



Commenting on the parliamentary sessions debating the budget, the Guardians of the Cedars - National Lebanese Movement issued the following communiqué:

The Lebanese people followed the sessions in which the budget was debated with disgust and nonchalance. These sessions were remarkable for their monotony, buffoonery, uproar without changing anything in the articles of the draft, and without laying the hands on the substance of the critical financial and industrial crisis facing the nation. This crisis will not receive a solution as long as the Taef regime, in both its executive and legislative components do not reveal the snares of the crisis, fears the Syrian supervisor or is in connivance with him, or both cases at once.

The snares of the crisis can be resumed in three main factors:

First: The sapping of the constituents of the State and its institutions, caused by the lasting Syrian occupation, resulting in the waning of the entity, sovereignty and decision-making of the State. This has led to the deviation of foreign capital to politically more stable, secure and democratic countries, preceded by Lebanese capitals which were forced by the war to flee the country, and will never return as long as Lebanon is under Syrian occupation and tight tutelage.

Second: The continuous draining of hard cash from Lebanon to Syria, estimated at four thousand million dollars annually, which is equivalent to one third of the GNP, under cover of the industrial, financial and customs accords which were forced upon us. The invasion of Syrian citizens which is estimated at a million and a quarter who, in turn, drain away the equivalent of four thousand million dollars annually.

This is the most important factor in the matter of emptying the national treasury, the impoverishing of the country and the dwindling of job opportunities for the Lebanese and lowering the people's standard of living.

Third: The general performance of the Taef gang which is totally subservient to the Syrian regime is the worst in our modern and contemporary history. It has matured enough in well organized corruption to consume what is left of the fitness of Lebanon, and changed him into a forlorn country from which friendly countries and international banks willing to assist him, turn away.

These are the facts that resume our political, economic and financial tragedy, and which the Members of Parliament failed to raise. We lay them at present before the Lebanese, hoping that they will incite them, when time comes to revolt.

At the service of Lebanon,  
The Chief,

Etienne Sacre.