

Lebanese Religious War

The State of Israel, taunted by mendacious Arab, Communist, and emerging Black state politicians as a fountainhead of racism, has drawn the support of thousands of Christians the world over ever since anti-Israel schemers jammed their Nov. 10 resolution through the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. Sane humans of the West have recognized the bogus nature of the resolution, branding it stupid, vapid, fallacious, deceitful, and hypocritical.

It is time now for these helpful debunkers of nonsense about race to lend a hand to bleeding Lebanon. For that tiny Arab nation, a bit larger than Delaware but smaller than Connecticut, is caught in the vise of one of the most wearing religious wars the modern world has known. Lebanese Christian is pitted against Lebanese Moslem; and carnage, murder, pillage, violence blacken the historic land.

Why have so few made the clear point that whereas the fierce civil war in Lebanon is in part a political conflict and most certainly a major struggle between haves and have-nots, the underlying motive force is traditional religious hatred?

Certainly, the tiny, remaining Lebanese Jewish population of perhaps 2000, most of whom have fled to Europe, is well cognizant of this fact. Nor can Jews in many countries who have kept in touch with such Christian outposts as the American University in Beirut be unaware of

the religious nature of Lebanon's current agony.

It may be that Christian businessmen in Paris whose links with Lebanon were forged in part by the French mandate over the country earlier in the century, hesitate to back the beleaguered Christian Lebanese more vigorously for fear of alienating other sectors of the oil-rich Arab world. Again, American Christians long interested in Lebanon, may hold back because of memories attached to the intervention by President Eisenhower who sent American Marines to help President Chamoun in 1958.

But Lebanon continues to bleed because of a war over religion.

Jews, in the name of their faith, have not hesitated to come to the defense of hard-pressed Israelis in the UN as well as in the cricible of Mideastern war. And certainly, Moslems throughout Africa and Asia have been quick to align themselves with the majority of Lebanese -- Moslems and Nasserites on the left. Shouldn't we expect, then, that Christians in the West would take their stand faster and more vigorously with Beirut's Christians who need assistance more than ever now that they are no longer the majority power in that ancient land?

With more than 2000 already killed by the warfare affecting the small Lebanese population of less than 3 1/4 million, with nationals of a number of countries fleeing Beirut, with vast stretches of property reduced to ashes, with despair chilling a once-vibrant spot known as the Riviera of the Middle East, a host of governments is trying to salvage all that can be saved, not for Lebanon's sake, but for the special interest of each foreign unit.

The USSR is discharging its usual task of supplying aid to the Lebanese Communist Party; Colonel el-Qaddafi of Libya has been fishing among the ruins in feverish efforts to bolster the leftist Moslems; the PLO's Yassar Arafat has affected the assignment of peacemaker among all those willing to accept a terrorist kingpin in such an incongruous role. And Israel, of course, long suffering from the use of Lebanon as a base of operation by Arab terrorists, is zealously watching Syria's movements in the land of strife.

The first 1976 time bomb to go off in the Middle East, inviting rampaging war on a number of fronts, may be the explosive monster ticking away in Lebanon. And why, one asks again and again, are not those Christian leaders of the West more energetic in moving to help coreligionists scarred by a monstrous conflict rooted in religious rivalry?

NEW YORK -- By Executive Order of President Ford, more than 2700 products manufactured in Israel can now be imported into the United States duty-free.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Rabbi Meyer Friedman, 65, of Brooklyn, was shot three times by two assailants as he left his home in the Williamsburg section to go to Congregation Kehilath Yaacov two blocks away.

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TORONTO (WNS) -- The Toronto Star has reported that votes are being bought and sold for crucial votes in the United Nations General Assembly. According to Mark Gayn, the newspaper's veteran foreign correspondent the votes are being bought by oil-rich Arab nations from delegates from Third World countries who find it difficult for themselves and their missions in the expensive New York City. The going price, per vote, according to Gayn, runs from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

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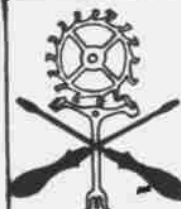


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