



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

All the evidence indicates that the dialogue conference scheduled to be held in Paris next week will not fare better than previous dialogue conferences, and the Lebanese people fear that the new French administration will not be dealt a failure as it begins its term. That there is a high likelihood of failure is due to several internal and external factors, which may be summarized in the following three:

First, the deeply-entrenched disputes between the parties to the conflict in Lebanon are not only still standing, but they in fact have increased in intensity and recalcitrance with time, especially after the adoption of the International Tribunal under Chapter VII, the uncovering of the Syrian role in igniting the situation in Lebanon, according to the confessions made by arrested members of the Fatah Al-Islam gang, and the approaching presidential elections which represent a major point of contention between the opposing parties.

Second, the regional and international climate continues to exert tremendous pressures on Lebanon and prevent it from taking a breather, especially in the ongoing tug of war between two conflicting programs, one led by the United States and Europe, and the other by Iran and Syria. Any pretense to an internal pacification in Lebanon against the backdrop of this showdown is unrealistic.

Third, it is not reasonable to assume that second-rank politicians will succeed where first-tier leaders have failed, particularly that goodwill is nowhere to be found and trust is non-existent between all the parties. We do not believe that the weather in France will be more conducive than that in Lebanon to producing specific results to an extremely complex crisis. Many a mediation and initiative, regional and international, have failed to make a dent in it, and all that the parties to the dialogue will do is move their disputes from Lebanon to Paris.

The solution in our opinion is not to change the envoys and the venues for dialogue. The solution is in changing the leaderships. The Lebanese people fear that the expenses of the conference attendees will come at the expense of the Lebanese Treasury, and they are not willing to shoulder any more burdens for a dialogue that is more similar to a dialogue of the deaf.

On the other hand, the honorable Lebanese do stand by the side of Bkirki in its last loud alarm at the crime of selling Lebanese land wholesale to foreigners, and the Church has demanded not only to stop this blatant crime, but to review

all suspect sales transactions that have occurred between 1990 and 2005, i.e. during the disastrous Syrian custody over Lebanon. The Church also calls on the Lebanese to remain attached to their land and refrain from selling even an inch to a foreigner: Lebanon is not for sale!

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

July 6, 2007