CRISIS IN LEBANON

1,500 Lebanese Abandon Israeli-Damaged Village

LEBANON REPORTS 2 ISRAELI ATTACKS

ISRAELI SHELLING

After Israeli Shell Attacks
Lebanese Report 6 Killed

10 Injured, 100 Houses Hit in Nabatiyeh Bombing

ISRAELI Unit Raids Lebanese Village and Seizes 3 Arabs

ISRAELIS CAPTURE 2 ON RAID IN LEBANON

LEBANON NIGHTLY

ISRAELI REPORT

SOUTHERN LEBANON
LEBANON LETS ATTACK

LEBANON REPORT

ISRAELIS ENTERING LEBANON

RAID INTO LEBANON

ISRAELI SAID TO HIT LEBANON A 2D DAY

Lebanese Live in Fear Near the Israeli Border
by Jack Forsyth

At the height of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, top leaders of Lebanon met in heated debate over whether to join the battle. Maj. Gen. Emile Bustani, the army’s Christian commander-in-chief, became so furious at one point that he hurled an ash tray at the Lebanese prime minister. A Moslem. The ash tray missed its mark but carried the argument; Lebanese stayed out of the war.

General Bustani foresaw a military debacle. The prime minister, in arguing for war, feared political chaos if Lebanon remained aloof. Now, some eight years later, Lebanon once again is facing these mutually unattractive alternatives.

In one sense, Lebanon is already at war — in its southern region facing Israel. The 1967 Arab-Israeli war acted to rekindle Palestinian nationalism, and the guerrilla forces of this nationalist movement have now succeeded in transforming Lebanon’s rough and hilly southern region into its main theater of operations against Israel.

If an overall Arab-Israeli peace agreement that includes settling the Palestinians in a state of their own is not forthcoming, Lebanon will undoubtedly get dragged into the next Arab-Israeli round. Israel then could well end up occupying southern Lebanon up to the Litani River, a long-coveted source of salt-free water. Israel’s excuse would be the Palestinian guerrillas. But the waters of the Litani have lured Israel’s Zionist planners ever since the Balfour Declaration establishing a “Jewish National Home” in 1917. A Zionist map submitted to the Paris Peace Conference that year included Lebanon’s port of Sidon and extended to a point in Syria mid-way between Kuneitra and Damascus.

Palestinian guerrilla activity began in southern Lebanon’s Arkoub region shortly after the 1967 war. This remote corner of Lebanon, tucked under 9,232-foot Mt. Hermon, is close to both the Syrian and Israeli frontiers. The Arkoub gradually became known as “Fatahland,” a reference to Al Fatah, the main Palestinian guerrilla organization run by Yassar Arafat, who has since become the leader of the movement’s overall group, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Some of the largest Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon are located in its south. There are three camps in the Sidon area and three more in and around Tyre. These include Lebanon’s biggest refugee camp, Ain al-Hilweh, with 17,692 refugees. Lebanon has a total of 15 refugee camps operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Administration (UNRWA). UNRWA lists 171,517 as eligible for refugee benefits, which include shelter, food, health care, and education, but this count is considered inflated. An estimated 325,909 Palestinians live in Lebanon, many of whom are successfully employed. But about half of Lebanon’s Palestinian “diapora” remain as “refugees” and more than half of these live in Lebanon’s southern region, providing both manpower and “cover” for the fedayeen.

Until the October 1973 war — the fourth between the Arabs and Israel — the Lebanese government had been able to control the fedayeen by appealing to Lebanese national self-interest. There had been tremendous challenges, beginning with the Israeli attack on the Beirut Inter-

accountable for any fedayeen activity that could be traced to Lebanon. This strategy was to put new, critical pressures on a governmental system that already was approaching a breaking point. Under an informal agreement reached in 1943, prior to independence from France, Lebanese Christians maintain a slight parliamentary majority over Moslems according to a 6 to 5 ratio. The Lebanese president is always a Christian, the prime minister is always a Moslem. This arrangement has continued despite indications that Moslems now outnumber Christians. No religious census has been taken since 1922. Pan-Arab Moslem causes such as the Palestinians pose thus serve to split the country along religious lines, and to fuel Moslem discontent with the status quo.

Lebanon’s precarious statehood has survived because of a steadfast policy of non-involvement in pan-Arab politics and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The policy worked because of tacit cooperation from other Arab states, particularly from Egypt. This was especially so during the period of Gamal Abdel Nasser’s presidency. The Palestinian-Lebanese crisis during April and May of 1969 was typical of how the Lebanese government maneuvered to prevent the increasingly popular Palestinian movement from gaining overpowering popular support. Although such Lebanese prime ministers as Rashid Karami genuinely wanted Lebanon to support the Palestinians and to achieve greater military preparedness, the Christian-led military succeeded in outwitting both the Palestinian guerrillas and their Lebanese sympathizers.

The aim of the Lebanese government in the 1969 crisis was to impose strict rules in the refugee camps, to prevent Palestinian demonstrations in Beirut and other cities, and to limit the movement of the fedayeen in the country’s south near the Israeli frontier to curb raids into Israel and the predictable Israeli reprisals. The issue was Lebanese sovereignty over its own territory so as not to jeopardize the southern part of the nation.

The Lebanese government succeeded by developing a four-point strategy that relied on President Nasser’s popularity among Lebanese Moslems and a general Lebanese distrust of Syria. The crisis began April 23 when Palestinian radicals demonstrated in Beirut and other centers...
to challenge increasing government restrictions. Riots developed in which 12 persons were killed, causing the Karami government to fall. Government tactics sought to blame Syrian intervention through as-Saïqa, the Syrian-controlled Palestinian guerilla group, and to split Palestinian ranks further by exonerating Arafat’s Al Fatah, which was opposing PFLP and other extremist groups that wanted to mount terrorist operations into Israel.

President Nasser, although reluctant to abandon the Palestinian cause, was more interested in preserving the Middle East status quo, and to maintain Lebanon as a neutral listening post open to both East and West. Nasser therefore responded to Lebanese entreaties to get Syria to pull back its Saïqa contingents inside southern Lebanon, and to keep Arafat’s Al Fatah from getting more involved. Palestinian efforts to ignite a general Lebanese uprising failed because of successful govern-
ment media manipulation that exag-gerated Syrian intervention. Thus the issue was presented more as a Syrian threat than an Israeli threat.

Such is not the case today. Since the Oc-tober 1973 war, which served to revive sagging Palestinian morale, fedayeen ac-tivity against Israel has increased, par-ticularly across the Lebanese frontier. Israel’s response has been to declare all-out war against both the fedayeen and the hapless residents of southern Lebanon who chance to be in the way of Israeli retaliatory strikes. Indeed, Israeli military sweeps across the frontier are be-ing conducted so frequently now as to con-stitute de facto Israeli control of the southern fringe of Lebanon’s border.

Leaflets left by the Israeli army last July at three southern Lebanese ports, following the sinking of 30 Lebanese fishing craft, carried this warning: “You have a choice between peace and disturb-ance. The same fedayeen who have been at the origin of the cruelty and the damage suffered by the peasants of south Lebanon — whose homes, villages, and fields have been devastated — are currently acting to bring the same misfortune and disaster on your heads...” The Israelis were reac-ting to command infiltration of the the three-man attack of Kiriyat Shmona last April 10, and the incident at Maalot May 15, in which 21 teen-agers died when Israeli troops stormed the school where they were being held hostage. Israeli forces now are punishing the southern Lebanese population as a means of pressuring the Lebanese government to crack down on the Palestinians as it did beginning in 1969.

In recent months the border region has been turned into a virtual no-man’s-land. Lebanese farmers are told by Israeli patrols not to farm their fields near the frontier, and to stay inside at night. Villagers tell of being kidnapped, in-terrogated, and tortured with electricity.

At Taibe, not far from the Litani River, an Israeli patrol reportedly stormed one house, shooting the owner when he opened the door, and then killing his two sons, one of whom was home on vacation from a vocational high school in Tyre. Imam Moussa Sadr, leader of Lebanon’s Shi’ite Moslems, who make up most of south Lebanon’s population, warns, “There is a big probability that there might be an Israeli occupation of the south during the first half of this year.”

The mounting Palestinian-Israeli con-fronation in southern Lebanon, however, to suspend operations against Israel from Lebanon. Such conservative Christian leaders as Pierre Gemayel are again voic-ing criticism of the fedayeen for “extremism” and “indiscipline.” Gemayel’s comments followed several skirmishes last January between PFLP members and the Lebanese army. Again, Yassir Arafat played a mediating role, but the Lebanese government did not use the incidents to pursue an all-out crackdown. The reason is that it fears an internal political crisis if it attempted to go against the Palestinian cause when it is enjoying widespread Arab and international support. Instead, Lebanon is seeking Soviet anti-aircraft missiles and other arms to counter Israeli military penetrations.

It would seem that Lebanon has quietly turned the corner towards full involve-ment in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinian issue has at last surfaced as the primary problem to be solved, and there appears to be no avoiding it anywhere, either in Israel or in Lebanon. The Lebanese Christian press offers a significant clue here. Following the Palestinian terrorist incident at Kiriyat Shmona last year and the Israeli reprisal raids that came after, Edouard Saab, editor of L’Orient-Le Jour, criticized Israel for failing to recognize the terrorism as a political act rather than a military action. The Israeli solution, he wrote, merely another fedayeen hunt in-side Lebanon, ignores the Jordanian ex-perience of 1970 and 1971, whereby King Hussein’s repression of the Palestinian guerrillas acted only to push their resistance to greater degrees of despera-tion.

A similar analysis followed the Ma’alot incident in An Nahar by columnist Michel Abu Jaudeh. Ma’alot, he wrote, “gives evidence to the whole world that Israel’s protest against using innocent students as political leverage only highlights the full scope of the Palestinian tragedy. Palestinians who became fedayeen did so because they were deprived of the chance to become innocent students... Why is the generation of post-1948 Israel studying at a school in Maalot when its Palestinian counterparts are fedayeen going to school to learn to die? Why should the Palestinian not be a student at a school in Palestine? This is the question put to the Israelis, to Dr. Kissinger, and to the world communi-ty in the hope that it will make them think.”

Whether one agrees with Saab and Abu Jaudeh or not, the significance of their journalism is that they are focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and not on the Lebanese issue. The day of Lebanon’s in-sularity from the Middle East’s overriding trauma appears to have ended, and the curious part of it is that it may never be clear exactly when this happened.

northern Israeli coast.

Israel’s increasing military intervention inside Lebanon has resulted in the death of an estimated 301 civilians, the wounding of 622, and the destruction of several hundred homes between January, 1980 and August, 1974. Aerial assaults against Palestinian refugee camps in the Tyre-Sidon area last May and June were described this way in the London Times: “I counted more than 40 craters from 1,000-pound bombs peppering an area of less than 400 square yards. Eight children between the ages of 8 and 12 were killed when bombs showered down on the camp’s school. The death toll so far in Nabatieh alone is 25 civilians killed and near-ly 60 wounded.”

Israeli policy, however, is clearly going beyond mere retaliation for Palestinian guerrilla incursions into Israel, such as

`Israeli policy is clearly going beyond mere retaliation for guerrilla incursions into Israel!'
### Who's the underdog?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lebanon*</th>
<th>Israel*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>3,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army Regulars</td>
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<td>95,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Helicopters</td>
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<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warships</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* As an added note, the above figures were accurate before the most recent Middle East war. Since that time, the Lebanese statistics have remained basically unchanged, while Israel has even doubled its war-making capacity in some of the areas shown above.

### BEFORE / AFTER

United Nations camp at Nabatieh in South Lebanon before and after an Israeli attack.
Chronology:

VICTIMS OF ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON, 1968-1975

28/12/68—Attack by helicopter against Beirut Airport. 13 planes are destroyed.

11/ 8/69—Israel attacks the Lebanese villages of the Arkoub region. 4 civilians and 1 soldier are killed.

3/ 9/69—Israel raid against four villages in south Lebanon.

5/ 9/69—Land attack by Israeli commandos who penetrate 5 km. into Lebanese territory. One civilian killed, 2 wounded.

3/10/69—Israel attack against the south. Helicopter forces injure two civilians. Four houses are destroyed.

3/ 1/70—Israelis kidnap 11 civilians and one soldier at a border control post.

6/ 1/70—Israelis kidnap 11 civilians and 11 soldiers.

23/ 1/70—Two civilians are killed, two others wounded during an Israeli attack. Several houses are destroyed.

7/ 3/70—One soldier killed, one civilian wounded and two civilians kidnaped during an Israeli attack. 5 houses are blown up.

17/ 3/70—A child and a civilian are killed, 5 persons wounded, when three villages are bombed. 5 houses are destroyed.

12/ 5/70—An attack by tanks and aircraft against the Arkoub region causes the death of 6 Lebanese soldiers and 2 civilians. 21 tanks are destroyed and 4 are hit.

14/ 5/70—Four women are killed and one civilian wounded by Israeli artillery.

22/ 5/70—Four villages are attacked. Lebanon informs the United Nations that 2 civilians were killed, 40 wounded and 150 houses destroyed or hit.

25/ 5/70—A Lebanese soldier is killed and 6 others wounded during an Israeli attack.

10/ 6/70—One officer is killed and 3 soldiers are wounded following a clash with an Israeli patrol.

20/ 7/70—Israel forces penetrate into South Lebanon.

27/12/70—Two civilians are killed during an Israeli raid.

15/ 1/71—A woman is wounded and 2 houses are destroyed during an Israeli air and sea attack.

18/ 9/70—Four persons are killed and a civilian is kidnapped in South Lebanon.

11/ 1/72—A Lebanese woman is killed during a double Israeli raid.

14/ 1/72—A woman is wounded when an Israeli patrol blows up 4 houses.

25/ 2/72—Israel attacks the Arkoub region and pursues artillery fire and air raids for 3 days. They retreat on 28 Feb. The Lebanon Army regains control of the Arkoub. Losses: 2 civilians killed, a soldier wounded and several houses ruined.

27/ 2/72—Israelis raid Nabatiya camp: 10 killed, 50 wounded.

6/ 6/72—Israeli attack on Hasbayya: 5 deaths and 15 wounded among civilians. The same day, Israeli aircrafts capture 5 high Syrian officers, one Lebanese officer and 4 gendarmes on duty near Ramieh. During the kidnaping, a clash causes the death of a military policeman, and 2 civilians of Ramieh are wounded.

23/ 6/72—Israelis raid Deir al-Asphayer and Marjayoun, causing 17 deaths and tens of civilians wounded. A Lebanese woman at Debibe is killed.

8/ 9/72—Large-scale Israeli raids on Nahr al-Bared, Rafel and Rashaya al-Wadi camps. The attack causes 16 deaths and 87 wounded.

16/ 9/72—Large-scale Israeli attacks on South Lebanon: 15 deaths and 46 wounded.

21/ 2/73—Israeli attacks on Baddawi and Nahr al-Bared camps. 13 persons are killed and many wounded.

10/ 4/73—Four Lebanese civilians, 3 Syrian civilians, 4 Palestinians, and an Italian woman killed when Israeli terrorists carry on guerrilla operations in Beirut area. 29 persons, all Lebanese, are wounded. Security Council resolution 332 unanimously condemns the action.

9/10/73—Nine Lebanese soldiers wounded as Israeli air forces carry out attacks on Lebanon.

9/10/73—Nine Lebanese soldiers wounded as Israeli air forces carry out attacks on Lebanon.

12/ 4/74—Two Lebanese civilians killed, many wounded, 13 kidnapped and 31 houses destroyed as six Southern Lebanon villages are attacked by Israeli Air Forces.

13/ 5/74—The village of Kefir bombed with four persons, including a woman and her 7 year old daughter killed. Nine persons were wounded.

16/ 5/74—Five Lebanese killed and 23 wounded and 30 Palestinians killed with 74 wounded as Israeli air force carries on two major raids against villages and U.N. camps.

17/ 5/74—More villages attacked with 22 Palestinians killed and 20 wounded.

19/ 5/74—Rashidiyah Refugee Camp victim of Israeli naval bombardment. Eight civilians killed and 21 wounded with 50 houses damaged.

20/ 5/74—Five Lebanese soldiers wounded by Israeli artillery fire.

21/ 5/74—Four Lebanese villages bombed causing injury to one civilian and destruction of many homes.

22/ 5/74—The village of Ain Qeniya bombed killing three children and injuring 33 others.

23/ 5/74—Six Lebanese soldiers injured by artillery fire near Rachaya, El Fosskar, Chehaya, and El Majdiyye.

30/ 5/74—Israeli artillery fire near Haddath results in injury to one child and damage to homes.

31/ 5/74—Two Lebanese wounded and three houses destroyed as Israeli planes.
bomb Lebanese villages of Rashaiya, Abu Qamah and Talet Es Saghd.
18/30/5-74 - 73 Palestinians killed and 159 wound-
ed following bombing of United Nations camp at Ain El-Helweh, Rashidiya and Bosay El Chimal.
25/ 5-74 - A woman and her daughter wounded and nine homes destroyed by ar-
tillery in the village of Qana.
8/ 7-74 - Several Lebanese fishing boats are de-
stroyed and one person injured as Israeli marines penetrate Lebanese waters at the ports of Sour, Sarafand, and Saida.
18/ 7-74 - Israeli forces attack the village of Boullane, exploding three houses with dynamite and kidnapp
ing two Lebanese from the village
6/ 8-74 - Israeli raids in the vicinity of El Majidiey result in death to five civilians and kidnapping of six others.

14/ 8-74 - Pickets and barbed wire planted in
Lebanese territory by the Israelis.
1/ 9-74 - Lebanese citizen in Ain El Chabab
abducted during a raid.
3/ 9-74 - Vehicles searched, mail stolen, and
another citizen kidnapped by Israelis raiding near Shaltieh.
16/ 9-74 - Six villages fired bomb. Mayor of
Hashaybah and two other civilians killed. Homes destroyed and several farms set afire.
28/ 9-74 - Israeli artillery fire causes death of
two Lebanese and injury to several others in Ain El Chabab.
5/10-74 - In the vicinity of Blida, artillery fire
kills three Lebanese and injures 12 others.
18/10-74 - Israeli forces construct a minesfield
inside Lebanese territory.
31/10-74 - Six homes destroyed in village of
Blida.
19/11-74 - Israeli jets bomb several towns kill-
ing three Lebanese civilians and wounding five others. Two
Palestinians also killed and one in-
jured.
12/11/74 - Israeli artillery shells Nabatieh with four shells landing in the center of town near Government House leav-
ing crackers four feet in depth. Four persons killed, 20 injured, several homes destroyed and a new mosque
heavily damaged. Also that day, the village of Blida entered with the town's bakery and the home of a
widow with seven daughters destroyed.
14/11-74 - Israeli gunboats land a patrol near
Sarbine — blow up three houses and injure one person.
30/11-74 - Bombing in the vicinity of Kafras
caused destruction of one home and damage to crops.
In 1975 the damage and destruction have con-
tinued. At least 16 more Lebanese civilians
have been killed. At least 14 have been wounded
and 15 more have been kidnapped. Over 100
Lebanese homes have been destroyed.

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