



Commenting on the recent visit of UN Secretary Kofi Anan to the region, the Guardians of the Cedars - National Lebanese Movement issued the following communiqué:

During his recent visit to Israel, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Anan urged the Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss with Syria the problem of South Lebanon, specifying that there is a Syrian angle to the question that cannot be ignored. He also said that discussions must be held regarding Security Council Decision 425.

This declaration constitutes an explicit acknowledgement by the United Nations that the Lebanese political decision is not in Beirut, but in Damascus, and a blatant avowal of the Syrian Hegemony over Lebanon. Worse, it gives this hegemony an International recognition and grants Syria an international cover to maintain its control over Lebanese affairs and over the decision making in vital matters concerning the destiny of the Lebanese.

Mr. Anan's declarations did not surprise the Lebanese who have become accustomed to similar declarations made by officials of all the countries who played a role in the Lebanese crisis. But the Lebanese are hurt because they emanate from the United Nations Organization which was originally founded to safeguard the Independence of its member States, the protection of the freedom of their citizens and the guardianship of the Human Rights in these States... Even more hurting was the fact that the Secretary General seems to ignore that Lebanon is a founding member of the UNO and participated in the elaboration of its statutes. Lebanon also presided, in the person of Dr. Charles Malik, over the General Assembly in the mid-fifties.

Moreover, if Mr. Anan recognizes that Syria has an angle in Lebanon, we can assure him that it has so far three angles, and if he implements Decision 425, then all four angles will be in its hands, and would thereby complete its control over all the Lebanese Territory.

The Lebanese wish to lay this question before the World Public Opinion: "Why is the world in such a hurry to liberate Lebanon from Israeli occupation of a part of the South and does not mention, not even implicitly, the **Syrian occupation of all Lebanon**? Why does the World look at the Lebanese crisis for the past quarter of a century with one eye?"

Only one answer comes to mind: The other eye was blinded by its petty interests, namely: the Arabian Oil Wells which have drowned its culture and its human values.

At the service of Lebanon,

The Chief,  
Etienne Sacre.