
Middle East

Is Druze separatism a precedent?

by Our Correspondent

“Not an entirely unexpected development,” was the reaction of U.S. Mideast negotiator Robert MacFarlane to Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt’s announcement over the weekend of Oct. 1 that he was forming a separate administration for Druze-controlled territory in the Chouf mountains of Lebanon.

Jumblatt denied that his move is a break with the beleaguered Lebanese state, asserting that he is merely taking over the reins of civil administration until such time as a central authority is restored. But defections of Druze troops from the Lebanese national army, the establishment of control points on access roads into the Chouf, and other actions of separation, belie his words. Jumblatt’s move is the spearhead of a renewed assault on the 1943 agreement between rival political and religious factions which has been the basis of the modern Lebanese nation—an assault that threatens to plunge that bloodied nation back into civil war and partition.

But the development of an autonomous Druze entity is not a matter of concern for Lebanon alone. The Lebanese Druze are establishing the precedent-setting moves for religious and ethnic separatist ferment which is being encouraged all over the Mideast. Readers of this publication will be aware of such strategic designs in the name of, variously, the Bernard Lewis Plan, an intelligence gamemasters’ strategic plan to break up the nations from the Indian subcontinent through to the Atlantic coast of north Africa into a bloody patchwork quilt of competing religious, ethnic and tribal entities—which is the same in intent as the strategic approach Jimmy Carter’s National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brezinski used to call “the Arc of Crisis.” Now this approach is deployed against the United States.

Jumblatt’s Druze, along with their allies in factions of Lebanon’s Shiite community backed by Iran’s Ayatollah Khomeini, are leading the fight to drive U.S. peacekeeping forces out of the country, and out of the region. Their efforts are backed by Russian Islamic political warfare specialists, their allies such as Henry Kissinger in the United States, and the faction associated with Ariel Sharon in Israel.

Jumblatt’s move was immediately greeted by Yitzhak Shamir, Israel’s incoming Prime Minister, and by Yuval

Neeman, member of the Pugwash circuits which have spread nuclear weapons technology to Libya and Pakistan. Shamir praised the “excellent relations” that exist between Israel and the Druzes.

Shamir and Neeman express the kind of thinking represented by the World Zion Organization’s Oded Ninon in his recent paper, *A Strategy for Israel in the 1980’s*. “The West led by the United States is unable to withstand the global pressures of the U.S.S.R. throughout the world, and Israel must therefore stand alone.” By, Ninon recommends, acting to break up each of the states of the Arab world into the elements sociologists, anthropologists, and so forth define as the constituent religious and ethnic parts. “All Arab states east of Israel are torn apart, broken up and riddled with inner conflict, even more than those of the Maghreb. Syria is fundamentally no different than Lebanon except in the strong military regime which rules it. . . . This national ethnic minority picture, extending from Morocco to India and from Somalia to Turkey points to the absence of stability and a rapid degeneration in the entire region. . . . The entire region is built like a house of cards, unable to withstand its severe problems.

Soviets support separatism across West Asia

While the Soviets are supporting the Druze breakaway in Lebanon, along with their cronies in Israel, they are also preparing major moves in the area of the Persian Gulf, again on the same separatist profile. Such Soviet actions are run through the Institute of Oriental Studies of Yevgenii Primakov, whose magazine *Asia and Africa Today* has just endorsed what it calls “autonomy” for the Baluchi populations of Pakistan.

MacFarlane, a former member of Henry Kissinger’s National Security Council staff, is not exactly a stranger to the development of these plans. He implemented what has been euphemistically called the current ceasefire in Lebanon to further such plans for Kissinger, who now speaks of his high regard for Syria’s President, Soviet leasee Hafez Assad, while working for a further undermining of U.S. influence in the area.

Sacrificing the Lebanese government to centrifugal tendencies inside the country, encouraged from the Soviet Union, Israel and treacherous elements within the United States, will add momentum to such centrifugal tendencies throughout the area. At this point the beleaguered U.S. marine force at Beirut airport is the only obstacle to the plan on the ground. At stake is not only the integrity of Lebanon, or the U.S. position in Lebanon, but the U.S. position in the Middle East as a whole.

If the policy is not corrected, the U.S. position will be destroyed in the Middle East for the rest of the century, say Lebanese insiders loyal to the 1943 agreement which provided the basis for their state.