



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué:

We learned from past lessons that whenever the Arabs interfered in Lebanon's domestic affairs, the country's problems became more complicated and its crises exacerbated. So much so that the Lebanese shudder in apprehension when they hear that the Arabs have proposals on the table for them, because they have suffered much from previous similar initiatives.

Who among the Lebanese does not remember the infamous Cairo Accord of 1969 that opened the borders of Lebanon for the guerrilla activities of the Palestinian "Fedayeens" that, truth be told, opened the gates of hell on Lebanon? To this date they remain open. Because of the Cairo Accord, the entire Israeli-Arab conflict was reduced to our southern border. Then the Melkart Accord of 1973 granted the Palestinians additional concessions over Lebanese sovereignty, paving the way for the Palestinian War on Lebanon that began in April 1975 and has yet to end.

Who would forget the Riyadh Accord of 1976 that delivered Lebanon on a silver plate into the hands of Syria by camouflaging the Syrian forces under a treacherous Arab cloak and sending them as a booby-trapped gift that devastated the country with death, destruction and mayhem?

Or the 1989 Taef Accord that tore the Constitution, separated the Lebanese people, and shook the foundations of the State and weakened the structure of government. Form the claim to be an agreement of "National Entente", it became a project for "National Disaccord", and today's sharp divisions in the country are but a sample of the Taef Accord's recipes.

Today we hear of a Saudi-Egyptian initiative, obviously positive on the surface – namely to mend the chiasm between Syria and Lebanon and provide stability for Lebanon – but whose negative reality is to give Syria a backdoor to re-enter Lebanon through a joint Syrian-Lebanese security committee, and rescues its falling regime by waiving the appearance of the Syrian president before the international inquiry commission in an attempt at exculpating him of the crime of Rafik Hariri's assassination.

It seems that some of our politicians have begun getting a grasp of these facts, though belatedly, and learning from the bitter lessons of the past. They, in effect, have been using the same language we have been using since 1975, and have taken the positions we have taken for thirty years, even though they only yesterday they qualified those positions as extremist and unrealistic – if not prohibited – illusions, etc.

What matters is that we do not repeat the same mistakes. We must shut the door before any suspicious Arab endeavours and use reason and common sense in solving our own internal problems on the principles of self-reliance and placing Lebanon's interests above all other personal or regional interests.

The late President Anwar Sadat once said: "Oh Arabs, take your hands off Lebanon."

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz
January 13, 2006