



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

There are developing positive factors that may facilitate the search for some solution to the current crisis. The first factor stems from the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement which led to some defusing of the political and sectarian tensions in Lebanon. The second factor stems from the state of exhaustion in which the two parties of the conflict find themselves since neither side has succeeded in making the other side flinch after about 100 days of violent and continuous conflict between them. Their discourse has been reduced to finding a decent exit out of the crisis with the least possible damage. The third factor stems from the mounting resentment by the Lebanese people against the two sides in the conflict after they have deliberately led the country to the bottom of the abyss and seen their popularity plummet.

But the real obstacle to the solution and the most negative factor of all remains the Syrian position, which rejects the creation of the International Tribunal in principle, in form and in substance, in addition to its rejection of the principle of Lebanese sovereignty, independence and free decision-making, notwithstanding the few gracious expressions it makes every once in a while.

If foreign mediations and the upcoming Arab summit succeed in loosening the Syrian knot, then a settlement may become possible along the proposed formulas and on a winner-no loser basis. And in order to remove any ambiguity from the minds of the Lebanese, there has to be a distinction between a settlement and a solution. A solution is typically fixed and permanent, whereas a settlement is by its nature temporary and delicate. Since the Lebanese crisis is linked to regional conflicts and the internal clash is an extension of the foreign clash, and since most of the political leadership consists of dummies that are moved by those regional players and the Lebanese arena is not immune to foreign infestation, then the upcoming settlement will be temporary and delicate like all preceding settlements, which in fact is the reason why all the unsolved problems have piled up into this mountain of complicated and chronic crises in which the country finds itself today.

From this standpoint, we say that the Lebanese people, and after decades of tragedies, are looking for fixed and permanent solutions to their many problems, and not to instantaneous and patch-up settlements. Those permanent and fixed solutions will not materialize without an upheaval in the traditional political business-as-usual process, i.e. when the political class begins to give

precedence to the interests of Lebanon over any other interest, and to demonstrate allegiance to Lebanon before any other allegiance. For the time being, though, Lebanon will remain in limbo between settlements and solutions until divine intervention bestows on the country another type of political class.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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