



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

In spite of the many crises that the Syrian regime is wading through, it still persists in minding the Lebanese situation more than it minds the Syrian situation, which explains the flood of statements issued by Syrian leaders on Lebanon and its internal affairs.

A correct reading of these statements shows that their vintage style has not changed, alternating between veiled threats on one hand and a camouflaged dictating on the other, all the while maintaining an arrogant, disdainful and condescending style as though the Syrian custodianship over Lebanon is alive and well to this day.

When the Syrian President tells the Kuwaiti daily Al-Anbaa' in his last interview that he fears for Lebanon from a civil war, and that the existing divisions will push Lebanon over the edge into the abyss, and that he seeks to prevent a deterioration of things for the worst, etc., he is in fact hiding the essence of his feelings and a whole slew of facts that need to be exposed.

First, the existing division in Lebanon today is not only due to the unethical conduct of our political establishment, but it is to a large extent a heritage from Syria going back to the policies of incitement to strife and provocation that the Syrian regime always exercised towards Lebanon, and which allowed it to control Lebanon for 30 years on the basis of divide and conquer. The Syrian regime in fact continues to use this approach today in order to destabilize the internal situation and achieve at least two goals: vengeance from the Lebanese because of the Syrian regime's dishonorable withdrawal from Lebanon, and obstructing the establishment of the international court as a way to evade its own involvement in the assassination of Rafik Hariri and all the other crimes that preceded and followed it, not to mention the third goal of the dream of returning to Lebanon.

Second, the Syrian regime did not stop the "civil" war in Lebanon, not for one day. In fact, the regime was continuously fanning the flames of the war in Lebanon whenever they were close to die off, and that the blood that the Syrian army shed on our land was never against Israel but always against the Lebanese people who rejected the Syrian occupation. As to the money that the regime spent in Lebanon, it is petty compared with the untold fortunes that it reaped from this country over the lives and livelihoods of the Lebanese people and the economy and welfare of their country. Lest we forget, the booming construction and prosperity that Syria experienced over the past decades was mostly the result of the disaster "sisterly" Syria inflicted on Lebanon.

Third, if he were sincere in seeking to prevent a deterioration to the worst of the situation in Lebanon, all he has to do is lift his hands off Lebanon and cease interfering in its affairs. And when he says that it is Israel, and not Iran, which has destroyed Lebanon, these are ill-willed words because the July War would not have happened were it not for the influx into Lebanon of Iranian and Syrian weapons to the organizations loyal to the regime in Damascus. One should not forget either the enormous and systematic destruction that the Syrian regime carried out and left behind in many areas and at many levels in Lebanon during its occupation.

The tragedy of Lebanon is that it is besieged on the inside by political groups that have sold their conscience and souls to the devil, and from the outside by tyrannical regimes that wish Lebanon nothing but evil and malice. It is truly and genuinely a Greek tragedy.

Lebanon , at your service

Abu Arz

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