

Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

The 'mosaic' of Father Riquet

A Jesuit spells out his version of a plan for carving up Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, and Iraq—using Swiss cantons as a model.

What does Israeli Minister of the Interior Joseph Burg have in common with Henry Kissinger, Prof. Bernard Lewis of Princeton University, and the Prophet Isaiah?

According to the French-based Reverend Father Michel Riquet, S.J., all three find agreeable his plan to carve up the Middle East into theocratic "nations" organized along the model of the Swiss cantons.

Under circumstances less extreme than the Israeli onslaught into Lebanon or the orchestrated spread of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Middle East, one might be tempted to shrug off such proposals as the fantasies of an oligarchical elite that has lost touch with strategic reality. Unfortunately, such discussions have become so commonplace as to warrant closer scrutiny.

No matter how much a Father Riquet might now claim to be appalled by the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini, it remains a fact that the barbaric regime in Iran is the outcome of the experiment in theocratic rule concocted by British national Bernard Lewis and Lord Caradon, the foremost authority on Jerusalem for British intelligence, among others.

At his Jesuit seminary on the Rue de Grenelle in Paris June 11, Father Riquet described to *EIR* how his idea for a "global solution" in the Middle East had come to him during one of his many

visits to Switzerland.

"The West Bank could have a status like the Swiss canton, in association with Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. In Lebanon, the Christians, Druses, and Shiites would each also have their own canton." What about Kurds? "Yes, we should also have a Kurdish canton, which would be partly in Iran, partly in Iraq."

"My friends in Lebanon," he said, referring to the Israeli proxy Maj. Saad Haddad, Christian militia leader in the South, and to Bashir Gemayel of the fascist Falange, "call this 'the United States of the Levant.'"

Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon is known to be operating on precisely this sort of blueprint for destroying the nation-states of the Middle East, and installing a Maronite Christian entity in southern Lebanon, a Shiite entity in Tyre, and a Falange entity in and around Beirut (see *EIR*, June 22).

Father Riquet first came to *EIR*'s attention in April 1981, when he co-signed an appeal on behalf of Lebanese Christians with Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, a World War II leader of the British-run "Alliance" segment of the French resistance.

What made the appeal interesting was its suggestion that the evil Knights of Malta "organize an international brigade to liberate Lebanon." A member of the Order of the British Empire, Riquet also col-

laborates with the Grande Loge Nationale de France, the only Masonic lodge in France officially recognized by the mother lodge of England.

Like most representatives of the European oligarchy, Father Riquet expresses a thorough disdain for the United States.

"A lot of Lebanese Christians view American policy in Lebanon with suspicion. The United States is accused of having tried to use Lebanon to resolve the Palestinian problem by favoring Christian emigration."

Riquet's proposal has been in the public domain since the publication of his article in the June 1980 issue of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. There, he wrote that "the Middle East has always been a mosaic of different ethnic and religious communities," but a "global solution" is possible "inspired by the model of the Helvetic Republic." In Switzerland, each canton is a sovereign state, organizing its own law-enforcement, education, and participation in the defense and diplomatic representation of the confederation.

In a bloody caricature of this model, the canton formula "would enable the Christians of Lebanon, just like the Druses and the Sunni, Shiite, or Alawite Muslims to each have their own canton. . . . The same formula would enable us to give the Palestinians of the Gaza strip as well as the West Bank, i.e., of Jordan, the possibility of governing themselves in the same conditions as a Swiss canton, within a confederation with Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. "With Jerusalem as the federal capital, this would finally realize the wishes of the Prophet Isaiah."