



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué:

It is a mistake to think that the American war ended with the fall of Baghdad and that its repercussions will be limited geographically to Iraq. It is also a mistake to think that the Syrian regime will, this time also, be able, by dancing on a tight rope, to escape the pressing political exigencies awaiting.

After the Syrian regime gambled on Iraq and lost, and the exposure of its military, political and social support to the collapse of the Iraqi regime under the American onslaught, it tried, as it always does, to beat about the bush in an attempt to locate the US Administration by delivering to it some of the top Iraqi officials seeking asylum in Syria, and revealing some military intelligence, hoping this would open a new page in Syrian-US relations and dismiss all former differences.

According to the information in our possession, the visit of Secretary Collin Powell to Syria was short, decisive and restricted to a demand to fulfill the following requirements within a specific time table:

First: Presenting a comprehensive and detailed account of the weapons of mass destruction in its possession, in particular chemical weapons and long range missiles, including whatever weapons it has recently received from Iraq. This is accompanied by an assertion that any attempt to deny or seek from the United Nations a resolution declaring the Near East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction will be to no avail.

Second: Carrying out reforms regarding political freedom and democracy. This requirement, if fulfilled, would lead to the collapse of the Syrian dictatorial regime since dictatorship and freedom are as incompatible as ice and fire.

Third: Combating every form of terrorism, without differentiating between terrorism and an alleged Resistance, as well as the dismantling, disarming and breaking down of the infrastructure of all terrorist organizations in Syria and Lebanon. This is the hottest requirement facing the Syrians who are unable to fulfill it politically and militarily, especially since this will deprive it of a major trump card in its cold war against Israel.

Fourth: The withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon. This demand which has recently surged with insistence in Washington and even in Paris, will threaten the fall of the Syrian regime, since its fall in Lebanon will entail its fall in Damascus.

From the above, it should be obvious that the Syrian regime has reached the point of no return, and will have to drink to the dregs the bitter cup of sorrow it has forced the Lebanese to drink for so long.

As for the dissonant voices that may arise by Syrian yes-men in Lebanon, they will be smothered because they have been unmasked; their time is almost up and their censure will be severe. Time will show!

Lebanon, at your service,

Abu Arz,

May 3 2003.