

maneuvering to crush all opposition. With an army 95 percent of whose officers corps is composed of members of Kibbutzim, Sharon has no chance—even if he was thinking about it—to use the army as his power base, but he still has the capability to create new military crises. In turn the army may well have to move one day, against Sharon.

The question of Camp David

The ball is in the camp of the Reagan administration and in the hands of President Reagan himself. Duped for several months by Sharon, he reacted with great anger at the revelations of the massacre and went on American television on Sept. 20 to announce that, together with France and Italy, the United States was sending its Marines back to Beirut to secure the situation as well as to ensure a speedy Israeli withdrawal from the city altogether—and not merely the western part of it. One of the American Marines' tasks will be to promote a quick restoration of the powers of the Lebanese armed forces in the region. And coupled with the diplomatic process engineered by "special envoy" Habib, an overall Israeli withdrawal from the country should be secured while Washington is already mooted its own "American plan for Lebanon."

But the task is enormous and requires political steps that Reagan has thus far refused to consider. It requires a total review of America's Middle East policy and of the inheritance left by the Carter administration—the so-called Camp David Peace Treaty. Lebanon's present agony is a direct product of that treaty, based as it is on some kind of interim peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger advocated years ago.

As necessary as it is for the American administration to support demands for the removal of Ariel Sharon, it is equally necessary to sweep out the Kissinger network in Washington which has been drafting Reagan's recent Middle East proposals. As a matter of fact the Reagan plan was nothing but a formula written by Kissinger himself and sold to Reagan via George Shultz and his adviser Joseph Sisco. The new "Kissinger Plan," as *EIR* has reported, has no other purpose than to enlarge Camp David, but ran counter to Begin and Sharon's plans, since they have no intent of making any compromise on the issue of the West Bank. Indeed while Begin and Sharon are out to destroy the Arab states to the extent possible, Kissinger et al. think it is better to reinforce their own control over such states and their eventual dismemberment—hence the need for some kind of compromise and "interim solution." So long as President Reagan doesn't break with such policies, the reconstruction of Lebanon will never happen, the United States—having sent its troops into Lebanon—may be led into the same quagmire as the Israelis. Mr. Reagan's only solution is to go for a comprehensive settlement stabilizing the entire Middle East, including a settlement between Israel and the PLO, whose chairman, Yasser Arafat has now received—partly thanks to Sharon—an increasing recognition. After his meetings with the Pope, he is expected to soon meet with French President Mitterrand

and Chancellor Schmidt in West Germany. To Kissinger's recent call for a "new order to emerge out of chaos," Reagan should respond with a categorical refusal to play the card of chaos, and encourage those Israeli political forces which have risen above the present crisis to constitute a real leadership. Israel's President Navon, bypassing his merely ceremonial role, has been intervening repeatedly into the situation, to call for a commission of inquiry to be forced in Israel as well as in Lebanon, and making unprecedented overtures to the Israeli Arabs. Expected to resign soon from his post as President, Navon would be the best Prime Minister Israel has had for some time. President Reagan should also secure closer relations with Egyptian President Mubarak—and stop those in Washington who want to overthrow him in favor of Defense Minister Abu Ghazala. A comprehensive American initiative should include an all-out effort to foster the economic development of the region through high technology and infrastructural investment. As *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche has put it, Reagan should break with the "blood and soil" diplomacy established in the Middle East by more than a decade of Kissinger's step-by-step diplomacy, and look to the example of President Dwight Eisenhower, who, when he confronted an Israeli government in the 1956 crisis, also had a comprehensive economic development package for the region.

A final chance for Lebanese politics

by Thierry Lalevée

The assassination of a president-elect, and the massacre of more than a thousand Palestinian refugees in the Chatila camp, have not succeeded in reducing Lebanon to civil war once again. On the contrary, the general horror provoked by these events has had the effect of strengthening what little potential for national unity Lebanon had. Bashir's brother, Amin Gemayel, was chosen by the parliament in a 77 to 30 vote to succeed the slain Bashir; he was sworn in Sept. 23 at a ceremony attended by foreign dignitaries including Reagan envoy Philip Habib, a ceremony that passed without incident.

This was an incredible show of national unity and restraint under the circumstances. It is far from ensuring Lebanon's future as a sovereign state, however.

Israeli and Syrian designs on Lebanon notwithstanding, the immediate threat comes from the numerous political and sectarian elements that have repeatedly reduced the nation to civil war in the past seven years. Most of these forces, however, have foreign backing of one sort or another, a fact once again proven not only in the assassination of Bashir, but in the ensuing massacre.

The legacy of Bashir's murder

Lebanon's immediate problem is a faction fight inside Amin Gemayel's Falangist or Kataeb party, created by his Hitler-supporting father after attending the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Lebanese sources say that the Falange is divided into no less than five factions, ranging from an ultra-right wing, for whom *Mein Kampf* is a bedside book, to genuine Lebanese nationalists who view Israel's Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Henry Kissinger as the evils which must be fought to ensure an independent and sovereign Lebanese state.

The murder of Bashir Gemayel is viewed as a direct expression of the splits inside the Falange; Lebanon faces only disaster if the neo-Nazi factions are not ruthlessly rooted out.

Investigations have established that Bashir's murder was accomplished under the direction of a certain Dib Anastase, the number-two man in the Gemayel Falange's Deuxieme Bureau. A Greek-Lebanese who often served as Bashir's bodyguard, Anastase is an expert in explosives, and is said to have activated four remote-control devices from a building 150 yards from the Falange headquarters—one of the devices on the roof, another under Bashir's chair, and another under the table at which Bashir and others were seated. A fourth bomb was located in a car parked in western Beirut, exploded simultaneously to spread chaos and confusion. It was the same Anastase, one day later, who led his militias together with those of Major Haddad into the Palestinian refugee camps.

Anastase and Haddad represent the same thing inside the Christian movement, carrying out the orders of the Israeli faction of Ariel Sharon, and its dedication to a partition of Lebanon. In short, Anastase and Haddad and Sharon represent Henry Kissinger's policy.

Anastase and Haddad are products of an ideological school in Junieh called the "Kaslik Group," led by Maronite priests like Father Mouhannes and Sherbel Kassis. The group has been working for years to create a new cult outlook for Lebanon, attacking the country's connections to the rest of the world in favor of a Lebanese exclusivity and "Phoenician fundamentalism" of sorts, based on resurrection of the ancient Tyrean god, Baal. Lebanon as "Phoenicia" is historically to be associated with the "House of Israel" against the Arab world.

This was the substance of what Mouhannes had to say during a recent trip to Israel, where he called for "not only a peace treaty, but a full-fledged friendship alliance between the two countries." Mouhannes was supported by an extremist group closely associated with Sherbel Kassis, the so-called "Order of the Guardians of the Cedars," a half-religious sect led by Abu Arz. Arz, in Israel, recently declared: "We are ready to offer the Palestinians a homeland: six feet under the ground we have plenty of room."

These "Christian" circles issued horrible sounds during the meeting between Pope John Paul II and Yasser Arafat.

They wait impatiently for the pretext which would allow their split from the Vatican to create an independent church. In addition to the support represented by Sharon and Kissinger, they have an ally in the Falange-mafioso leader Camille Chamoun. It was Chamoun's "tiger militias" that touched off Lebanon's 1975 civil war, when they murdered Christian fishermen who had refused to "modernize" their practices by using exclusively Chamounist ships. Chamoun disguised the murders as a "Muslim crime," and seven years of civil war followed. (The civil war brought good business for Chamoun, who controls the sale of windows in Beirut!)

National unity, for how long?

Hence the decision by most of the Lebanese Muslim community to rally to the support of Christian leader Amin Gemayel. It is a Christian-Muslim unity based more on expediency and fear, than a fundamental belief in the ability of "Mr. Two Percent," as Amin is known for his deals with East bloc airline companies. Under the present circumstances, Amin Gemayel may change, however, rising to the challenge posed by his presidency.

There remains the danger that he will suffer the same fate as his brother, whose murder followed upon Israeli-Falangist factions' disappointed that he did not immediately intend to sign a peace treaty and form an alliance with Israel. Amin, in his first speech, emphasized the need to restore close relations with the Arab countries, not mentioning Israel once. Unless he takes the decision to crush the nest of snakes within his own movement who authored the murder of his brother, he can be nothing more than an interim president, pending his assassination, or capitulation to his brother's murderers.

Gemayel's immediate task is two-fold. First, he must ensure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country. There is evidence that his call for relations with the Arabs was intended to obtain a more rapid Syrian withdrawal, based on the presumption that the Americans would enforce an Israeli withdrawal.

Second, what kind of new government is to be formed? What policies will it follow for Lebanon and toward the rest of the Middle East? Amin is confronted with the key issue of rebuilding the economy. Will Lebanon be reconstructed only to become a haven for Chamounist mafiosi and fiscal fraud, a paradise for bankers of dubious intent, laundering dirty monies for the region's drug trade? Or will Lebanon face up to the basic task of constructing an economy based on productive agriculture and industry? Only a broad national unity could accomplish that, as emphasized by Roger Edde, nephew of former presidential candidate Raymond Edde, in discussions with *EIR*.

Lebanon, for such a course, needs U.S. guarantees of its national independence. But that will not come, emphasized Edde, unless the Reagan administration were to be purged of its Siscos, Eagleburgers, and other Kissingerites, who have worked for Lebanon's partition, not its unity and national reconstruction.