



Commenting on the government's threats formulated in the wake of the recent security transgressions, the Guardians of the Cedars - National Movement issued the following communiqué:

Every time Lebanon's security is disturbed or the political, social and economic conditions are shaken, the Taef gang hastens to accuse *foreign agents* to seek to upset internal stability, breach the peace and disrupt the reconstruction and development venture, etc. All of these being achievements the Taef gang never ceases to boast of proudly.

Nevertheless, an independent observer cannot fail to notice that the internal stability was never obtained, but was already shaky. The reason is that this regime never bothered to establish a State in the sense accepted by the civilised world. Instead, it has created a combination of disparities, an association of contradictions and the founding of positions for the people in power and spheres of influence for the rich and the feudal lords. This led to a sham State prey to yanking, confrontation and vendetta, in a constant state of instability.

The independent observer cannot also fail to notice that the people in power have turned into a bunch of gluttons who are snapping at what is left of the semblance of a State, tearing down the remnants of its dignity and plundering the little fitness it still has. This has caused a severe cleavage between them and the people and bred in the hearts of the Lebanese a widespread resentment, leading to a permanent rancour against everything connected with the symbols of the State.

Furthermore, the independent observer will realise that this resentment is increasing with every day and that it is the main cause of the state of anxiety prevalent throughout the land. It is also the principal motive leading the people to rally round the opposition parties and the forces hostile to the regime.

Consequently, and since security is directly dependent on the political, social and economic stability, the present regime is responsible for the breach of security which roams about between Beirut, the Beqaa, the South and all the other regions.

As for the threat to use force against the opposition parties and movements, no one ignores that this is a procedure despotic regimes resort to in order to silence independent voices seeking reform and crushing the remaining free and dynamic citizens, hiding behind the slogan of restoring order, alleging attempts against national security - which they stir up - in order to cover their incapacity to set up a civilised State to which the people will obey freely, not by force.

We still have to remind this bunch of gluttons who abuse the people, that oppression is a boomerang which turns against its user and that wrong, in the end, is always defeated by right, no matter how long it takes.

At the service of Lebanon,
The Chief,

Etienne Sacre.