

Carving up Lebanon: Ariel Sharon and Hafez Assad go in for the kill

by Nancy Coker

If Henry Kissinger and his friends in Lebanon and Moscow have their way in the coming weeks, Lebanon, as a nation, will cease to exist.

On a hush-hush visit to Beirut Jan. 27, Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon issued an ultimatum to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel via Gemayel's father Pierre. If Lebanon continues to resist Israel's demand that it cede its sovereignty to Israel, Amin Gemayel will not long survive as President of Lebanon, Sharon warned. Sharon also informed Gemayel that Lebanon had to choose between Israel and the United States, which is backing the Lebanese in their refusal to bow to Israel. Should Lebanon choose the United States, Sharon threatened, Israel would "leave the Christians to their fate." That fate, according to a just-released Israeli Foreign Ministry background policy paper, would be a new cycle of "terrorism and violence."

Sharon had other bombshells to drop. He announced that he was "offering" Syria the right to maintain "listening posts" in Lebanon as part of a mutual agreement whereby Israel too would maintain bases in Lebanon. Sharon's declaration was in open defiance of White House opposition to these listening posts. It was also a complete departure from his earlier contention that Syria must leave Lebanon.

According to Israeli sources, Sharon's announcement meant that a deal had been struck between Israel and Syria to partition Lebanon, an arrangement outlined late last year at a secret meeting in New York between Sharon and Rifaat Assad, the brother of Syrian President Hafez Assad. Syria would acquire the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, satisfying its long-standing Greater Syria designs, and Israel would annex southern Lebanon—dubbed by many the "North Bank"—and the Golan Heights, taken by Israel from Syria in 1967.

If it is not halted by concerted action from the French government, the White House, and Middle East leaders, the renewed violence and sectarian warfare now going on in Lebanon will lead to massacres on a par with those that occurred seven years ago in Cambodia under Henry Kissinger's and Pol Pot's direction. In addition to their agreement to carve up and annex whole chunks of Lebanese territory,

Syria and Israel are also converging on a policy of genocide against Lebanon's—and the region's—Palestinians, in league with Club of Rome agents in Lebanon and Jordan. Early this year, France's *Le Figaro* newspaper warned that an "Armenia 1917 solution" was shaping up for the Palestinians. A Sharon-backed member of a Lebanese fascist group called the Guardians of the Cedars announced in Israel last year that his group would find a new home for Lebanon's 900,000 Palestinians "six feet under the ground."

Breaking the fix

Sharon's announcement of the Syria-Israel partition deal made leading Lebanese politicians, many of whom have been eager collaborators with Sharon up to now, suddenly realize that a fix was in that would spell the end of Lebanon as a country.

In an interview with the Lebanese paper *As-Safir*, Pierre Gemayel reacted violently to Sharon's thuggery. Gemayel called upon Lebanon's feuding Christian and Muslim factions to drop their differences and avoid being pulled under Israel's control by Sharon. The Israelis, charged an enraged Gemayel, "are doing their best to drag us with them. It is not in our interest to divide Lebanon. The Muslims must understand this because they and we will lose Lebanon."

Pierre Gemayel's interview with *As-Safir* was unusual, in that *As-Safir* is a Muslim-owned, leftist newspaper, long at odds with the Gemayel clan. That Gemayel chose *As-Safir* as his mouthpiece indicates the terror that has gripped war-torn Lebanon as it faces what could be imminent dissolution.

Echoing Gemayel, former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun, a long-time British intelligence agent, mafioso, and friend of Sharon, told Lebanon's *L'Orient le Jour* that "Sharon and the Israelis are playing a double game together with the Syrians against Lebanon. The Israeli defense minister is giving proof that Israel is looking exclusively after its own interests in Lebanon. This will have very bad consequences on negotiations between Israel and Lebanon."

Antoine Fattal, Lebanon's chief negotiator in peace talks with Israel, was even harsher: he said that Israel's actions in

Lebanon were no surprise, in view of the fact that it was the fiftieth anniversary of the rise of Adolf Hitler to power. Fattal received an angry response from his counterpart, Israeli chief negotiator and Foreign Ministry Director David Kimche. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned that if Lebanon did not accede to Israel's demands, "terrorism" would break out all over the country.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem said in a press conference that if Israel persisted in demanding bases in southern Lebanon, Lebanon would demand bases in northern Israel. "Whatever Israel wants of us, we want of them," Salem stated. "You want bases? We want bases. You want guarantees? We want guarantees. You want security? We want security. You want rights? We want rights."

Salem stressed that Lebanon was no longer interested in cooperating with Sharon in expanding the region's money-laundering, gambling, and drug-trafficking activities. "For too long we have been the playground of the Middle East," said Salem. "We want to transform the values of Lebanon from a valueless mercantilism that prevailed before when Lebanon was thought of as a club, as a casino. Well, we don't want a casino anymore."

A telling omission

In the eyes of Henry Kissinger and his British mentors, Lebanon already no longer exists. The February issue of *Middle East* magazine, a glossy British intelligence printout from London, omitted Lebanon's name in a listing of Middle East nations. Analysts in the Middle East read this as a signal for the planned elimination of those Lebanese leaders and groups opposed to seeing their nation carved up and ultimately removed from the map. According to Israeli sources, "a bloodbath against Sharon's opponents in Lebanon" is in the making.

"It is not only the Palestinians who are targeted," commented one Lebanese journalist. "We Christians, too, are to be liquidated. Last week, Libya's Qaddafi, who along with Syria is in bed with Sharon, gave an interview to the French press and said that there was no room for Lebanon's Christians in the Middle East, that they must either convert to Islam or face the consequences."

Sharon's ultimatum to Lebanon to choose between Israel and the United States opened many eyes, for it cut through the myth that Israel is America's only reliable ally in the region. With Begin and Sharon at the helm in Israel, quite the contrary is the case. At the end of January, Sharon shocked the world when he invited the Soviet Union to enter into direct talks with Israel on the Middle East. Sharon justified his invitation to Moscow by saying that Israel must do everything possible to sabotage President Reagan's Sept. 1 peace plan and to counter U.S. pressure on Israel to get out of Lebanon.

Sharon timed his playing of the Soviet card to coincide with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's trip to the United

States. In his meetings with President Reagan, Mubarak reiterated the urgency of effecting an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. Mubarak predicted "disaster" if withdrawal was not achieved posthaste.

Sharon's overture to Moscow and his announcement of a partition pact with Syria are the fruits of a secret relationship which, as *EIR* has reported, has been growing between Israel and the Soviet Union over the past two years, aimed against the United States. This Soviet-Israel axis, now made manifest, enjoys the tacit backing of Great Britain.

If President Reagan succumbs to Sharon's blackmail and agrees against his better judgment to condone Israel's partition scenarios, it is only a matter of time until the United States is finished in the Middle East. If, however, Reagan cuts through the pressure he is under—from Secretary of State George Shultz, Henry Kissinger's inside man in the Reagan administration, as well as from Tel Aviv—and moves to check Israel by cutting off all aid, as President Eisenhower did in 1956 during the Suez crisis, U.S. credibility and influence in the region have the potential to be restored.

Although the President is said to be sympathetic to an Eisenhower-style approach, Shultz is dissuading him on the specious grounds that such firmness would only make Israel more intransigent. On Jan. 30, Shultz stated emphatically that he had no intention of restraining Israel. "I don't think that forcing people to do things that they believe is against their interest produces lasting solutions to problems," he said.

Among other things, Shultz's remarks came as a blunt rebuff to Egypt, whose internal stability is threatened by Washington's continued renegeing on its responsibilities in the region.

The Kissinger connection

Most Lebanese hate Henry Kissinger for his role in destroying Lebanon. What few Lebanese, and Arabs for that matter, understand is *why* Lebanon is being destroyed, *why* genocide is slated to take place, or *why* the United States is acting in the irresponsible, suicidal way it is acting. The answer lies in the strategic gameplan for the region as a whole pursued in Moscow and London, a plan to undermine nation-state after nation-state in the Middle East—including Israel—as a step toward realizing a new neo-Malthusian, post-industrial world order.

One thing that may help disrupt this scenario for Lebanon is a growing suspicion among factions inside Syria that Sharon and the KGB-British crowd around Yuri Andropov have doublecrossed the Assad brothers and will in the next weeks or months get rid of them with either a new Syria-Israel war or a Muslim Brotherhood coup. These Syrian factions, if they so choose to act on their suspicions, could break the Syria-Israel fix. And if Sharon is forced to resign as a result of the findings of Israel's state inquiry into the September Beirut massacre, a descent into hell may be averted.