



Commenting on the Taef gang's consultations regarding the country's economic conditions, the Guardians of the Cedars - National Lebanese Movement issued the following communiqué:

The Taef gang realizes at long last the country's frightful economic conditions, its pressing financial obligations, including the sums necessary to cover the upgrading of the salaries in the public sector, the return of the deportees to their homes and many other urgent national problems.

Consequently the Taef gang suddenly dropped its autocratic methods and resorted to consultations, widening them to include secular and religious authorities, with the aim of receiving a great number of opinions, hoping they will provide them magical solutions that would ease the affliction of the people or at least draw up an economic policy that might extricate the State from the choking situation it has fallen in.

Strangely enough, no sooner the Iraqi crisis began to cool down than a burning hot crisis with an economic countenance has sprouted in Lebanon. It seems that those who brewed it at this time wish us to believe that it is a direct result of the détente in Iraq. But there are no suckers left in Lebanon, and everybody is fully aware that the Taef gang has built up its sham prestige on lies, embezzlement and all sorts of illicit deals.

The Taef gang's schemes to remedy the situation of the economy are worthy of buffoons and can only end in disaster. The solution in the opinion of the Party of the Guardians of the Cedars lies in the following:

1. Since the defect lies in our present political structure, it is imperative to replace this freak regime with another that reflects correctly our political, economic and social aspirations which are particular to our people and well-known. Every other solution will only coerce and humiliate the people.
2. Putting an end to all the foreign occupations of our land, in particular the chronic Syrian occupation, by implementing the Security Council's resolution 520; repealing all the submissive accords made with Syria, and the expulsion of the close to two million Syrians working inside our borders who drain away some 4 billion dollars annually from our national income. Every delay in so doing tends to transform Lebanon to an indigent Syrian vassal and a base for fanatics who spread terrorism in every direction.
3. Setting up a clean unaligned regime marked by a genuine patriotic spirit and a concept that is solely national, without which Lebanon can never regain his precursor role nor the world's trust.

This leads to the necessity of convincing the decision-making countries, and especially the United States that use of Lebanon as a scapegoat for the region's problems as was done during the past quarter of a century, has not served the cause of peace, but on the contrary, the peace is now reeling under the blows of terrorism on the one hand, and the rigid positions of the antagonists on the other. And now, the whole region is living anew under the specter of war... All this because of the sin of using Lebanon as a pawn in a war game, not as an agent of peace.

At the service of Lebanon,
The Chief,

Etienne Sacre.