



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

There is often a silver lining to a bad thing. The July 12 war had one big positive beyond all its numerous negatives, which is to allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in the South backed by the international forces after more than 30 years of rejection and denial, and thus putting an end to the launch of military operations against Israel across the Blue Line and preempting all adventures and conspiracies, with their adventurers and conspirators, against the safety, the security and the stability of Lebanon.

This past July war is but one episode in a long series of wars that struck Lebanon since 1969, the year of the signing of the disastrous Cairo Accord which allowed to open the front of the South for Palestinian adventurism, beginning with the 1978 war, and through the wars of 1982, 1993 and 1996, and ending with this destructive war and its calamities and tragedies that befell Lebanon alone among the neighboring countries.

For this reason, and in trying to draw the lessons from this, there ought to be a 180-degree change in the policies of the State and a return to the pre-1969 policies, by undertaking the following steps:

1 – Completely close the southern front to all illegal armed organizations and desist once and for all from the deceptive argument that the road to Palestine goes through Lebanon, which was the biggest lie of that time and which proved its utter failure on the ground and its monumental harm to Lebanon.

2 – Disengage Lebanon permanently from the cycle of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the cycle of the Arab-Arab conflicts, as well as any other regional conflict, and turn to achieving the interests of Lebanon above all other interests, while awaiting a participation in the expected comprehensive settlement.

3 – The serious and prompt engagement to implementing the remaining provisions of resolution 1701 in a complete, precise and rapid manner, including controlling the air, sea and land ports of entry, returning the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers in order to speed up the lifting of the Israeli blockade over Lebanon, and focusing on an around-the-clock watch of the land crossings from and to Syria, particularly the illegal mountainous crossing points that smugglers use away from any surveillance. We reiterate that Syria was, and continues to be, the gate for all conspiracies against Lebanon and the sweet-talking that Syria made yesterday before Mr. Kofi Annan will remain doubtful until proven otherwise.

Finally, the State must understand that the capacity of the people to bear has become limited, and they are not ready to rebuild their homes on soft ground, and they won't rebuild their institutions before they are assured of their future and that this war is the last futile war on their soil.

This is without forgetting that it is inevitable that the Cairo Accord file must be revisited at the right time and prosecute the criminal leadership that signed on this criminal agreement that has cost the Lebanese people exorbitant prices they paid with their blood, their livelihoods and their wellbeing.

Lebanon , at your service

Abu Arz

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