

no uncertain terms of their unalterable opposition to the role of Syria in Lebanon.

The Syrians are providing full support for the right. Syrian units attacked the left both in Lebanon's north and south today, while covertly abetting the Tel Zaatar attack. Not willing to face the political consequences of the fall of Tel Zaatar, however, Assad has been trying to talk the Palestinians into surrender. Assad's political fears are well-grounded. Iraqi News Agency today reports that nine Syrian pilots have just been executed for refusing to fight in Lebanon; in an interview last weekend with the French newspaper *Le Monde*, Saddam Hussein estimated that all it would take to get rid of Assad would be to "announce a new government over the radio."

The litmus test for the future of the Lebanon crisis revolves around the battered Palestinian refugee camp at Tal Zaatar in eastern Beirut. The huge camp, under attack for three weeks by Syria and the right, has become a symbol of the civil war. Its fall to the rightists, Palestinians say, will trigger an uncontrollable explosion throughout Lebanon dwarfing even the present carnage, and it is thought that Tal Zaatar has become the "tripwire" for an Iraqi or Soviet intervention into Lebanon. Since July 8, Arafat and Soviet Ambassador Soldatov have met twice in Lebanon, and there are reports that Arafat is on his way to Moscow for further talks.

The heaviest fighting of the week occurred in the region between Beirut and Tripoli, the northern port. Leftists launched a military offensive from Tripoli toward the heart of the Christian rightist stronghold, in order to draw rightist forces away from Tal Zaatar and Beirut. But an estimated 10,000 Christian militiamen, backed by three fresh battalions of Syrian troops, repulsed the leftist attack and are now driving toward Beirut. A second Syrian column is heading for Tripoli from the northeast. The casualty toll in this fighting in the north was immense, with hundreds of dead and dying lying unattended along the edges of the battlefields. Over 20 villages and towns were taken and retaken in three days of unprecedented carnage. Should the Syrian figures of nearly 4000 slaughtered prove correct, it will push the total dead in 15 months of civil war to over 35,000, with perhaps 100,000 wounded — a warning to the entire world of the slaughter perpetrated by Mr. Kissinger's Rand wars.

NSIPS Exclusive Translation

Le Monde Interviews Iraqi

Vice President Saddam Hussein

July 10 (NSIPS) — The following interview by French correspondent Eric Rouleau with Iraqi Vice President Saddam Hussein appeared in the July 3 French daily, Le Monde. It begins with a statement by Mr. Hussein.

All these Arab regimes which equivocate and intrigue in the wings to favor the destruction of the Palestinian

resistance and the Lebanese national movement will pay dearly, very dearly, for their treason. These regimes will fall one after the other. Hereditary monarchies or dictatorships resulting from coups d'etats will benefit from no popular legitimacy. Forced to progressively lower the mask in order to effectively carry out their dishonorable action in Lebanon, they will be swept out by their own people.

The influx into our capital (for the 'popular Arab congress' held in Baghdad 26-29 of June) of some 200 representatives of all the patriotic and progressive formations throughout the Arab world, their decision to form a united front, is not due to chance. Baghdad has become the rallying point of all popular forces who do not accept and will never accept the fait accompli that they are trying to impose on us in Lebanon. The Arab people are here and now determined to give themselves new leaders. The imperialists and reactionaries of our regimes have sown discord; they will harvest the hurricane which will carry them away."

He says he doesn't have enough information on the Saudi and Kuwaiti attempt to reconcile Syria and Egypt, but he says: "Agreement between Arabs in itself is a noble objective. But we are not duped by the intrigues being prepared to give Syria all latitude to pursue their criminal undertaking in Lebanon."

He is harder yet on (Syrian President) Assad: "A power hungry megalomaniac, as his career shows since the beginning."

—But Assad made himself the champion of the Palestinian cause...

"If you were an assiduous reader of detective books, you would better understand the ineluctable evolution of a man devoured by crazy ambitions who, step-by-step is driven to a crime, then to a second, then to a third, destined to 'cover' the first. Assad is plunging into the blood bath that he provoked because he can no longer pull back. He began by stretching out his hand to the Americans and reactionary Arabs, who filled it up with dollars and pieces of gold, he then allied himself with (Jordanian) King Hussein before making a common cause with the Lebanese right, whose objective is to liquidate the left and the Palestinian movement. He dreams of a confederation which would regroup Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and a puppet Palestinian state of which he would be the patron. Political means having failed, he took recourse to constraint, then to violence, and finally to massacres. He has now attained the point of no-return.

"The regime of Assad is condemned to disappear in short order. You know the visceral attachment the Syrian people have to the Palestinian cause. His army will not tolerate shedding Arab blood. Assad has already lost power. All that remains is the radio proclamation announcing the installation of a new regime..."

—But couldn't the Syrian army win maybe? In 1970 in King Hussein's army, 60 percent Palestinian, did not turn against the monarchy as some said would happen.

"That parallel does not correspond to reality. The conjuncture in Lebanon today is totally different from that which prevailed in Jordan in 1970). The majority of the Lebanese people fight on the side of the Palestinian resistance. King Hussein had at least for his benefit, the pretext that he was protecting his kingdom, his own existence, against the action of the fedayin, who were camping on his territory. But by

what argument will Assad be able to convince opinion that his aggression against the Palestinians established in a neighboring country is justified?

—But some Lebanese and Palestinians do not rule out a victory for Syria, based on the regional and international balance of forces which is not in their favor...

"I do not deny that the conspiracy has powerful international ramifications, that the progressive-Palestinian camp is in an inferior position. But history witnesses that the balance of forces becomes a secondary factor when a people has decided to fight for their independence, the heroic resistance of the Algerian people for their independence, the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese people, unfolded in the first years in analogous conditions. Even the socialist camp doubted the chances of success of these national liberation movements in the beginning. Nothing is secure, nothing is definitive in analogous cases. The fall of this or that Palestinian camp will only be a lost battle. The war will continue and be won by the fedayin and the Lebanese left..."

—In spite of the passivity of the USSR and the USA?

"First of all, it is insane that there exists a Soviet-American 'collusion.' The U.S. is masterminding the plot (in Lebanon). They are as interested as their Mideast partners in destroying the Palestinian movement to open the way for the capitulation of the Arab world to the Zionist entity. Do you think that the American leaders would have dared crossed their arms like they are doing today if some Arab state had dared to invade another Arab country? The goal of the operation in Lebanon is not only to regulate the Arab-Israeli conflict according to the wishes of Washington, but also to spread American hegemony in the region to the detriment of the progressive forces and their Soviet friends.

"As for the USSR, she has made known her disapproval of the Syrian military intervention. Maybe her close relations with Damascus embarrass her to the point of preventing her from expressing herself in a more clear and vigorous manner. But our exchanges with the Soviet leaders — and I prefer not to enlarge on this subject — permit us to maintain that their position is at the opposite of that of the American leaders."

—What do you think of the attitude of France?

"Our relations with France are, in general, good, and we wish to develop them in all areas, while we are not unaware of the existence in the heart of the government in Paris of a pro-American current which influences the politics of this government in a negative and nefast sense for French-Arab relations. That said, we have the sentiment that the attitude of Paris is evolving in the good direction."

He would not elaborate on the latter point. But his entourage said he was particularly impressed by two gestures of Chirac: Chirac consulted him by phone on the evening of the Assad visit; and the French-Syrian communique was given beforehand to the Iraqi ambassador in Paris, Windaoui, who found it satisfactory. Faced with a conjuncture of such rare complexity which risks provoking chain reaction explosions in the Mideast, Iraq follows a policy of firmness allied with prudence. A good part of their army is on the Syrian border. But Saddam says:

"Our troops are destined to fight Israel and not a brother country."

—But doesn't their presence there have something to do with the Lebanese crisis?

"I will leave it up to you to draw yourself the conclusions that appear logical to you."

NSIPS Exclusive Interviews Reveal:

Why Sadat Is In Trouble

July 10 (NSIPS) — David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank, have demanded that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat implement their proposed plan for the destruction of the Egyptian industry to guarantee the repayment of the country's \$14 billion national debt. The IMF has specifically demanded that Sadat convert the Egyptian economy into slave labor farm camps.

Long-time IMF agent Dr. Fuad Sherif, who at present holds the post of Egyptian Minister of State Development and Administration, declared in a June 25 interview with the Middle East Economic Digest, that "Life in Cairo should be made so unpleasant that people will move out. Living allowances should be made available for those who move to the provinces and Cairo should be left as it is. It makes economic nonsense to invest more in the infrastructure of Cairo and for this reason the proposed underground would be a huge white elephant. One has to remove a huge chunk of people and restore an equilibrium between demand and supply by removing excess demand."

Fuad Sherif, who was thrown out of the national planning Department by the late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, has made a career as a Third World consultant for the United Nations, and is openly attempting to make Egypt an example for the rest of the underdeveloped countries, according to one IMF official. Sherif is also trying to teach the Egyptian government methods of "decentralization" in order to impose an "open door policy," the official said. However, as an IMF official said this week, Sadat is facing strong opposition for the decentralization of the industry, by Egyptian industrialists.

Without any political and economic support for their proposals, the IMF and Egyptian authorities have reluctantly been forced to announce that the introduction of the floating of the Egyptian pound will be "indefinitely delayed," the Financial Times reported this week. The decision produced waves of panic among Egypt's Western creditors and in the World Bank. West German bankers report that Robert McNamara's crew immediately put together a commission of economic advisors, from France, Britain, West Germany and the Bank itself to "monitor" the Egyptian debt on monthly basis, and make sure that the \$175 million monthly debt service payments are collected.

The following dialogue took place over the phone, with an IMF official in Egypt. After being informed of Dr. Sherif's remarks in the Middle East Economic Digest, the official was asked to give a definitive statement on how the IMF plans to solve the Egyptian economic crisis. His comments were the following:

"There is a great resistance to the IMF's proposal for the decentralization of the Egyptian economy. The reason is that prices of industrial products and agricultural products are going to be higher. Secondly, most of the Egyptian industry is based on Soviet parts and products. You can see there what the pressures are. The only way that Sadat can overcome his opposition is by closing down those industries that oppose the decentralization, which is one of the IMF's fundamental