

# Lebanon falling to New Yalta plan

by Scott Thompson

On June 26-27, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Richard Murphy met in Stockholm with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov, a member of the Collegium of the Soviet foreign ministry. At their first meeting in February 1985, sources report that Murphy had offered the Soviets leave to take over Lebanon, acting through their main client state in the region, Syria. The latest Murphy-Polyakov meeting reportedly hammered further details of a "New Yalta" settlement that would virtually annex Lebanon into this "Greater Syria" design.

High-level Pentagon sources confirm this assessment of the Murphy-Polyakov meeting, saying that at present, State Department policy is: "Anyone who wants to get into Lebanon is welcome. If the Syrians can bring a degree of stability, that's terrific." According to this same source, Syrian manipulation of sectarian fighting in Lebanon has caused so much deterioration, Israel is no longer even interested in going back in to partition the country between Greater Syria and Eretz Yisroel, as Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had first treasonously proposed in 1975.

After the State Department and Congress kept the Reagan administration from settling the Lebanon crisis in 1983, as President Eisenhower had done earlier, the stage was set for an accelerated "New Yalta" giveaway of our Lebanese allies by Richard Murphy. Well-informed sources report that outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Bartholomew recently circulated a highly classified final mission report that envisions further collapse of the political situation through 1988. Predicting the growth of sectarian zones, Bartholomew endorsed Murphy's plan by saying that U.S. policy toward Lebanon must plant its left hoof in Damascus and right hoof in Jerusalem.

On the very day that Murphy and Polyakov were meeting in Stockholm, Syrian military intelligence Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan oversaw the move of 1,000 Shi'ite members of the Lebanese Forces (6th Brigade) into West Beirut, where they closed scores of offices of the Shi'ite Amal and Druze Progressive Socialist Party militias.

No sooner had the Lebanese 6th Brigade taken up positions in West Beirut, than 500-1,000 heavily armed Syrian elite troops became the first to occupy Beirut since the 1982 Israeli invasion. Lebanese sources report that they are the vanguard of as many as 4,000 more Syrian troops who may

move into West Beirut. Syrian military advisers have also set up checkpoints with the Amal and PSP militias that cut off Beirut from southern Lebanon.

Six weeks earlier the same Syrian intelligence Brigadier Kanaan had turned the Amal loose on the Sabra, Shatila, and Bourj al-Barajneh refugee camps in West Beirut to crush a resurgence of support for PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. Armed with Soviet T-54 and T-55 tanks and supported by the 6th Brigade's heavy artillery, the Amal troops caused 2,200 Palestinian casualties in this new "war of the camps," killing civilians and guerrillas indiscriminately.

President Amin Gemayel has denounced the latest Syrian occupation of West Beirut as "illegitimate," saying that neither the President nor the military leadership of the Lebanese Forces had been consulted. But on July 10, a State Department spokesman for Richard Murphy countered this, saying the occupation was approved by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Murphy's spokesman added that: "It is difficult anymore to know where the seat of authority within Lebanon lies."

The Syrian occupation of West Beirut has also been approved by the Soviets. The day after the first 500 Syrian troops entered the city, pro-Syrian stooge, Prime Minister Karami met with new Soviet Ambassador, Vassili Ivanovich Kolotucha, to discuss the "peace plan." Simultaneously Syrian Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan met with and briefed the Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, Alexei Bolivitch, on his operations.

The entire occupation plan and the camps war had been worked out June 15 in Damascus in a meeting chaired by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam who is in charge of plans to partition and annex Lebanon. Attending the meeting were Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Nabih Berri of the Amal, and Socialist International Vice-President and Druze PSP leader Walid Jumblatt. Apart from hammering away at the need to crush any resurgence of Palestinian support for Arafat, Vice-President Khaddam also stressed that the Syrian occupation of West Beirut would be only the first step toward renewing the "tripartite agreement." This calls for rewriting the Lebanese Constitution in such a way as to give Syria's Muslim allies unchallenged control of the country, which would topple Christian President Amin Gemayel and end Lebanese sovereignty.

Murphy and Polyakov reportedly also discussed how the Soviet Union would be brought directly into Lebanon by Moscow replacing Washington as the funder of the U.N. forces (Unifil) that form the "Red Line" with Israel in the South. Both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. agreed to renew U.N. Resolution 495 for the Unifil forces when it comes up on July 19, as long as Israel's demand to clean out the Palestinians from Southern Lebanon is met. Meanwhile, Amal militiaman Mahmud Atweh appeared on Israeli radio July 5 to agree with an offer from Maj. Gen. Antoine Lahd of the Israeli Southern Lebanese Army that the Amal would work with Israel to police the Palestinians in Lebanon.