



Commenting on the recent customs accord between Lebanon and Syria, the Guardians of the Cedars - National Lebanese Movement issued the following communiqué:

The Taef gang is persistent in pursuing the deals that impoverish Lebanon by multiplying the treaties of co-operation that are grossly unbalanced in favor of Syria. This has resulted in building up the sway of Syrian colonialism in the economic, political, security and demographic fields.

The recent customs accord between Lebanon and Syria, or rather between Syria and Syria, has added one more link in the chain of the economic plot against our extenuated country, aiming at downgrading the standard of living of the Lebanese people, half of whom are already below the line of poverty, by the admittance of the Head of Central Statistics, since the revenue per capita is below 200,000 Lebanese Pounds.

Moreover, this draft treaty will destroy our national industry which cannot compete with Syrian industry, due to the high cost of production, thereby intensifying our economic stagnation and the bankruptcy of the few factories still active, the dismissal of Lebanese workers, the increase of unemployment, the drop in standard of living and in financial overstrain and psychological stress. All this is in accord with a painstaking plot to eradicate the capacity of resistance of the Lebanese people, and goad them further to emigrate, thereby vacating the land for the settlement of foreigners.

In order to cover this new economic conspiracy, the Taef gang set its media, economic analyst stooges, and political theorists to praise the accord, claiming that "it is the most profitable since our Independence", that opulence is awaiting the Lebanese around the corner and that the per capita income of the Lebanese will soar up to reach the level in Scandinavian countries...; and all the deceitful political expressions to which the renegade Taef gang has accustomed us.

This regime which was imposed upon Lebanon, and which never ceases to consume the energies of State and people, has metamorphosed into a petty agent of the Syrian Sublime Porte, collecting for it the taxes and tolls and continuously nurturing it with the riches of Lebanon.

The Taef gang must realize two things:

First: It will stand sooner or later before the "court of the people" and the judgement will be severe.

Second: The people will not emigrate as they plan. On the contrary, they will remain firmly in order to deliver their judgement...

And God willing time will soon tell!

At the service of Lebanon,
The Chief,

Etienne Sacre.