

INTRODUCTION

Since the formation of our Party: "The Guardians of the cedars - National Lebanese Movement", our principal aim has been CONSTANT RENOVATION, otherwise we would be adding another name to the existing long list of political parties in Lebanon, for no valid purpose whatsoever.

The RENOVATION we are toiling for is, at the same time factful, dynamic, remedial and incentive. It is above all, totally founded on historic experience.

Among the numerous items involved in our contemplated renovation are the following:

- 1 - The current political complex, which has always distinguished itself in its servility to foreign caprice, cowardice, cheating and exploitation.
- 2 - The current structure of the Nation, which is both a disintegrating agent and a counterfeit to our identity and culture.
- 3 - The current moral and ethical trend, which glorifies corruption and degeneration.
- 4 - The current administration, which has ever had a shameful reputation for bribery, indolence and irresponsibility.
- 5 - The economic system, which has ever suffered from, pronounced confusion and monopoly. Its staff, through their insatiable greed, have relentlessly exploited our citizens and reduced our lower and middle classes to absolute misery; knowing that our middle class has always been our Nation's backbone.
- 6 - The cultural and educational systems, which have drastically failed their purpose and promoted ignorance and backwardness rather than knowledge and progress.
- 7 - The language and the alphabet adopted, which tend to cripple the mind rather than enrich it.
- 8 - the resident foreigners, whose increasing number has developed into a cancerous invasion of our land, sovereignty and dignity.

Briefly, we are aiming at a comprehensive revolution, which will resent any further patching to the dilapidated cloak; an aim so far regarded by the others as alien to their logic.

It is the actual accomplishment of such a revolution, which acted as a basic incentive for the creation of our Movement, which we have founded on three principles, namely: Intellect, Rectitude and Practicality:

- INTELLECT

Consists in keeping our partisans well informed and well equipped with updated knowledge, sound reasoning and valid evidence.

- RECTITUDE

Consists in bracing the mind with authentic historic facts, true principles and clear honest stands.

- PRACTICALITY

Consists in assessing events rationally and employing them to the best advantage of our Party's march.

Our partisans are expected to adhere to these principles and are trained to practice them in three phases, namely:

- FACTUALITY

Consists in treating events rationally and impersonally.

- INCARNATION

Consists in viewing events as if they had been initiated by the partisans themselves.

- DEDICATION

Consists in transforming the current events into beneficial political accomplishments.

In order to help our partisans accomplish all three phases, we have created a preparatory institute where the candidates first get acquainted with our fundamental doctrines and principles, then decide whether to join the Party or otherwise.

Those who willingly choose to become dedicated partisans, follow a series of educational courses (within our premises) on politics, history sociology and humanity.

In addition to the above, we publish a private periodical by the name of "National Alertness" to help guiding our partisans' steps in harmony with the Party's principles.

The President of the Party who is responsible for conducting its march, directing its course and achieving its goals, also has to define the doctrines, ensure rectitude, promote alertness and look after the proper formation of the partisans.

This is how we have always managed to concentrate on quality and avoid cumulative quantity, thus turning our partisans into real disciples who carry the cause deep in their hearts and, each one of them considers himself leader of the march.

Therefore, the "EXTRACTS" you will read in this book are but one link in the long chain of our revolutionary trend and, it is earnestly hoped that, through your kind efforts, they will reach many citizens, who will then be free to accept or reject them, after serious and scrupulous consideration of course.

The main evils dominating the political trend in Lebanon which have urged us to publish "National Alertness" are:

- 1 - Idolatry
- 2 - Instinctive Subordination

In our opinion, Idolatry applies to those citizens who blindly idolize specific persons that unscrupulously abuse, cheat and humiliate them.

On the other hand, Instinctive subordination applies to those citizens who instinctively and blindly surrender to the opinion of their family, tribe, feudal leader, local organization, faith or community. These clans are subsequently transformed into dummy-political-parties camouflaged by sundry doctrines and principles that usually crumble under the slightest confrontation.

How could our citizens possibly suffer such a primitive mentality when they are the descendants of a nation as old as mankind and whose mind is equally as old!

Our Nation has always had its natural geographical boundaries, its uninterrupted history, its distinguished culture and a great heritage with which to defy the world.

It is therefore most unfortunate that some of us are either ashamed of their Lebanese nationality or consider it a mere legend with no scientific support of any kind. There are others who dare to pretend that it is a casual "rash" left over by the 19th century.

Our present armed struggle against the Syrian and Arabian ideologies has been initiated by our firm belief in the authenticity of the

historic and geographic facts that have ever confirmed the integrity of our Nation.

This book is not the last of our renovational goals but a bridge that provides access to our stubborn struggle for the construction of a new Lebanon that is first of all Lebanese, capable of surviving, of growing and of progressing.

Lebanon's sixth birth is about to take place soon.

The first birth took place in the days of Fakhraddin and was followed by a second in 1920 under the name of "Great Lebanon".

In 1943 "Independent Lebanon" was born, followed by a 4th re-birth in 1958 as the "Shaky Lebanon" and, finally in 1975 the "Cracked Lebanon" came to existence.

Lebanon's sixth re-birth will only be achieved by the alertness of his people and their humane pride, not by their fanaticism, chauvinism, antagonism or isolationism.

Furthermore, Lebanon must spare no effort to resume his historic role as a country of enlightenment, open-mindedness and energetic activity.

I must thank Mr Said Akl for his inexhaustible resourcefulness which has inspired our Movement and traced its steady course, and hope that, the contents of this book will very soon become a reality enjoyed by all our citizens, who would once more, assume a leading part in the making of civilization and in shaping the fate of Nations.

Ever Yours, Lebanon
The Author
Abu Arz

THE FORMATION OF OUR MOVEMENT

Certain basic conditions must be availed to secure:

- a) The durability of political movements
- b) The realization of their aims

We have therefore incorporated the following principles to found our Movement on:

1 - Intellect: People vanish, while intellect lives on. Our Movement gives first priority to this matter.

2 - Alertness: Our Movement is not only aware of all our Nation's political, social and economic problems, but it is fully conscious of their causes. It is capable of the diagnosis and possesses the cure.

3 - Insight: Our Movement possesses all the solutions to our chronic crisis. These solutions, having undergone a meticulous and rational study, can radically and practically remedy our case and modernize our Country.

4 - Decency: No Movement can carry out any reform unless it enjoys morality and idealism.

Our movement, being extremely cautious about this fact, has made it impossible for immoral members to find way to its ranks.

5 - Discipline: Our Movement is distinguished by the enlightened discipline of its members, a conviction which is essential for the execution of reform by political movements and parties.

6 - Charity, Insight, Freedom: All members holding responsible positions must enjoy these qualities. By charity, we mean the love of God, of the earth and of the human beings. Our senior executives must have great concern for their subordinates and must be exemplary in their conduct, even in their personal manners.

7 - Sense of Responsibility: Irrespective of the post or the mission allotted to them, all members must act as if they were the only persons held responsible in that specific instance, and use their initiative, relinquishing dependence and resignation.

8 - Missionary Spirit: All members are enticed to preach their convictions, enlighten the greatest possible number of our countrymen, and prepare the national opinion to accept and support the new reform movement.

9 - Hierarchy: As many cadres as possible must be rationally availed by the Party, to accommodate the greatest number of new partisans.

10 - Ambition: We are convinced that the new State we contemplate, must be founded on national pride and manned by dynamic and resolute leadership. Ambition generates power from weakness and valiance from hesitance.

We are also convinced that small nations feed on colossal ambitions and flourish on colossal roles.

THE IDIOLOGICAL TRINITY

We, the Cedar Guards have founded our doctrine on our firm belief in the trinity formed by God Almighty, Man and Lebanon.

This Trinity is the essence of our doctrine and, at the same time, it is the essence of existence and of the universe.

God is the axis around which the universe rotates. He is the first and the most perfect of all beings. His being is indispensable. He creates from nothingness, owns eternity, and contains time and space in all their dimensions, and all creatures yearn to Him.

Man is the world's pivot. He is the most sophisticated of all beings, created in God's likeness and kind, like Him, he possesses eternity i.e. he survives after death by means of his eternal soul. Rather than enlarge on the complexity of this subject, we content ourselves with stating that, "Matter cannot outlive Man". In other words, we cannot accept the idea that matter can exist for thousands of years while Man vanishes in seventy or eighty years' time. The simplicity of this fact tells us that Man is superior to matter because he acts and reacts, whereas matter reacts without acting.

We cannot accept, for example, that a rock may exist for thousands of years while the average life span of Man is only 60 years. Especially that Man is capable of pulverizing any rock and reducing it to atoms.

This is why we have ranked Man as second to God Almighty (before Lebanon), considering him as the Earth's basic value, to which all earthly beings yearn.

Lebanon - the third pillar of this Trinity, has been the first and most active country in the world. Apart from his graceful features, Lebanon abounds in heritage since many centuries. His men's outstanding resourcefulness and the human ideals represented by this small country have made us call him God's Country on Earth.

Despite his tiny size, Lebanon is the world's fulcrum point and the source of its intellect. To him all civilizations yearn.

EXISTENCE AND POSSESSION

To be or not to be:

Shakespeare asked this question and we referred to it in our discussion about creation and creativity in "the Man of Quality" (page 35 - The Doctrines):

In our opinion, man's game oscillates between Existence and Possession i.e. between "To Be" and "To Have".

Karl Marx elaborated on "Possession" and had the bulk of his philosophy (communism) rotate around "TO HAVE". Hence his new social program which concentrated on the State's responsibility in securing man's living.

Because Marx lived in an epoch when famine prevailed and when a handful of extremely wealthy governors despised their extremely poor citizens, he was justifiably oriented towards man's material needs.

But today, things have undergone total change. Systems have evolved and knowledge has refined Man to the point that his daily needs are no longer his principal worry, and the organizing of his social life no longer pesters his mind.

In other words, "**To have**" has gradually made way to "**To be**" and Man concentrates more on bettering himself, and on securing equal openings for all citizens alike, to display their 'skill and ability. Man is now automatically oriented towards invention and creativity.

We therefore assume that Man's principal reason for existence is creativity.

Otherwise, Man would be as infernal as the rest of the creatures, whose sole function is to gratify their natural needs.

Man, who was created in the likeness and kind of God Almighty, must prove worthy of this honour. He must act incessantly on creating, and

see to it that God's creation is being improved in constant progress.

Creation is the way to creativity, creativity to excellence, and excellence is God's purpose for our creation.

I am not insinuating that the weak have no place on earth (as declared by Nietzsche), because weakness is the outcome of backwardness and backwardness is a social disease whose cure is the responsibility of the systems of free society. These systems must ensure equal openings for all citizens alike (as mentioned earlier). They must also liberate the countrymen from the complexes of need, worry and ignorance and, at the same time, favour them with special attention and care.

After having had all these rights availed to him, Man is fully equipped to launch himself in the race for excellence and, the lazy, the hesitant, the passive and the resigned are no longer accepted.

I would rather declare that: only the energetic, the daring, the heroic, the ambitious and those who relentlessly seek excellence are worthy of life.

Those who "excel" automatically "possess". The inverse is untrue, because **"To have"** is the result of **"To be"**.

If I insist on **"To be"** it is not because it leads Man to **"To have"**, but because it leads him to his appropriate position as a creature unlike other creatures.

To the Cedar Guards I say, "If you wish to participate in our steady march, you must first understand the game of **"To be"** and adhere to it. You will then start out, from its widest gates, on to the course of glory, then unto the delightful ecstatic state of mind.

If, on the other hand, you choose to indulge in the game of **"To have"**, we would regrettably advise you to seek some other march.

GOD, POSSESSOR OF SARMADIYAH

Page 29 of our "Extracts from the Guardians of the Cedars' Doctrines" contains an article on this subject and points out that "Man accompanies God in Eternity".

This important argument remained ambiguous until Mr. Said Aql wonderfully clarified it in the following manner:

"Azaliyah" means **all the past, with no beginning.**

"Abadiyah" (Eternity) means **all the future, with no end.**

"Sarmadiyah" means **both "Azaliyah" and "Sarmadiyah" combined.**

These words have no equivalent in the dictionaries of the West, where only the word **"Eternity"** exists. (It is obviously inadequate). Even Arabic dictionaries fail to define the meaning of each of the above words accurately and often consider them synonymous.

The following formula summarizes the above:

SARMADIYAH = AZALIYAH + ABADIYAH

God possesses **Sarmadiyah** therefore he possesses **Azaliyah** and Abadiyah.

Man possesses neither **Azaliyah** nor **Sarmadiyah** because he possesses nothing of the past.

Only minutes before his birth, Man does not exist, whereas God has ever existed.

If we assume that Man's existence to this date = O,

NUMBER

∞

Assuming Man's existence = 1,000,000 years and dividing it by **Azaliyah** = ∞ , the answer is **Nil** compared to God's existence.

Hence, our argument of Man's infinite humbleness before God. It is the humbleness of Zero before the Whole, Nothing before Everything and Nihilism before Existence.

As for **Eternity** (Infinite Future), we believe that both God and Man possess it to the same extent, **not one moment short**, for God's gift is total, illimited and never deficient.

God therefore gave Man **complete and final life**.

Because Man accompanies God in eternity, we emphasize Man's greatness, esteem, dignity and ambition.

Briefly. God is the axis of the Universe and Existence. Man oscillates between his infinite humbleness before God's AZALIYAH and his greatness because of his possession of Eternity along with God.

It is regretted that some people are atheist, for they lack the grace of faith in the God of **Sarmadiyah**, He who dominates Time in AZALIYAH and ABADIYAH.

In Him Man begins but never ends, and death is but the beginning of his eternal life.

To the Cedar Guards I say, "Bless you, for you have believed in our school which is firmly founded on the faith in God, as are the Cedars firmly founded on our sacred mountains.

AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL

NEVER VANQUISH IT.

ALTRUISM AN INDISPENSABLE COURSE

"Altruism" is the opposite of "Selfishness".

In Arabic dictionaries, "Altruism" is absolutely inexistent, while "Selfishness" is predominant. Dictionaries of the West do incorporate this word.

This proves that the Arabs have never at all practised altruism. Consequently the Lebanese had to invent the word in order to express a social state, deeply rooted in their heritage.

"Altruism" is a corner stone in our military and political campaign. We have frequently quoted and preached altruism in our lectures and writings, because it is among the fundamental bases of our activities and, without it, our case will never succeed.

We consider that the utter selfishness of our traditional leaders has been reflected on our countrymen for the following reasons:

1 - Because the individuality of the leaders is usually reflected on their communities.

2 - Because the Governors have constantly failed their duties, our citizens have been compelled to manage their affairs and solve their problems single-handed.

In time, this led to epidemic **Individualism** in Lebanon.

American, European and other evolved societies have flourished on their "**Team-work**" system; while backward societies including Lebanon, have adopted "**Individualism**" or the "**Tribal spirit**" system, as we refer to it in our political dictionary.

Lebanese individuals have frequently surpassed other individuals in the world, due to the motives described above, in addition to the copious heritage passing from one generation to another.

Lebanese individual initiative, blended with altruism, is a distinguishing characteristic that has largely participated in Lebanon's perpetuity.

Our extended history has seldom produced great rulers or great statesmen, but it has yielded a score of brilliant individuals who have overshadowed kings, leaders and rulers, and stamped their epochs with their personal cachet.

The Cedar Guards (Lebanese National Movement) intend to guide our nation's resourceful individualism into positive reaction and harmonious merger in their society, with a view to shifting our State from its present tribal mentality, over to a proper social frame of mind.

Every Guardian is therefore urged to practice altruism which forms one of the principal courses in the structure of our doctrine.

TIME FECUNDATION

It is obvious that an old man is aged and a young man is youthful.

But, the Cedar Guards' opinion may eventually be different vis-a-vis this hypothesis; for a man of seventy may be youthful and productive, while a man of twenty may be aged and flabby.

What counts, is persistent productivity, generosity and relentless toil to attain perfection.

Man is a combination of MIND and BODY. The BODY executes what the MIND plans. Therefore, whenever our mind discovers a realizable idea, capable of bettering our society, we should promptly rush to its execution and, the sooner we do so, the more youthful we prove to be.

There is a chronographic distance between the planning head and the executing hand and, the wider the distance, the older we are, and vice versa.

Our doctrine attaches great importance to this equation which plays a leading role in the execution of our major plans.

The Cedar Guards therefore welcome into their ranks, all those who are prompt, dedicated, productive and resourceful.

A LETTER TO "GARCIA"

We have spared no effort and shall persist in the endeavor to refine our Countrymen's personality, and train them on scrupulously assuming their responsibilities, irrespective of the risk or hardship involved.

We refuse to have any hesitant, apologetic or evasive candidates join our ranks, and consider them inapt to hold responsible office.

A brief account is given hereunder, to illustrate our relative intention:

As a result of a lengthy Turkish naval blockade around a Greek island, the Greek king was very furious when he failed to find one single messenger carry a letter containing important strategic instructions to that island.

Hearing the king's loud screams, a junior officer of the royal guards, rushed into the palace and demanded to see the king. Being denied access to the court, he deliberately shouted and tried to force his way through.

Having overheard the row, the king summoned the young officer who expressed his regret at his majesty's anger, and offered his prompt departure with the letter, without making any inquiry.

Amazed, the king handed him the letter saying, "Take this letter to Garcia".

The generals and counselors blamed the king for his rash confidence in a junior uninformed officer who did not know even the name of the island in question, or who Garcia was.

The king smiled and said "Because he had not troubled me with a single question, as you frequently do, he will definitely find his way to Garcia".

Shortly after this event, the blockade was lifted, relief prevailed and

the people praised the fortitude of the young hero.

The Cedar Guards are all as valiant, as alert and as trustworthy.

HEADING FOR IDEALISM

In all our meetings we concentrate on persuading our partisans to aim at perfection in all their deeds.

It is unanimously admitted that perfection is unattainable by humans. But how can we be blamed for being fond of braving the impossible?

On several occasions, and especially during the war, slogans such as: "Always keep your eye fixed on the toughest spot inside the impossible".

Or: "Always go for the difficult task and leave the easier one to the others" (the sixth of our ten commandments).

However, the way to idealism is tough and enjoyable at the same time.

It can be done in two stages, namely:

In the first stage: One decides on the course, then immediately plunges into his most inward self and, meticulously searches for his defects and shortcomings.

It takes a great deal of courage to face one's flaws and overcome them; because Man fears his own self more than anything or anyone else, hence the proverb, "No man terrifies, but is terrified". And, since power and weakness originate from within and not from without ourselves, if we manage to conquer ourselves, we can certainly conquer the world.

In the second stage: One gradually uproots his fear, cowardice, hesitation, meanness, deceit, laziness, avarice and hatred and, in their place, implants the virtues of courage, valiance, diligence, ambition, truthfulness, generosity, forgiveness, dynamism, etc...

The more we conquer ourselves, the steadier our march on the way to our ideals.

The Cedar Guards glorify the braving of the impossible, for their very

existence was conceived in sufferings and their way paved with thorns.

They are an adventure in the bosom of impossibility.

We, Cedar Guards look forward to the day when all members of our Party will be champions among people.

GOING AGAINST THE CURRENT

A journalist once asked me to give him the Cedar Guards' principles in brief.

My answer was: "They are contrary to all the principles diffused by Lebanese and Arab press and mass media throughout the last forty-three years.

This statement will not sound so shocking, if we review all that has happened in Lebanon since 1943, including the eleven years of war and the Israeli military operation of 1982:

1 - The press has always described us as Arabs; that Lebanon is part of the so-called Arab Nation whose boundaries span from the Ocean to the Gulf; that our mother tongue is Arabic, and that no geographical borders separate Lebanon from his Arab neighborhood.

We shall hereafter prove the falsehood of the above statement geographically and historically.

a) In history, there is no mention whatsoever, of a unified Arab nation which spanned from the Ocean to the Gulf; for the simple reason that, between the said Ocean and the Gulf there is a multitude of nations, thousands of years old, of different civilizations and ethnic composition.

It is therefore unlikely that such heterogeneous peoples could have been miraculously amalgamated into a unified nation (the Mahmoud Saeed way).

In fact, the Arabs are an old people who have inhabited the Arab Peninsula, and who left it only during their confessional invasions. They subsequently returned to their Peninsula where they have since secluded themselves. Only some of the peoples invaded by them embraced the Moslem faith.

b) The colloquial dialect **we speak** is a genuine Lebanese language, derived from the Syriac (of Aramic origin) which is quite similar to Arabic.

Some of us erroneously **think** that our mother tongue is Arabic.

As for the **written** language in Lebanon, it is Arabic, the classical Arabic which created this duplicity in our Country. All other peoples write and speak in the same language, an important stimulant to the intellectual evolution of their countries.

c) With regard to the Arabian fallacy that no geographical boundaries separate Lebanon from his neighboring countries, we say:

"All maps of Lebanon clearly show **two** parallel mountain ranges, spanning uninterruptedly from utmost North to utmost South, hermetically isolating us from the Arabian Desert, and exclusively binding our destiny to the ocean".

d) The Lebanese People has permanently lived, and since the oldest days, within his well-known geographical boundaries and, in time, he has established a nation having distinct features, characteristics and fundamental principles i.e.

The Lebanese Nation with its distinguishing history, customs, tradition and heritage.

2 - They also claim that Syria is Lebanon's twin sister, that both countries share the same destiny, and that Lebanon's security issues from Syria's security, etc...

But the following facts and history tell us differently:

a) Syria has ever been Lebanon's traditional foe. The greatest majority of our calamities, invasions, wars and predomination attempts came invariably from Syria.

Syria has always opposed exchange of diplomatic relations with Lebanon and has always schemed to annex our Country.

b) Political science teaches us that adjacent countries are always hostile. This is precisely the case with Syria and Iraq, Russia and China, Turkey and Greece, etc...

Our current war with the Syrians proves this theory. It also shows our politicians' lack of foresight when, in 1976, they relied on Syria to end our crisis.

The Palestinians are only a temporary menace which can be eliminated by their ousting from Lebanon. But the Syrians' permanent

presence on our borders constitutes a constant danger to us and necessitates rigid control of the frontiers on our part.

c) "Lebanon's security issues from Syria's security" is a daily refrain which proves nothing but Syrian demagoguery.

The truth is that Lebanon's power issues from Syria's weakness and Lebanon's weakness results from Syria's power.

Our task is therefore to weaken Syria and have it partitioned, in order to safeguard stable peace in Lebanon.

3 - Some say that, "**The Palestinian Cause is Our Holy Cause, or The Major Arab Cause** which is **organically linked** to the Lebanese crisis that cannot be solved unless the Palestinian crisis is solved first":

a) We have always declared that, "The Palestinian Case was strictly Palestinian".

We are absolutely not concerned with it and, further more, we do not see anything **holy** about it.

Palestinian trespasses are unforgivable and are a flagrant evidence of their infamous case.

b) It has never been "The Major Arab Cause" either, but "a major Arab market" for their profitable transactions.

All the Arab countries denied shelter to the Palestinians. Instead, they paid them enormous sums of money and lavishly supplied them with arms and ammunition to keep them grouped in Lebanon.

c) The **organic link** they claim is nothing but a political forgery. The Lebanese crisis has no bearing on any other case in the world.

In fact our crisis can best be solved by isolating it completely and by keeping it strictly Lebanese.

4 - Many say: "Israel is Lebanon's enemy".

A whole Lebanese generation has been raised on this fallacy.

Actual facts and history prove that Israel has always been a friendly nation. Cultural, political, social and military ties were established between our two Countries very early in history.

Our present war is another proof of Israel's good intentions. The whole world abandoned us in our bitter struggle; Israel alone gave us

arms, ammunition and military training, to speak the least of her military operation in 1982, which rescued us from total annihilation. Therefore,

The slogan: "Lebanon's security issues from Syria's security" should in fact read: "Lebanon's security issues from Israel's security", for we are **convinced** that a stronger Israel will definitely guarantee a stronger Lebanon.

These are a few Arab fallacies that we have chosen to rectify here, only for the sake of projecting truth; for truth and Lebanon are twins, and we defend both of them with the same zeal.

AIMING AT A NATION OF SUPERIOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

Our forthcoming revolt has to be totally comprehensive. It has to tackle our Nation's problems in the depth and from their various angles.

The following steps must be taken to remedy one of our major problems: our present system of education:

- a) An accurate count of the illiterate, including their occupations must be affected.
- b) An accurate count of the semi-educated citizens, including their occupations, must be prepared.
- c) An accurate count of our professional citizens, including their actual distribution, must be prepared.

Having done the above, the following steps must be taken:

- 1) Working out a plan for the speedy eradication of illiteracy.
- 2) Promoting learning and culture.
- 3) Evolving the educational system to suit our national, social and popular characteristics and needs.
- 4) Halting the chronic dispute between private and public educational institutions, and settling for the more convenient of the Two.

Just a few hints on how the position stands at present in Lebanon:

20% of our citizens are illiterate. Some of them are enlisted in the Army, others are either employed in farming or in sundry manual occupations, and a good number is virtually idle!

Only a small minority of the remaining 80% can be considered cultured.

This state of affairs is, at the same time, untenable, unjustified and unbecoming of the descendants of the Phoenicians who were the first scholars, scientists and men of law in history.

THE WIDESPREAD OF OUR EMIGRANTS AND THE WASTED FORCE

We have always emphasized the importance of the Lebanese human widespread in the world, a veritable wealth.

It is a great asset which could considerably participate in the stabilization of the Mother Country and, at the same time, perform the genuine Lebanese role: spreading altruism, knowledge and freedom all over the world.

In our writings, we have always referred to this Lebanese human widespread as **The Lebanese World**.

Unfortunately, through their marked disorganization, our Lebanese brothers abroad have almost lost contact with the Mother Country and are hardly of any use to her.

In our recent visits to the **Lebanese world**, we have noticed that the majority of our expatriates have completely merged in their respective host countries and have lost their patriotic enthusiasm towards Lebanon. Consequently, they are no longer responsive when our Country demands their support.

A great number of our emigrants have distinguished themselves in many fields, and many among them have become senior political figures abroad, but, alas some of them have even gone to the extent of altering their names to part with the last of their links with Lebanon.

It is amazing how misinformed they are. In my last tours, I came across those who thought they were Syrians or Arabs, others who knew absolutely nothing about the current war in Lebanon and, still others who believed our war broke out only when the 1982 Israeli operation began.

The negligence of our administrators of this vital matter has resulted

in the ignorance and nonchalance of our emigrants who are now a replica of these administrators.

Here are some remedial proposals:

a) Replace all existing Lebanese ambassadors by men who have believed in our cause and supported it during the current war.

b) Work out a complete survey of our emigrants, and a list of those who altered their names.

c) Create a special ministry to deal with all the **Lebanese world** matters, and organize a detailed record of all our nationals abroad.

d) Send delegations regularly to enlighten our emigrants on Lebanon's historical achievements, revive their sense of patriotism and, subsequently, explain the causes and objectives of the present crisis.

e) Organize the widespread of our countrymen in a way to have them easily contactable and motivated when needed.

f) Facilitate the re-naturalization of our emigrants.

g) Organize regular tours to the Mother Country and create work opportunities **in Lebanon** for our emigrants to encourage their repatriation.

These proposals are only the broad lines to a general plan for the establishment of a **Lebanese world** who, when properly organized and mobilized would render Lebanon immune to any future covetous aggressions.

RECUPERATING THE LEBANESE CONFISCATED BRAINS IS A NATIONAL DUTY

An objective survey of world scientists will reveal the fact that most scientific laboratories and research centers of the civilized world comprise a good number of leading scientist of Lebanese origin who have participated in the amazing progress of science, technology and civilization. They have practically played a prominent part in the invention of the infinitely complex devices, which have made it possible for Man to explore the planets, thus satisfying his ambitions and realizing his poetic dreams.

In Article 15 of our booklet: **"New Lebanon as seen by the Guardians of the Cedars"**, we recommend that a sizeable budget be allotted for the creation in Lebanon of several sophisticated research centers and scientific laboratories, 'where our "restored brains" would be operating.

To those readers who may accuse us of exaggeration or of rich Imagination, we say:

a) Imagination is precisely an essential pre-requisite to successful statesmen, whose objective is to construct a great and ambitious state:

"GREAT STATES ARE CREATED BY GREAT DREAMS"

Is one of our many sayings.

b) To those citizens who might doubt our capacity of securing such heavy funds we say:

It is true that research centers etc... are highly expensive, but if our tax collection system is efficient and, thousands of our redundant public servicemen are discharged, we can undoubtedly realize this dream.

c) Lebanon's fortunate geographical position, coupled with his

unique climate, would enable his future research centers to be operative the year round, 24 hours a day.

"The more the scientific laboratories in a country, the more this country is civilized" is an internationally recognized scale, to which we add:

"To transform our crippled Lebanon into a redoubtable state, it takes exceptional decisions, imagination and challenge."

THE ART OF PRESERVING SMALL NATIONS

The destiny of small nations dictates constant alertness on their part, against the risk of being absorbed by larger countries. This risk is obviously doubled when these larger countries are, at the same time, adjacent and backward. Unfortunately, Lebanon falls in the category of these small nations.

An imperative measure for the preservation of smaller nations is for them to play a major indispensable role among larger nations.

Naturally, big and heavily populated nations, such as China, do not face a similar risk and, unless if they choose to do so, they do not have to play any major role either.

"The bigger fish eat the smaller fish" is an old proverb that still stands and that will perhaps stand for a very long time to come. Several small countries existed in history, but only for a limited period of time, either because of their immediate neighbourhood to a larger greedy country or, worse still, because of their own corrupted rulers.

The general policy of small nations that are determined to survive must comprise the following preventive steps:

1 - POLITICALLY

a) Their ambition must urge them to find the means of rendering themselves absolutely essential for the decision-making on regional and international policies.

b) They must enjoy enough self-esteem and dignity to make all other

nations (particularly the larger ones) deal with them on equal grounds, with reciprocal respect.

If necessary, they must brave any defy, irrespective of its source; as did the State of Israel when the U.S.A. strongly opposed the Golan Heights annexation.

c) International relations based solely on the exchange of ambassadors, diplomatic representation, etc..., apart from being superficial and prone to severance, they will never compel the leading nations to help the smaller nations, or go to the extent of endangering their own interests for this purpose.

A recognized political principle states that, "In international political relations there are neither emotional nor permanent friendly relations. Instead, there are permanent interests."

Consequently, smaller nations must have the world leading nations vitally bound to them, either strategically or economically, etc... in such a way, that they would be dreaded as soon as their smaller allies are exposed to any danger; not necessarily motivated by their worry about them, but by their concern with their own interests in these small friendly countries.

2 - STRATEGICALLY

"Man's rights are protected by **Force**",

"The argument of the Stronger is always better",

"Only the STRONG are obeyed".

The above proverbs should always remind the small nations that their survival is greatly dependent on their own military power.

This is true of Switzerland, for instance, whose military power is redoubtable despite the comforting fact that she is encompassed by highly civilized nations.

Lebanon's policy has been based on the theory: "Lebanon's power lies in his weakness!!"

Our bitter experience has not only proved the absurdity of this theory, but has had a hand in the implementation of our present crisis.

Consequently, small nations must ensure the following, while

constructing their military force:

a) NUMERICAL STRENGTH

The numerical strength of their armed forces must be proportionate with the dangers threatening them.

(This illustrates Lebanon's myopic decision when he constructed his military force on one hand, and Israel's wisdom while constructing hers, on the other).

b) ARMAMENT

Their arms must be modern and highly technical to measure up to the numerical superiority of their enemies.

They must be able to manufacture and evolve their own arms at home, so that they are never kept under the mercy of the arm-producing countries who normally impose restrictions which could seriously affect their safety.

c) MILITARY TRAINING

Field, naval and air training must constantly be up-dated and thorough, especially in the domains where their enemy lacks in efficiency.

New tactics and techniques (to suit both the characteristics and the geographical conditions of the enemy) must be adopted in order to secure their swift maneuverability and surprise attacks.

d) PUBLIC RECRUITMENT

Compulsory military service must be enforced on male and female citizens alike, in order to obtain a new generation of serious, disciplined and patriotic citizens.

3 - CULTURALLY

Small nations must assume an influential part in world's cultural undertakings, and succeed in becoming a recognized authority, at least in one scientific, literary or artistic domain.

In order to achieve this objective, small nations must:

a) Establish research centers where leading scientists, in all fields, are employed.

It is great scientists that make great nations and the degree of civilization in any country is judged by the number of research centers it houses.

b) Encourage native artists, writers, poets and thinkers, and translate their works to different languages, so that the world knows of the mother country by her children's great achievements.

The richer the culture in small nations, the greater the chance for their survival.

The whole world would feel personally concerned, in the event a small highly cultured nation is exposed to peril, for it is the culture in that nation that counts to them rather than the nation itself.

The secret of Lebanon's survival over so many centuries does not lie in his people's continuous struggle or in his world-wide friendly relations alone, but in the notorious cultural role it has played throughout history to this present day.

For almost half a century, Lebanon has overlooked the aforesaid facts in the establishment of his rule. His present shameful state is the fruit of so many sins committed not only by his statesmen, but by all his countrymen without exception.

It is therefore, earnestly hoped, that the past lessons, coupled with the present experience and tragic war, will have awakened in us the sense of responsibility and national alertness. We also pray that the priceless sacrifices of our people and the precious blood of our martyrs will not have been wasted in vain.

THE SIX FRONTS

In a preceding article, we enumerated the basic principles for the survival of small nations, as well as their immunisation against their absorption by larger neighbouring nations.

In this article we will demonstrate the methods of application of these principles.

First, we must understand that as soon as a country is threatened by invasion, five other fronts along with the military front are activated, namely: International relationships, Culture, Propaganda, Righteousness and Ethics.

1 -THE MILITARY FRONT

A raided country must fiercely combat the enemy with all available means. The combatants must be strictly ordered to check any enemy advance, irrespective of the cost: "A grave for an inch"

Experience has taught us that when an aggressor manages a rapid victory, the world opinion is usually faced with the established fact and, several hypocritical states hurriedly express their justified approval.

This is why we say the small raided country must put up an outstanding resistance and paralyze the enemy, in order to give world conscience, sufficient time to be stirred into action, along with the sympathizing countries.

It must be made clear, in this connection, that friendly nations will not send their troops to defend the small raided nation if this nation will refrain from defending herself in the first place.

Therefore, no friendly nation will send her children to die for Lebanon if this latter fails to die defending himself.

2 - THE FRONT

OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

This front goes into action only when all the conditions described under "The military front" have been met. But prior to this, the raided country will have created close relationships with several influential countries and, these relationships must have been based on mutual beneficial and solid grounds.

Normally, friendly nations begin with exerting diplomatic influential pressure on the aggressor and, if this measure fails, then they send military aid, followed by troops, if deemed necessary, especially if mutual defence pacts had been existing.

The help extended by the friendly nations is usually commensurate with their own interests.

3 - THE FRONT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

This front is particularly essential for the activation of the friendly nations for, the more these nations are convinced of their small friend's righteousness, the more the helping pressure they exert. It must be borne in mind that the Major Powers are largely bound by the World Opinion and therefore, will deny any consent, help or encouragement to the aggressor.

2 - EMPLOYMENT

Many of our countrymen are idle and many others are employed abroad. An objective policy must be sought to protect our resident nationals from unemployment, to persuade our emigrants to be repatriated and to abolish employment for inadequate wages.

3 - EDUCATION

Education is not an item of luxury, but a vital necessity. Free education must therefore be availed to all citizens up to the doctorate level.

4 - MEDICAL CARE

Illness in Lebanon is the world's most expensive illness. Consequently Lebanon's patients are the most expensive patients in the world.

Therefore, a new medical treatment policy, ensuring the right of every Lebanese citizen to good health and competent treatment, must be adopted.

5 - AGRICULTURE

Lebanon is among the richest nations in potable water. It is, at the same time, the most extravagant nation at wasting water, and the last nation at exploiting it profitably.

Despite our accidented terrains, our soil is among the richest in the world and is extremely suited for highly productive agricultural projects.

Our administrators are consequently held responsible for promptly answering all our farmers' needs, and inducing them to stay attached to their farms and improve their crops.

Our contemplated march cannot survive by mere emotional stimulants. It must be backed by constructive projects, responding to the citizens' needs and the requirements of modern nations.

THE SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE AND THE NATION'S BENEFIT

Perpetuity of nations is not achieved by occasional victories in one field or another, but by relentless hard toil and steady progress; by the constant injection of new blood and fresh incentives in the system.

Now that the Lebanese Resistance, through its stubborn determination, has managed to overcome and eject the insurgent armed Palestinians, its next duty is to expel all foreigners, retaining only some 5% of their original number.

Those spared foreigners will be a carefully selected minority amongst the most useful elements to our Nation.

Pressure must be exerted on our administrators and politicians to have all the so-called refugee camps, tin-shack agglomerations, and unsightly buildings erected on confiscated Lebanese land, removed as early as possible.

This measure will compel the undesirable foreigners to clear out of Lebanon.

And, after the Lebanese Resistance succeeded in having one of its foremost leaders elected as Head of State- (a unanimous acknowledgement by the Parliament and the people of the Lebanese Resistance's aptitude for the re-construction of Lebanon), the new President must incorporate the Lebanese Resistance's principles in his plans for the future development of the Country, ensuring a happy and a dignified existence to all the citizens.

The following principles are quoted:

- a) The dissuasion of permanent emigration.
- b) The re-patriation of our intellectuals who were persecuted by

the war and by our corrupted administration.

c) The rapid establishment of social democracy in the Country.

d) The adoption of a policy which calls for the protection of the citizen and his encouragement to stay, while the foreigner and the intruder are encouraged to leave

The new administration must represent the will, the conscience and the spirit of the people which were so flagrantly projected during the war, bearing in mind that nation's conscience never falters.

If we really want our march to continue uninterrupted, we must meditate over the past thirty years and locate all the factors which participated in our limping, socially, politically, economically, educationally and militarily.

Once located, these factors must be eliminated, even if the cost amounts to some criticism or some painful feeling; for the new ruler is not permitted to fall in the same blunders of his predecessors whose rule was a mixture of compromise, submissiveness and political intrigue.

We are today on the verge of constructing our New Lebanon. We must therefore select the best masons, the best corner stones, pillars and building materials, and take into account that any delay, postponement or pause would lead to the disillusion of our citizens whose hopes have lingered for so many years.

This is the course we have sincerely opted for. We trust that all our sincere countrymen will, hand in hand, erect the holy shrine for all the Lebanese to hallow forever.

NOTE:

This article appeared upon the election of the late Sheikh Bechir Gemayel as President of the Lebanese Republic.

LANDMARKS OF HISTORICAL RESISTANCE

In our discussions and writings we have often mentioned **"The Lebanese Resistance"**, so often indeed, that we sometimes mention it mechanically to the point of devoiding it of its real and profound meaning.

Some of us may imagine that **"The Lebanese Resistance"** emerged as a result of the current war and will undoubtedly disappear by the end of the conflicts.

But if we refer to History, we *realize* that **"The Lebanese Resistance"** is practically as old as Lebanon himself. It was born and grew up with Lebanon and will exist so long as Lebanon exists.

In our book **"Extracts from the doctrines of the Guardians of the Cedars"** page 3, we say:

"Lebanon has, for thousands or years, repelled wave after terrible forces from street to street and from window to window.

* The famous Phoenician wars fought by Hamilcar Barca and Hannibal, his son, against the Romans from the year 264 to the year 164 BC. Many battles were won by the Phoenicians and Hannibal actually stayed on Roman soil for 16 consecutive years.

* The Mardite Forces resisted the Arab invasion in 636 BC and compelled Al Khalifah Abdul-Malek Bin-Marwan to pay tribute to the Lebanese, while his Arab armies were penetrating deep into the heart of Europe. The famous Mardite resistance safeguarded our Mountains' independence.

* The remarkable Muqaddamine's resistance against a series of Arab invasions from 670 to 700 BC, resulting in the preservation of our Mountains' independence, is another proof of our ancestors' attachment to their native soil.

* In 950 BC, assisted by the Byzantines, Allaqa led a revolt against the Phatemitic occupation and freed the city of Tyre.

* The Lebanese joined the Crusaders in their campaigns against the Ayoubites, the Kurds, the Hamdanites, the Seljuks and the Turks.

A total of 25000 Lebanese Soldiers fought with the Crusaders.

* The Kesrouan wars against the Mamluks lasted from the year 1526 BC to the year 1250 BC, Lebanese Druzes, Shiites and Christians jointly fought these wars.

* The Ma'ani wars against the Ottomans (1590-1635 AD) produced the great Lebanese hero Fakhraddin II, who routed the Wali of Damascus and Ottoman armies in the famous battle of Anjar.

* The battle of Ain-darah (1711 AD) When Emir Haidar Chehab vanquished the Yemenites and the Ottomans combined.

* In 1838 Ibrahim Pasha entered Lebanon as an ally and, no sooner tried to impose himself as a conqueror. Immediately Shantiri and Abu-Samra Ghanem rose against him in the Mountain and defeated him.

* In 1861 Yousef Bey Karam revolted against Daoud Pasha, the first foreign ruler in Lebanon.

* In World War 2 the Lebanese combatants distinguished themselves in the battle of Al-Alamein against Rommel alongside the British and the Free French Forces.

* In 1958 Gamal Abdul-Nasser's dream of annexing Lebanon to his United Arab Republic was turned down by the Lebanese resistance.

*And, finally in 1975 and until this very day, Lebanese Resistance in the face of the Palestinians, the Syrians and their mercenary allies, has rigidly opposed their attempt to absorb Lebanon. The world who stood watching, was amazed how a handful of young-men bravely withstood the thrust of a multitude of militias and armies, far superior in arms and number.

* We have quoted these few specimens of Lebanese Resistance throughout history for the purpose of assuring those who are doubtful, pessimistic or ill-informed, that Lebanon shall survive all crises, no matter how perilous, because his persistent resistance has never yielded.

A flagrant proof: all the minorities in this part of the world have either vanished or cleared away except the Lebanese.

In our previous writings we have mentioned that Lebanon is a partnership between sea and mountain. These two important elements, because of their immediate proximity, have given the Lebanese people two marked personalities:

a) The sea has inspired the sense of adventure, ship-building, sea braving, the discovery of new continents, new people, trade and exchange of culture, religious beliefs, military and political views, etc...

b) The mountain has inspired the sense of stubborn attachment to the soil and fierce resistance.

These qualities have provided the Lebanese people with a rare maneuverability and adaptability which helped him overcome his numerous living, economic and strategic problems in an admirable manner, throughout the long and dark years of his crisis.

Observers are puzzled by the stability of the Lebanese individual's income, high standard of living and elegance. They cannot explain how, despite so many years of devastation, the Lebanese people can still manage to construct sophisticated buildings, create several institutions and lead a life of lavish luxury.

A similar crisis in any other country would have affected all the aspects of life and conduct of its people.

Our people and statesmen suffer from severe ignorance of our noble history, and our leaders' involvement in so many blunders is a natural outcome of this ignorance.

NOTE:

This article was written in 1982.

THE MONETARY WALL ITS DESPOTISM AND TACTICS

Outrageous Capitalism is **Enemy N° 5** among the eight enemies defined by the Guardians of the Cedars. In our endeavour to establish New Lebanon, these enemies must be eliminated.

Outrageous Capitalists are a group of "compradors" who, have made it their business to monopolize our essential commodities, impose their exorbitant prices and collaborate with the authorities to promote their own influence.

These outrageous capitalists who have lately governed behind the screen, have now managed to run the Country unabashed.

How can we forget President Charles Helou's most appropriate announcement:

"Lebanon is now Governed by the monetary wall".

In the civilized world national budgets have been scientifically established at a minimum of 35% of the gross national income. Some budgets have attained 40%. Any country whose budget is below this figure cannot possibly meet its obligations or survive.

The only diagnosis given to cases when the national budget is less than the required 35% is the existence of a conspiracy between the Authorities and the Outrageous Capitalists.

The Lebanese budget has never attained this figure. This confirms the conspiracy between the Statesmen and the Capitalists and explains our Country's constant economic depression.

Some of the examples relating to the conspiracy between the authorities and the capitalists in Lebanon:

a) The capitalists avoid payment of their due taxes by presenting falsified statements showing deficit when, in reality, their gains attain enormous figures.

b) Most private institutions in Lebanon keep two sets of records: one set showing their deficit (in order to be exempted from any taxes) and another set showing their actual profit.

This fraudulent conduct has led to the impoverishment of the State, the subsequent freezing of the constructive and developmental projects, where only some 4% of the local outrageous capitalists have assumed despotic command of the people's and government's material wants, leaving the greatest proportion of the people in the need.

Our argument must not be misunderstood, for, in principle we have nothing against the rich, free trade or private initiative, but we do resent monopoly, exploitation, economical despotism and tax evasion.

The current events have revealed the sad fact that this 4% of our wealthy people have evacuated the Country, along with their fortunes and have settled abroad, leaving the brunt of the struggle to the needy majority who have sacrificed many thousands of their children defending Lebanon. It is amazing how the poor are dying to defend the property of the wealthy deserters while they themselves have hardly any possessions worth defending.

The Head of State is requested to take this matter into serious consideration before a total collapse ensues.

PUBLIC SERVICEMEN ANOTHER WALL

In Article II of our book **"New Lebanon as seen by the Guardians of the Cedars"** we say that we are endeavouring to build up a State of projects, not a State of employees, because the greater number of these employees have been appointed by influential mediators for political or confessional ends.

The accumulation of such redundant employees has become an extremely heavy burden on the treasury and, at the same time, a device hampering the process of public service and drowning the official formalities in the swamp of bureaucracy. As a consequence, our citizens find themselves facing two alternatives: bribery or political mediation.

The number of public servicemen in Lebanon has relatively exceeded all proportions by international standards. The Lebanese State has virtually become a depot for idle employees, some of whom are physically handicapped, some others' attendance is effective only on pay-day, while others exploit their position for illegal profit making. Our State Departments have either turned into trading centers or have been ravaged by utter disorder.

80% of our Treasury's income is spent on our public servicemen, while other civilized countries never spend more than 12% of their budget on this item.

There have been some shy attempts at solving this problem but they were invariably faced by a dreadful wall, erected by political or confessional brokers, influential dignitaries and bureaucratic advocates.

As a matter of fact, our previous Governments have always tackled our numerous chronic problems with compromisal measures that

normally left these problems either half-patched or partly solved.

To those who would fear an unemployment crisis if drastic measures are applied, we have the following scientific answers:

1 - Any country afflicted by such administrative confusion must take revolutionary steps to restore normal life to its institutions, irrespective of the harm incurred to some innocent individuals.

2 - Common sense dictates that we must not satisfy the caprice of the few at the expense of the well-being of the people.

3 - By supporting national industry and private institutions, and by protecting their products from foreign competition, the Government would help these institutions employ a good number of its discharged employees.

4 - Because Governments are usually unsuccessful at business enterprises, unlike private institutions, the normally unproductive employees will find themselves forced to become productive when employed by private institutions that cannot afford to tolerate lethargic personnel.

Our march can be perpetuated only by means of an unusual rebellion, measuring up to our hopes and destiny and conducted by an unusual revolutionary leader.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF NATIONS

The Ups and Downs of Nations are identical with those of individuals and institutions. In History they are referred to as Eras of Prosperity and Eras of Corruption.

In their Ascending Eras, nations enjoy wealth, prosperity, power and influence in all fields.

They are ruled by a succession of loyal and competent persons who elevate them to the peak of the pyramid. Unfortunately, a period of decline usually follows.

In their Descending Eras, nations are afflicted by crises on all levels, financial, political, social, strategic and ethical.

Society produces a succession of corrupted rulers who lead their nations to the lowest grades of deterioration.

This phase is usually followed by one of the following events:

1) An outstanding statesman emerges, such as Charles de Gaulle who conducted a non-violent revolution which awakened his nation from its extended slumber and lifted it up from the swamps of corruption to set it on a swift ascending course.

2) A civil war flares up and, after considerable suffering and bloodshed, new leaders emerge, unlike their predecessors, honest and farsighted. With the sword they redress the crooked situation and restore order and discipline to their countries. Subsequently, ascension is usually resumed.

The only difference in the Ascending and Descending processes between individuals and nations lies in their speed and duration.

While they are normally short-lived and variable with the average individual, they tend to drift, often for centuries, in the case of nations.

Lebanon's golden era was reached early in the Seventeenth Century by Fakhruddin II i.e. some 380 years ago. Since then we have been steadily declining.

Our current crisis is about the lowest point of our destined downfall. Needless to repeat that our social, political, security and economical situation is lamentable, and our political, military and religious leaders today are the worst our people could produce.

It is strongly hoped that our ascending trip is about to start, thanks to our remarkable patience and firm resistance which, we believe, have amply paid for our gross mortal sins.

Most things are restorable by money except independence whose price is always blood. We feel that we have paid this price wholeheartedly.

Sometimes I am asked whether I am optimistic or otherwise. My answer has invariably been, "I am optimistic because I know the history of our great people who has always managed to overcome his difficulties and survive."

THE ARABS AND THEIR "MEL" COMPLEX

For almost half a century the Pan-Arab Movement has been cheating the Middle-Eastern people that their union would create a gigantic Arab State, spanning from the Ocean to the Gulf.

When we alerted the Arab public opinion to this fallacy, we were accused of isolationism and backwardness.

Our argument was based on the fact that the distinguishing characteristics of nations cannot be abolished as easily as some pretend. In our opinion, amalgamation of nations can only be realized when all their historic, cultural and ethnic properties coincide and favour such amalgamation and, above all, when their different peoples sincerely aspire to such a move.

The Pan-Arab Movement, as we view it, is a three-legged monster, with each one of its legs representing a basic characteristic namely:

1 - COWARDICE. Every Arab State has continuously endeavoured to fight Israel with another Arab army, concealing its own cowardice with slogans such as: "Combined Struggle", "The Only and One Cause", "The Only and One Destiny", etc... This attitude has developed a noted sense of reliance which later turned into total defeatism.

Arabs are as obsessed by their numerical superiority as is the bedouin by the colossal bulk of his camel.

They have always craved for the annexing of more countries to their "ARAB WORLD" and even went to the extent of coaxing Jibouty,

Somaliland, Eritrea and the Canary Islands to join their "Union", despite the total absence of all valid relations. Their aim, of course, has been to amass the largest number possible of Arab combatants against Israel who, because she had opted for quality and self-dependence, she has crushed them all in a few days.

2 - AVRICE. Arab Countries adjacent to Israel have frequently attempted to finance their wars by other Arab Countries, without parting with a penny of their own. This attitude has gradually changed into a tendency to blackmailing for, the so-called "States of Resistance and Opposition" have exacted large amounts of money from the wealthy "Supporting States" under the pretext of building up a military force capable of defeating Israel.

When the so-called "States of Resistance" discovered that these "Supporting States" were naive golden-egg layers, they resorted to a variety of periodic tricks to exact more money:

a) Either by terrorism or by threats to the "Collaborating Regimes" should they "Fail their National Duty".

b) Or still, by convening "Summit Meetings" that would normally begin with the usual reconciliations, followed by folkloric debates and solutions to the "Moroccan Desert" or the "African Cone" affairs and,

c) Finally end up with the usual distribution of financial aid to the "States of Resistance".

When the empty pockets have been replenished, the meetings are invariably closed with superficial communiques, satisfying all parties, condemning Imperialism and Colonialism, and recommen-dint the struggle against Zionism and the liberation of Palestine.

3 - LYING. All Arab regimes, whether dictatorial, presidential or royal have preached "Arab Union" and, each of them has created a special ministry for this purpose. Some did in fact succeed in forming such a union between two regimes or two states that always ended in a ridiculously rapid divorce.

Just to refresh short memories we ask: "What happened to the Sync-Egyptian Union?", the Iraquo-Jordanian Union, the Egypto-Libyan Union, the Syrio-Libyan Union, etc...?

As for the Arab League itself: which states still form part of this league and which states have abandoned it? Which States still abide by its decrees and which states are still under its influence?

To speak the least of the whereabouts of the "Arab Common Market" and the "Common Arab Defence"

Despite this paradoxical heap of false pretexts, some people still try to impose on Lebanon an "Arab Identity" and a "Common Arab Destiny", while others still continue to believe in this Century's biggest lie.

The Guardians of the Cedars are allergic to cowardice, avarice and lying and, once more, declare that courage, generosity and truthfulness are the virtues they enjoy and practise in their daily toil to keep their steady march going.

THE TRAGIC PEOPLE AND THE DRAMATIC PEOPLE

Mistaking **Tragedy** for **Drama** has often been a common blunder, as if the two words were absolutely synonymous.

Perhaps this jumble is the outcome of the confusion between the concept and the literary meaning of these two words and their classification under the same title "Dramatic Art", where tragic and dramatic performances meet.

We are concerned with defining the historical and human discrimination between **Tragedy** and **Drama**, rather than with their literary disagreement; in order to find out whether our incessant strife, has been tragic or dramatic in its former and recent conflicts.

Drama literally means every emotional state that usually leads to a dangerous or sad ending. It is always a familiar calamity, common and circumstantial, whose causes, instruments and results are understood. It can often be overcome by determination and willpower. **Death** is **dramatic** because it is inevitable, familiar and common to all people, despite the fact that it cannot be overcome.

Wars are dramatic too because they can befall all peoples at all ages. To overcome such catastrophes as wars, is quite possible; it is even indispensable, in order to move into the state of security and peace. An afflicted person is consoled by the sheer feeling that the catastrophe (drama) that had befallen him had been ordinary, prevalent and familiar. Peoples and communities would normally react in this manner.

Catastrophes (dramas) may leave traces on the spirit of peoples and communities and may also stimulate their intellectual and artistic talents, but they will not shake the depths of their historical existence as **Tragedy** will.

Now, what is **Tragedy** and what is **Tragic**?

Tragedy and tragic derive from grief that resides permanently within our spirit, without necessarily being reflected on our face or on our daily conduct.

A tragic spell is continuous suffering, and **Tragedy** is a state of continual pain and anxiety that fill the spirit of man, even in the absence of catastrophe.

While **Drama** is a common calamity that befalls everybody, **Tragedy** is a **unique** calamity that befalls **one single person, or one single people**.

This singularity in **Tragedy** will deny its victim any consolation and will subject it to constant struggle against extraordinary dangers.

Tragedy is therefore a characteristic of great nations or great individuals; as if God had singled them out to struggle against destiny and challenge the impossible.

A tragic person is danger's associate, and tragic nations coexist with danger, and constantly carry it within the folds of their existence.

Therefore there is a close relationship between tragic people and destiny.

A tragic nation is not permitted to weaken; any sign of it weakening will mean its definite obliteration. Whereas a dramatic nation can weaken and yet survive.

Tragic people are enamoured in danger because of their close relationship. Urged by their ambition, they crave for soaring. They have no time for moderation. Such people will ever challenge, because challenge is the cause of their existence. They will risk anything. When they leap, they make for the highest peak, and when they fall, they tumble into the lowest abyss. But they will no sooner pull themselves together and resume their soaring adventure.

The Legend of the "PHOENIX" which for centuries nourished our

ancestors' imagination is a genuine picture of our people's nature. They have embodied tragedy in all its dimensions, all through six thousand years.

We still have other examples to testify to this fact:

a) In spite of her smallness, Tyre withstood Alexander's famous offensive. She was utterly annihilated, but she rose up again with an astonishing speed.

b) Despite her relatively small population, Sidon bravely faced the great Persian Army, led by Artaxerxes. She set fire to herself to deprive the assailant of the joy of victory (the first collective suicide ever recorded). Then, she soon rose from the ashes, as youthful as ever,

c) The Mardaites, with a small army, fought the Arab occupation armies and prevented them from penetrating into their mountains. They even imposed tribute and taxes on the Arabs who were then knocking at the gates of Europe.

d) Fakhr-El-Din stood alone against the Ottoman Empire and routed its armies at Anjar.

e) In 1975, the Lebanese Resistance Forces, despite their marked numerical inferiority, repelled the great numbers of Palestinians, Syrians and mercenaries.

Unlike other nations, ours has ever been tragic, never dramatic; and destiny has persistently guided us away from common logic.

Among the characteristics that have frequently distinguished our Nation are:

a) Our problems have always been relatively greater than our capacity.

b) Our limitless ambitions have often broken through our borders and expanded all over the world.

c) Our enemies have always been superior in number and equipment.

d) Our struggle has ever been for survival, and our choice only between Victory or Death.

e) Our rulers have never measured up to our ambitions. We are

probably the only people who, in our darkest hours, our rulers schemed our murder with our enemies. But victory has always been on the side of the Lebanese few, armed with righteousness, faith and sublime ideals.

This is why, at the outbreak of the war, and in honour of our distinguished tragedy, we embraced the slogan:

**"WE ARE A TRAGIC PEOPLE, DEFY IS OUR FATE AND,
DANGER OUR HOME"**

THE ALLIANCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

In the fifth conference of the Party, held in Beit-Meri on the 27th of November 1985, we proposed an alliance among the Mediterranean peoples. In abbreviation M.P.A.

This proposal should not be considered a reaction to the Arabian Unitarian proposals. Those proposals had emanated from their "Camel Complex", for the Arabs are usually lured by colossal things that send them dreaming of a great and expansive nation. They have often appealed for the amalgamation of their different peoples into one vast united nation: "The Arab Nation". Everybody knows about the numerous conflicts to which this appeal has led, and the exorbitant price the peoples of this region have paid, without realizing even a single step towards this illusory unity.

Our proposal deliberately avoids the word "Unity" and calls for a "Cultural Alliance" which could begin with a progressive economic cooperation (as with the European Common Market), followed by a social, educational, touristic, technological and even by a military cooperation, if needs be.

The peoples of the Mediterranean Basin are the following: the Lebanese, Israeli, Egyptian, Libyan, Tunisian, Moroccan, Algerian, Spanish, Italian, Yugoslavian, Albanian, Greek, Turkish, French, North-Syrian, Maltese, Cypriot.

These peoples are linked geographically and historically:

a) Geographically

By the enclosed sea which the Romans called "Mare Inter-num" (the internal sea). The peoples inhabiting the coast of this sea have several traits and characteristics in common.

b) Historically

By the reacting and interlocking of these peoples since the dawn of history, especially during two distinctive eras namely: The Phoenician and the Roman eras.

The Phoenician Era, specifically in the Eleventh Century BC, when the Canaanite civilization prevailed in the Mediterranean Basin. The Phoenicians subsequently occupied all the countries of the said Basin and taught writing, navigation, astronomy, engineering, philosophy, poetry, democracy and the principles of commerce to their inhabitants.

Phoenician authority effectively dominated the Mediterranean Basin when the Phoenicians established Carthage on the southern coast (what is Tunisia today), whence they set out to discover the rest of the oceans and continents, till they reached America, where they left their imprints.

The Roman Era, after the Roman victory over king Antiochos in 188 BC, over the Greeks in 168 and 148, and finally over Carthage in 146 BC, all the peoples of this area were united for a long time under the Roman flag.

The Lebanese were at that time and still are, an element of attraction to the peoples of this region.

In his book about the Romans, the French historian Duroy said, "The Canaanites who established Carthage and made it the capital of their great empire, were the only people who managed to own the Mediterranean Sea for a long period of time. They also gave it its name".

This statement is a clear evidence that the Mediterranean was a playground for the Phoenicians and a vital field for their political, cultural and commercial activities. Carthage, a Phoenician offspring, flourished when the Phoenician Empire was at the peak of its glory.

"Carthage was therefore a great Phoenician phenomenon"

Today Lebanon proposes this same project for three basic reasons:

1- Because this proposal is a historical and geographical reality (as already mentioned).

2- Because Lebanon had already implemented such a project about 3000 years ago.

3- Because Lebanon must be re-oriented towards the sea rather than towards the Arabian desert, a fact dictated by his historical and

geographical pre-destination.

We presume that the alliance of the Mediterranean countries would be an opportunity for Lebanon to inter-act culturally with the peoples of this Basin, guided by his innate pre-disposition for this role.

He would thus protect himself from containment, eradication, or nomadic domination.

**" LEBANON WOULD DEFINITELY FLOURISH ON SEA - FARING
AND PERISH ON DESERT-FARING".**

A REVOLUTIONARY ALPHABET WILL BE PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE REVOLUTION.

That the Alphabet is a Lebanese creation, from which all other alphabets were derived, (except the Chinese and the Japanese) is a recognized fact that has never been doubted.

Our forefathers were very logical and practical when they created their alphabet; they designated only one single symbol to each phone and finally settled on the 21 symbols shown below:

A B G D H O Z H T T Y K L M N
'A F SS Q R SH 'T ''

These symbols were subsequently distorted through time and distance, and ended up as a series of illogical conventions, for example: all four symbols K, A, C, CK apply to only one phone: "K" similarly: CH, SH, SCH, CSH represent only one phone: SH Again: O, AU, EAU, EAUX, OO, OA, OH indicates one phone: "O"

Worse still are the symbols that are written but not pronounced such as:

The "LLE" in the French word FILLE

(Where as the same symbols **are** pronounced in the French word VILLE).

Also in French, the symbols T,S and X are not pronounced in the words PETIT, PARADIS, PERDRIX.

In English, for example:

Some symbols are written but not pronounced while other symbols are written but pronounced differently such as:

- 1) ENOUGH where the "GH" is pronounced "F".
- 2) BALL where the "A" is pronounced "O".

3) COW where the "O" is pronounced "A".

The Phoenicians had clearly emphasized that each written symbol must be pronounced, and each pronounced phone must be written.

All the alphabets in the world have undergone similar illogical distortions that, it is presumed, have largely caused many generations to live with error, and entertain perversion and lack of logic.

The Phoenicians are also the inventors of all nine digits which they borrowed from the first nine symbols of their alphabet and, their zero was the "O" which represents a void.

It is pointed out that

The claim that the alphabet and the digits are an Arab invention is an absolute fallacy.

To shape their alphabet, the Phoenicians did set a basic rule which stipulated that their letters and digits must remain unaltered at all times, irrespective of how or where they are used.

Since our ancestors were responsible for the creation of the original alphabet, we feel that it is the duty of the contemporary Lebanese to rectify the current alphabet on the pattern of its original design.

As a matter of fact, several unsuccessful attempts at achieving this aim have been ventured. Finally, Mr. Said Akl, a Lebanese, adopted the Latin character (a derivative from the Phoenician alphabet). He rearranged the function of its letters and introduced some alterations to make them applicable to the greatest possible number of languages. The result was the following:

For our part, we have decided to adopt Mr. Akl's revised alphabet, pending its adoption by the State and, hopefully by the rest of the nations, thus reincarnating the role of our ancestors.

Our comprehensive revolution also includes for the abolition of the Arabic alphabet, which was drastically instrumental in the adultu-rous arabization of Lebanon, physically and morally.

We feel that only comprehensive and drastic measures must be adopted to rescue the Country from its chronic crises and utter dilapidation.

OUR REVOLUTION AGAINST THE LANGUAGE

In a previous discussion we explained the necessity of revising the alphabet, not only because of its distortion, but because our persistence in its practice would impair our logic and confuse our mind.

In our present discussion on languages, we shall, once more rely on Mr. Said Akl's theory to emphasize the necessity of discarding the Arabic language and replacing it officially by the Lebanese language. Linguists assert that all languages undergo natural progress towards brevity and eloquence. The original languages deteriorate gradually, yielding their place to their heirs — the modern languages.

Man by nature always goes for the modern and practical languages, and shrinks away from archaic ones such as Arabic, Latin, Syriac, etc... Which were predominant years ago, but which fell apart through old age.

Physically, it is our tongue that takes care of evolving a language indefinitely, so that it gives birth to a new, briefer and simpler language, which, through constant practice and revisions becomes the practical language of the day.

Heavier letters ultimately make way to lighter letters and longer expressions cede to shorter ones. Consequently the brevity of modern languages saves considerable time and, while an old language normally consumes say three hours over a given lecture, a modern language might need only one hour for the same lecture. It has also been established that the time factor is quite instrumental in eliminating futile grammatical rules.

We are therefore required to hurry and relieve our students from wasting so much time on learning an unnecessarily complicated Arabic Grammar, and have them invest the time spared on much more beneficial

subjects. The longer the river course, the more the rivulets

that issue from it. These rivulets are like the modern languages compared with their origin. Therefore the longer the time the more the modern languages that issue from an old one.

Taking Latin as an example, we find that it had acted as the mother tongue to the majority of the current European languages, until it finally collapsed through old age and gave birth to four modern languages, namely: French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

When in the 13th Century, Dante (Italy's noted poet) called for the substitution of Latin by spoken Italian, it was considered a social sacrilege by some and a conspiracy by others. However, evolution finally won as usual, and spoken Italian was established as the official language of Italy.

Early in the 17th Century in France, Decrate decided to publish his last book "ELEMENTS" in colloquial French and it ranked among his best writings.

Languages must keep constant pace with evolution for, it is illogical that we speak today the same language spoken centuries ago. Classical Arabic was the spoken language of Qoraish. It is only used for their writing nowadays but it is no longer spoken at all.

We must therefore adopt the spoken language and discard the one that had been spoken. Man can only achieve masterpieces in his spoken language, because he lives with it every moment of his life, he expresses his feelings with it and, even in his sleep, he dreams in it.

One of the causes of the Lebanese political failure is our use of the Lebanese language in our speech and Classical Arabic in our writing.

In Lebanon today, the Lebanese language (not the Lebanese dialect) must be adopted, both in speaking and in writing, and classical Arabic must be reserved only for those who wish to specialize in ancient languages.

Undoubtedly, our present spoken language will someday be regarded as classical, and will ultimately be replaced by a more evolved language.

The United States, the Soviet Union and Europe have managed to evolve so remarkably, because they had completely rid themselves of their classical language and used their spoken language instead, a fact which played an important part in simplifying their tasks and helped in evolving their citizens.

It is important to note that, old languages are so rigid that they cannot

accommodate the new words created by daily inventions, and the discoveries of thousands of scientific laboratories.

If classical Arabic is maintained as our official language, it will fail in containing the new technical vocabulary thus keeping our people in the dark. Our spoken language, on the other hand, is so flexible that it can accommodate any new additions.

Consequently, our revolution against Arabic must coincide with our revolution against all the other tumours in Lebanon's body and mind. Failing to do so, Classical Arabic shall continue to be a retarding agent in our march towards progress.

The liberation of Lebanon begins with the liberation of his people from all the complications, residues and obstacles. Should his language remain confined, so will his mind be and, so long as his mind is confined, he will wade in the mud of ignorance and backwardness.

Europe revolted against its languages long ago and soared high up in civilization. The Soviet Union followed suit and officially adopted the 147 languages spoken in its territory, thus covering a great distance in culture and science.

We have come here today to promise the Lebanese people that major changes shall take place sooner than they think. Those who wish to join in will be warmly received and encouraged to play their part, but those who object to it, shall unfortunately be cleared away by the revolution.