

# THE LINK

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## CRISIS IN LEBANON

*1,500 Lebanese Abandon  
Israeli-Damaged Village*

LEBANON REPORTS  
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*Lebanese Live in Fear  
Near the Israeli Border*

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LEBANON NIGHTLY

ISRAELIS REPORT  
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ON RAID IN LEBANON

ISRAELI SHELLING  
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*Lebanese Report 6 Killed  
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ISRAEL SAID TO HIT  
LEBANON A 2D DAY

Israeli Unit Raids  
Lebanese Village  
And Seizes 3 Arabs

*10 Injured, 100  
Houses Hit in  
Nabatiyeh Bombing*

ISRAELI JETS ATTACK  
SOUTHERN LEBANON

# OVERVIEW:

## Lebanon in crisis

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; Lebanon 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 go-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 Yasir 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 325,000 Palestinians live in Lebanon, many of whom are successfully employed. But about half of Lebanon's Palestinian "diaspora" 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-

'the border region has been turned into a virtual no-man's land'

national Airport Dec. 28, 1968. The Israeli raid caused the moderate government in power then to collapse under parliamentary accusations that the Lebanese army had refused to defend the airport. The Israelis predicated the raid on alleged Lebanese governmental complicity in the attempted hijacking of an El Al airliner in Athens on Dec. 26 by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the main extremist guerrilla group. Israel said it held Lebanon responsible because the hijackers supposedly embarked from Beirut, where the PFLP operated with the alleged acquiescence of the Lebanese government.

Lebanon rejected the Israeli charge. Nevertheless, the Beirut International Airport raid established a new Israeli strategy to hold the Lebanese government

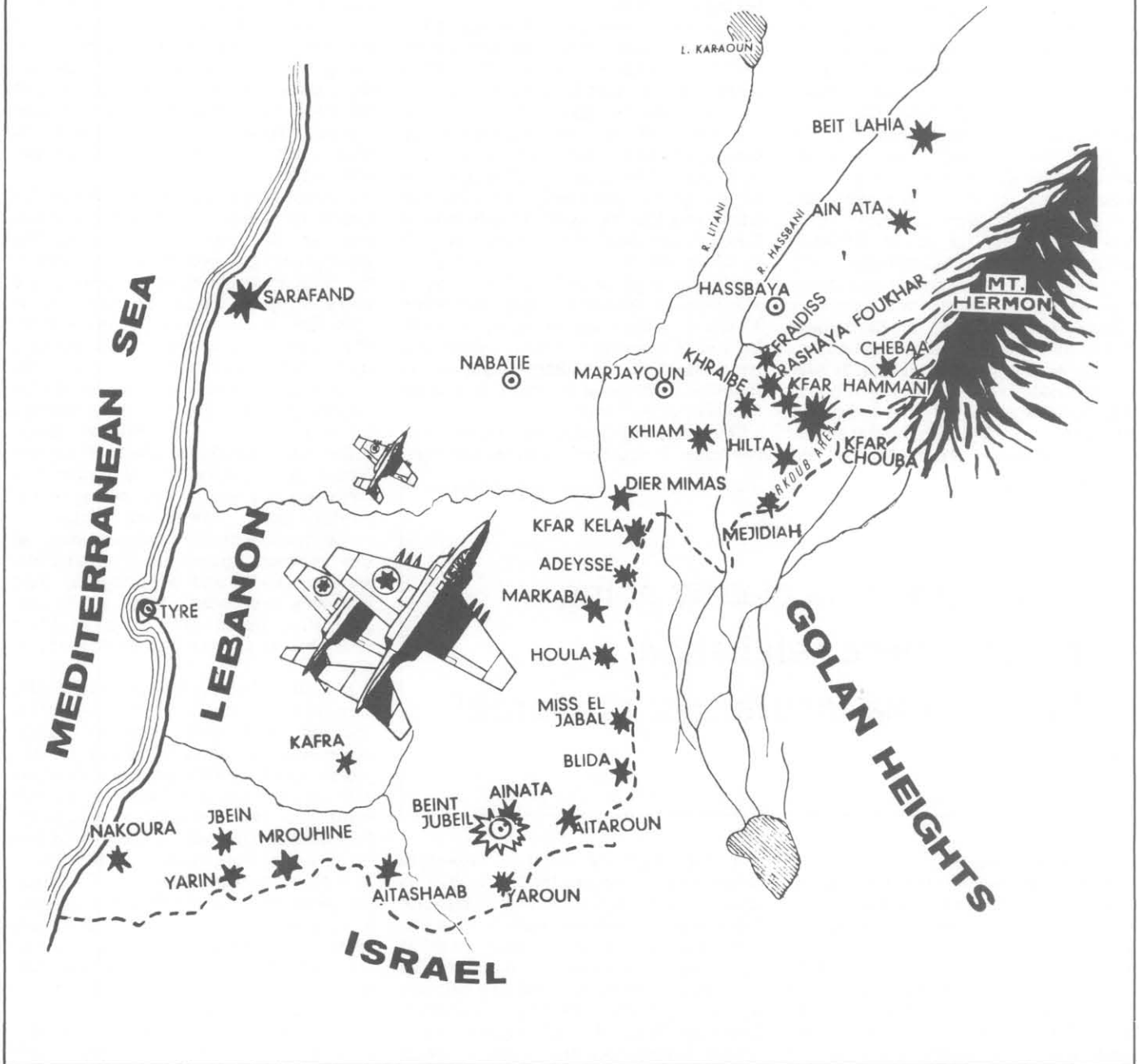
accountable for any *fedayeen* activity that could be traced to Lebanon. This strategy was to put new, critical pressures on a governmental system that already was approaching a breaking point. Under an informal agreement reached in 1943, prior to independence from France, Lebanese Christians maintain 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 1932. 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 pro-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

# Israeli attacks on Lebanon 1967-1975



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-Saiqa, 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 Saiqa 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 exaggerated Syrian intervention. Thus the issue was presented more as a Syrian threat than an Israeli threat.

Such is not the case today. Since the October 1973 war, which served to revive sagging Palestinian morale, fedayeen activity against Israel has increased, particularly 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 being conducted so frequently now as to constitute 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 disturbance. 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 reacting to commando infiltration of the

the three-man attack of Kiryat 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, interrogated, 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 Mousa Sadr, leader of Lebanon's Shiite 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 confrontation in southern Lebanon, however,

to suspend operations against Israel from Lebanon. Such conservative Christian leaders as Pierre Gemayel are again voicing criticism of the fedayeen for "extremism" and "indiscipline." Gemayel's comments followed several skirmishes last January between PFLP members and the Lebanese army. Again, Yasir 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 involvement 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 Kiryat 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 inside Lebanon, ignores the Jordanian experience of 1970 and 1971, whereby King Hussein's repression of the Palestinian guerrillas acted only to push their resistance to greater degrees of desperation.

A similar analysis followed the Maalot incident in *An Nahar* by columnist Michel Abu Jaudeh. Maalot, 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 community 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 insularity 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.

## 'Israeli policy is clearly going beyond mere retaliation for guerrilla incursions into Israel'

northern Israeli seacoast.

Israel's increasing military intervention inside Lebanon has resulted in the death of an estimated 301 civilians, the wounding of 682, and the destruction of several hundred homes between January, 1968 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 nearly 60 wounded."

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

has not triggered another 1969-style Lebanese move against the fedayeen. This time there is no Nasser to manipulate Moslem public opinion. Indeed, even the Syrians are portrayed now not as potential aggressors, but rather as an ally. The meeting in Lebanon last January between the two countries' presidents, Lebanon's Suleiman Franjeh and Syria's Hafez Assad, marked the first time a Syrian president had visited Lebanon in two decades. The meeting produced a mutual defense pact of more political than military significance.

The Lebanese government is still faced with the same dilemma over the Palestinians, and is attempting to get other Arab governments with influence, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to induce the more militant guerrilla organizations

# Who's the underdog?

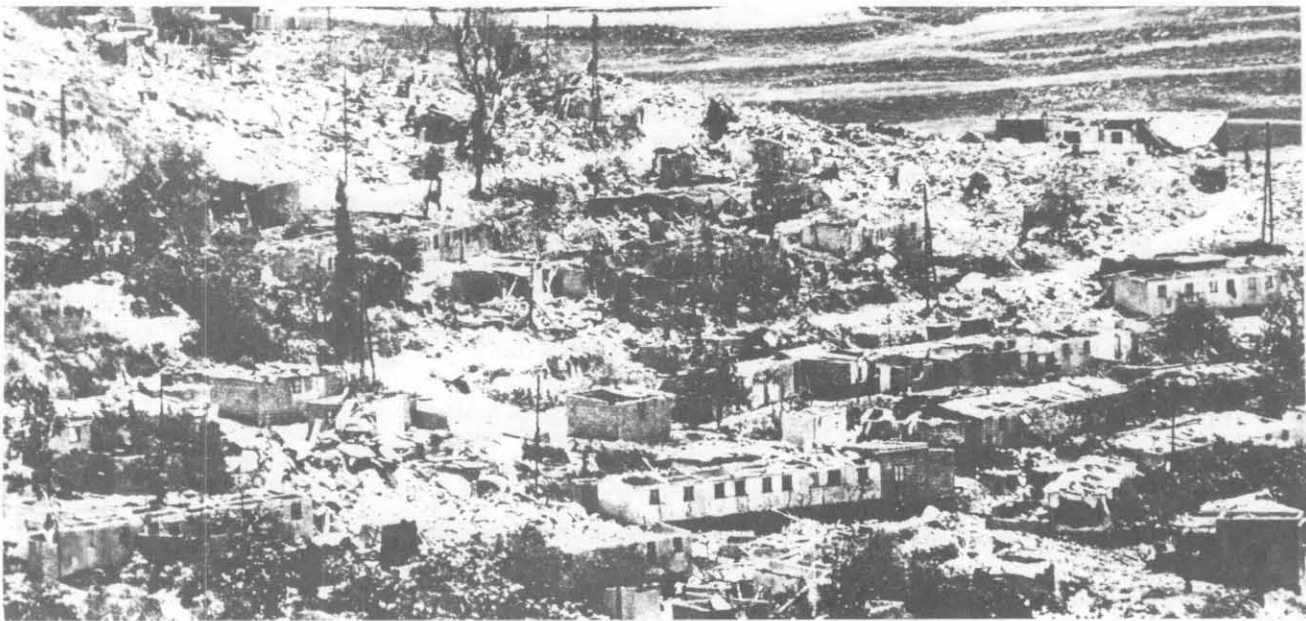
	Lebanon*	Israel*
Population	3,000,000	3,200,000
Army Regulars	14,000	95,000
Reserves	None	180,000
Tanks	120	1,700
Armored Vehicles	25	1,450
Combat Aircraft	18	488
Helicopters	14	74
Warships	None	49

\* 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— Israeli 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.
- 25/ 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 kidnapped 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— Israeli 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 Lebanese 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.
- 21/ 6/72— Israeli attack on Hasbaya: 5 deaths and 15 wounded among civilians. The same day, Israelis capture 5 high Syrian officers, one Lebanese officer and 4 gendarmes on duty near Ramieh. During the kidnapping, a clash causes the death of a military policeman, and 2 civilians of Ramieh are wounded.
- 23/ 6/72— Israelis raid Deir al-Ashayer and Marjayoun, causing 17 deaths and tens of civilians wounded. A Lebanese woman at Debbine is killed.
- 8/ 9/72— Large-scale Israeli raids on Nahr al-Bared, Rafed 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. 12 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 guerilla operations in Beirut area. 29 persons, all Lebanese, are wounded. Security Council resolution 332 unanimously condemns the action.
- 10/ 8/73— Israeli air force in Lebanese air space forces civilian Lebanese plane to land in Israel.
- 9/10/73— Nine Lebanese soldiers wounded as Israeli air force bombs radar installations on Barouk mountain.
- 12/ 4/74— Two Lebanese civilians killed, many wounded, 13 kidnapped and 31 houses destroyed as six Southern Lebanese villages are attacked by Israeli Air Force.
- 13/ 5/74— The village of Kfeir 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 33 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 Kenia bombed killing three children and injuring 33 others.
- 23/ 5/74— Six Lebanese soldiers injured by artillery fire near Rachaiya, El Foukhar, Chebaa, and El Majidiye.
- 30/ 5/74— Israeli artillery fire near Haddathe 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 Hasbaiya, Abou Qamah and Talet Es Saqed.
- 18-20/5/74— 73 Palestinians killed and 159 wounded following bombing of United Nations camps at Ain El-Helweh, Rashidiyah and Bourj El Chimali.
- 28/ 5/74— A woman and her daughter wounded and nine homes destroyed by artillery in the village of Qana.
- 8-9/ 7/74— Several Lebanese fishing boats are destroyed and one person injured as Israeli marine forces penetrate Lebanese waters at the ports of Sour, Sarafand, and Saida.
- 18/ 7/74— Israeli forces attack the village of Boustane, exploding three houses with dynamite and kidnapping two Lebanese from the village
- 6/ 8/74— Israeli raids in the vicinity of El Majidiye 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 Aita Ech Chaab abducted during a raid.
- 3/ 9/74— Vehicles searched, mail stolen, and another citizen kidnapped by Israelis raiding near Staichiye.
- 16/ 9/74— Six villages fire bombed. Mayor of Hasbayah 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 Aita Ech Chaab.
- 5/10/74— In the vicinity of Blida, artillery fire kills three Lebanese and injures 12 others.
- 18/10/74— Israeli forces construct a minefield inside Lebanese territory.
- 31/10/74— Six homes destroyed in village of Blida.
- 10/11/74— Israeli jets bomb several towns killing three Lebanese civilians and wounding five others. Two Palestinians also killed and one injured.
- 13/11/74— Israeli artillery shells Nabatieh with four shells landing in the center of town near Government House leaving craters four feet in depth. Four persons killed, 20 injured, several houses 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 Kafra caused destruction of one home and damage to crops.

In 1975 the damage and destruction have continued. 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.

## Use this CONVENIENT ORDER FORM for books, etc.

W. F. Abboushi, *THE ANGRY ARABS*. 285 pp. \$8.95. Westminster Press. With a view to satisfying the awakening interest of the American public in the Arab world and with a desire to contribute toward an honorable and workable peace between Arabs and Israelis, the author clearly presents the Arabs' values, customs, goals, traditions, etc. Our price \$5.75.

Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, editor, *THE TRANSFORMATION OF PALESTINE*. 522 pp. \$15.00. Northwestern University. Distinguished scholars reexamine the history and development of Palestine during the mandate period and the issues underlying the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our price \$9.00.

Margaret Arakie, *THE BROKEN SWORD OF JUSTICE; ISRAEL, AND THE PALESTINE TRAGEDY*. 195 pp. £1.50 (paperback). Quartet Books. The author out of her vast experience with various U.N. agencies traces the development of U.S. foreign policy in relation to Israel and of pro-Israeli pressures on the White House and Congress. Our price \$3.45.

John H. Davis, *THE EVASIVE PEACE*. 124 pp. £1.50. John Murray, London. The author gives the factual background to the present Arab-Israeli dilemma and presents a policy which could well lead to a permanent peace in the Middle East - without which he feels future wars are inevitable. Our price \$2.10.

Alistair Duncan, *THE NOBLE SANCTUARY*. 80 pp. £2.00. Longman Group, Ltd. A collection of beautiful color pictures of Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock and details of Arab design, accompanied by an appreciative text giving the history and the various phases of the construction and restoration of "The Noble Sanctuary" Our price \$3.00.

E. M. Fisher and M. C. Bassiouni, *STORM OVER THE ARAB WORLD*. 429 pp. \$8.95. Follett Publishing. A chronicle of 20th Century developments in the Arab world, including a particularly revealing outline of the Zionist conquest of Palestine and the June 1967 war. Our price \$5.50.

A. C. Forrest, *THE UNHOLY LAND*. 178 pp. \$3.95 (paperback). Devin-Adair Co. The author's personal, informed and uncompromising stand against what he considers to be imbalanced and distorted news coverage of the human tragedy brought about by the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. Our price \$2.50.

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D. Magnetti & M. A. Sigler, *AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEAR EAST*. 240 pp. \$3.95 (paperback). Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. A very readable short general history of the Near East from ancient times to 1967, followed by a factual study of each Near Eastern country and a study of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Includes a comprehensive annotated bibliography. Our price \$2.25.

Maxime Rodinson, *ISRAEL AND THE ARABS*. 239 pp. \$5.95. Pantheon Books. The author, a well-known contributor of *Le Monde* and professor of Oriental languages, is Jewish and has had long and extensive contact with the Arab world; he is therefore able to write critically, yet sympathetically, of both sides. Our price \$3.25.

Abdullah Schleifer, *THE FALL OF JERUSALEM*. 247 pp. \$3.45. Monthly Review Press. An extraordinary account of the fall of Jerusalem, some of it observed through the windows of the author's own home. Forceful and informative. Our price \$2.50.

Ray Vicker, *THE KINGDOM OF OIL*. 264 pp. \$7.95. Chas. Schibner's Sons. The author traces the shift of power from Western to Arab hands in the politics of oil and offers some suggestions for the future as far as energy is concerned. Contains a study of the history, politics, religions and social customs of the Middle East and its emergence into modern history via oil. Our price \$5.00.

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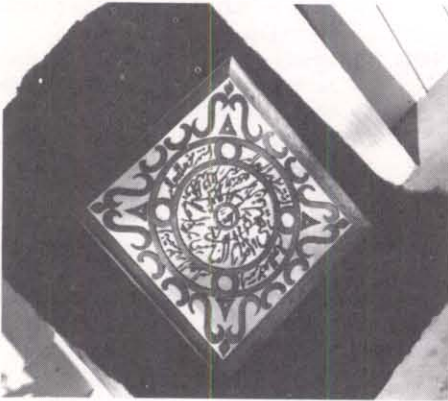
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**IN MEMORIAM**

Charter Member and  
Director of AMEU  
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November 30, 1974

Director of AMEU  
Dr. Henry A. Van Dusen,  
February 13, 1975

**AMEU receives carving**

AMEU receives support and encouragement from many quarters. Recently, a beautiful wood carving whose motif is drawn from Arabic calligraphy was received. The artist is Faris A. Ashkar, a native of Sidon, Lebanon, and now a resident in the States. Arabic calligraphy is an ancient art usually done in pen and ink drawings featuring lines from the Holy Koran. The Arabic script is so placed as to form a picture or design. As far as is known, Mr. Ashkar is the only one ever to have made calligraphy into a carved form. The text he chose for AMEU's gift is from the Gospel of Matthew, the fifth chapter, the sixteenth verse, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." (Those interested in knowing more about the work of Faris A. Ashkar may write to him at Ashkar's House of Arts, Post Office Box 274, Swannanoa, N.C. 28778.)

**Audio Visuals**

Inquiries come from time to time as to whether AMEU can provide a program of slides suitable for showing to groups interested in the Middle East. We are happy to announce that six such programs are now available on a loan basis for use by friends of AMEU.

AND NONE SHALL MAKE THEM AFRAID is on the Middle East crisis. It was written and photographed by Howard Frederick and Claire Gorfinkel, who drew the inspiration from Micah 4:3-4. A much talked about and controversial presentation, it is intended to (1) make the Middle East a debatable issue first in the peace community and then in the general public; (2) humanize the conflict and break down stereotypes of Israelis and Palestinians; and (3) expose and protest U.S. complicity in perpetuating the Middle East conflict.

Four separate programs are devoted to the geography and history of the Holy Land. Each presentation consists of a series of eighty color transparencies (slides) with a tape recorded commentary containing the text with background music and synchronization signals, each with an average duration of approximately twenty-two minutes. JERUSALEM and SINAI could be shown together as a unit and HOLY LAND, PART I (THE SOUTH) and PART II (THE NORTH) might also form a unit for those interested in a program of approximately an hour in length. The beauty of these slides will delight the beholder. The text is acceptable for audiences simply interested in deepening appreciation of the Holy Land. Portions of the commentary will be questioned by those who are committed to the Zionist philosophy as well as by those who are well acquainted with the Palestinian position.

The sixth program of slides is that which AMEU has offered before. It was supplied to us by UNRWA and is entitled SO BEGAN THE THIRD EXODUS. It will serve not only to introduce the valuable work which UNRWA does but will also inform the audience of the conditions which are faced by many Palestinian refugees today. It is highly recommended.

Through special arrangements AMEU is able to offer these six sets of slides free of charge. The producers of the new offerings hope that those viewing their work will want to purchase a set of slides for personal use. Please book each program early.

**Paredon Records**

Paredon Records has produced a long-playing record entitled PALESTINE LIVES of the songs created in the refugee and training camps of the Palestinian people's struggle for liberation. Recorded by members of Al Fatah, the songs are performed by a chorus of guerrilla fighters and accompanied with traditional instruments. The accompanying booklet includes the full Arabic texts plus excellent English translations. There are political notes, a brief history of the situation by Miriam Rosen, producer of the Middle East Press Review on radio station WBAI in New York, and

a cultural introduction by the well-known Palestinian artist, Kamal Boullata, who also designed the special drawing on the cover.

PALESTINE LIVES may be obtained by sending a check or money order for \$5.00 plus 50¢ handling charge (in New York, add sales tax of 8%) to Paredon Records, P.O. Box 889, Brooklyn, New York 11202.

**THE LINK**

aims at maintaining contacts among Americans who believe that friendship with the people of the Middle East is essential to world peace, who would contribute to this goal by spreading understanding of the history, values, religions, culture and economic conditions of the Middle East, and who would—in this context—press for greater fairness, consistency and integrity in U.S. policy toward that area.

It is published by A.M.E.U. (Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc.) whose directors are:

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