupied territories....

But if our first priority is the struggle against the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories — and our progress here can be seen from the rockets which rained onto Begin's residential district — our next priority is the destruction of the reactionary regimes in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. There is also the direct offensive against Saudi Arabia, as shown by the destruction of the Abqaiq (oilfield)....

We support any action directed against American imperialism, but we don't have accurate information. Besides, the consequences of these groups' (urban guerrilla groups of Europe — ed.) actions must be judged by their own people. We cannot be the tutors of any other organization or movement.

Lebanon's Army Moves To Restore Sovereignty

In a major move to restore national sovereignty to his war-torn nation, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis ordered a small battalion of the newly reconstituted Lebanese Army to move into the southern region — an area which, since the 1975-76 civil war, has been under the control of breakaway Christian militias and their allies in the Israeli military.

According to Lebanese government reports, the army, enroute from its Beirut headquarters was forced to stop short at the village of Kawkaba, approximately eight miles from the Israeli border, because of heavy artillery and mortar fire from Israeli-backed Christian militias in the area. But, the Lebanese Army Command has directly accused Israel of impeding the army's advance by firing shells from across the border.

The crucial decision on the part of the Beirut government to restore sovereignty and stability to the whole country indicates not only a test for Lebanon's

survival as a nation but represents as well an important test for the United States and its relations with Israel. It is well known that the United States officially supports the deployment of the army southward. During an Aug. 1 White House press conference, a State Department spokesman said that the United States fully supports the "reactivation of the Lebanese Army and its aims to restore national sovereignty." This statement is a direct rebuke to Israeli claims that the newly formed army consisted of "Syrian soldiers in disguise."

Underscoring the importance of cutting the Israeli-Christian connection — the only impediment to peace in the region — President Elias Sarkis has requested western aid to persuade Israel to end its support for the Christian rebels led by Saad Haddad and Sami Chidiac. According to the *New York Times* Sarkis has already sent his United Nations delegate to New York to confer with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on the possibility

of holding a Security Council debate on the issue.

At an Aug. 3 United Nations press conference, Lebanon's UN ambassador Ghassan Tuani informed the press that Kurt Waldheim has sent an urgent letter to Israeli Prime Minister Begin concerning the present situation in the south. He then said that by deploying the army to the south, the Lebanese government is trying to "assert the national will of Lebanon and to restore full sovereignty to the country under the conditions of UN Resolution 425."

That resolution, enacted after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in retaliation for a March 6 terror raid on Tel Aviv allegedly carried out by the PLO, called for the phased withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and their replacement with UN troops as well as the restoration of Lebanon's sovereign rights. In addition, the resolution calls for the disarming of all extra-legal militias, Arab and Christian combined. So far the Palestinian Liberation Organization has complied with the UN mandate. Remaining are Falangist militias headquartered in the Marjayoun area and ultra-left extremist Palestinian groups who are linked to a certain faction in Iraqi intelligence.

Referring again to Resolution 425, Mr. Tuani said that at stake is the "credibility of the UN Security Council and its ability to implement decisions and fulfill obligations." He then said that the "international community has experienced deep concern" over the situation in the country and made it a point that Sarkis had been in touch with all western ambassadors to support the current initiatives. As one of the major sponsors of Resolution 425, the U.S. has been asked to exert pressure on the Israelis to stay out of the region.

The Danger of Israeli Intervention

The danger of Israeli intervention into Lebanon under a "save the Christians" pretext remains a live option. Two weeks ago, during a press conference Israeli Prime Minister Begin said that Israel would not stand by and allow the Christians of Lebanon to be massacred. "Six

million Jews you never helped. Beware what is happening in Lebanon," he said. Begin referred to continued fighting in Beirut between Syrian peace keeping forces and Israeli-allied Christian forces led by National Liberal Party leader Camille Chamoun and those forces linked to fascist Falange leader Pierre Gemayel. The Lebanese government later announced that it intended to send the army into the south to clean out the rebel Christian militias. Overtly disturbed, the Israeli Cabinet released an official set of conditions to the Lebanese Army after its July 30 Cabinet meeting. The conditions — which amount to a declaration of Israeli annexation of Southern Lebanon — demand that the Lebanese army: first, stay out of pro-Christian strongholds; second, continue the "open borders" policy which has given Christian militias access to Israeli weapons and supplies under the pretext of "trade and business," and finally, assure the safety of pro-Israeli Lebanese Christian commanders Haddad and Chidiac.

In response, the Sarkis government issued a strong statement announcing that the Lebanese Army would be going south to restore order and that on its arrival on southern soil, the rebel Christian leaders were to return immediately to Beirut. "Failure to do so," said the government spokesman, "would result in their court martial."

The Christian shelling of the Army was Haddad's reply to the government. In a press conference, he stated like his Israeli backers that the army was a Syrian front.

According to press reports, the Lebanese Army has the backing of the population which thronged all along their route to the south, cheering joyously and strewing flowers in their path. According to Ambassador Tuani, "the army has acquired the full support of the population, even of those in the south." The question remains whether the U.S. is willing to back up its support for the re-establishment of Lebanon's national sovereignty by using its diplomatic muscle to contain Israel.

—Mary Jane Coates

Britain 'Warns' Fukuda

Early this week, a member of the Japanese radical "rightist" cult attempted to ram his car into Takeo Fukuda's limousine in protest of the Fukuda government's decision to fire General Kurisu, the head of Japan's Joint Chiefs of Staff and a leading anti-Soviet spokesman. The dismissal of Kurisu, who since his appointment as head of the Joint Chiefs has taken a leading role in promoting a Brzezinski-style "NATO type" military alliance between the United States, the Peoples Republic of China, and Japan, removed a major block to the improvement of Japanese-Soviet relations.

The act of the rightist, a member of the small group called the Nihon-Kakushin-To (Japan Radical Party) followed a classic pattern of rightist terrorist "etiquette" by which the victim is given a warning as a prelude to his assassination. This technique was repeatedly used by

British-linked rightist cults in the 1930s to murder a key group of responsible Japanese leaders.

The threat to the lives of Fukuda and other Japanese leaders from British-run terrorist groups is a real and present danger. The decision of the Japanese government to back Europe's plan for a new international monetary system to replace the International Monetary Fund is a virtual act of war against the City of London.

British See "Yellow Peril"

This week the British press, led by the *Daily Telegraph*, has demanded that Japan adopt a low-growth economic policy. The *Telegraph* has an editorial entitled "The Yellow Peril Revisited," endorsed a plan by top British economist George Allen which called for the