

Lebanon situation Plans to stop central government surface

Editor:

In the wake of the past events in Lebanon, devious intentions which were submerged until a month ago started rising to the surface of reality. It is not the idea of creating a strong Lebanese Central Government supported by a capable Lebanese army that is being sought, but the use of all means to preclude such a goal.

The assassination of Lebanese President-Elect Bashir Gemayel is the strongest evidence. The new government of Gemayel was viewed by most Lebanese as the salvation of the nation. This nation is trying to rebuild itself after eight years of anarchy by reconnecting the ties among all Lebanese - Christians and Muslims - and building up a competent Lebanese army capable of assuming its normal responsibilities.

His untimely death has plunged his country into deep despair at the most critical time of its history. Although his death was designed to rekindle fear and distrust among the Lebanese factions, the Voice of Free Lebanon radio, operated by Gemayel's party, ordered the Phalangist Lebanese Forces to show no retaliation. Not satisfied by the peaceful reaction of the Lebanese after this cruel assassination, the plotters behind the fatal bomb decided to try a more drastic strategy.

As a result, a few days after Gemayel's death, armed men were allowed by Israeli troops into the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila, where they massacred over a thousand Palestinian women, children and elderly men. Immediately, Israeli occupation forces denied responsibility and blamed these horrible actions on the Phalangist Lebanese forces.

This is nonsense.

First, since the Israeli army controlled the camp region, it was impossible for any other armed forces to enter the camps without Israeli consent.

Second, the Lebanese army had no involvement in the genocide committed by the renegade troops of Major Saad Haddad. Had the Lebanese army been allowed in the region, this atrocity would never have occurred. Proof of Haddad's involvement was aired internationally by surviving Palestinian women who cried: "Why did they send Saad Haddad here? Why?"

With Haddad's headquarters located in Marjaoun, 40 miles south of Beirut, on the Israeli border, how could his troops have travelled all this distance through Israeli-controlled territory, enter the camps, and murder innocent people without the assent of Israel?

Finally, the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, whose people were slaughtered in the incident, charged the renegade Haddad forces, in collaboration with the Israeli army, as amenable to the genocide.

In allowing this atrocious act, Israel has violated President Reagan's peace plan for Beirut. Israeli troops opened the doors, shut their eyes, and played deaf to the sound of the machine guns being fired on innocent, defenseless people and their death cries.

The forces responsible for this carnage — along with the distorted media coverage — should have the decency not to reverse the truth by blaming the majority of Lebanese citizens for this act. The Lebanese, who are fed up with war, have been striving for the last five years to bring unity and peace back to Lebanon.

Roger Zard
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Arab student: What would American reaction be?

Editor:

Imagine if you will the massacre of 1,800 American men, women and children — what would be your reaction?

Would you be able to control your rage, knowing full well that the safety and well-being of these people had been guaranteed in writing by five so-called sovereign nations. I say so-called because the chief signatory on the document, guaranteeing the safety of the women and children of Beirut in return for the evacuation of the fighters, has proven to be, (and I paraphrase Senator Charles Percy), nothing but, "a tail on the Israeli dog."

The argument that the United States did not sanction the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the subsequent occupation of Beirut is a lie. The very fact that there has been no cut-off of the \$2.5 billion annual subsidy to Israel is more than enough to prove America's complicity in the Israeli invasion.

Apart from these 1,800 non-combatants murdered in cold-blood, 19,000 Lebanese and Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed by the American armed and subsidized Israeli army. If the same death-to-population ratio was applied to the United States, it would mean the death of 1,100,000 people. How would Americans feel?

Nothing about the massacre surprised us; this is why the Palestinian freedom-fighters took so long to withdraw from Beirut. We knew this could happen because the rightist militia did this before in 1977 in Tal-Azater refugee camp. What is shocking though is the lack of tangible American response to this atrocity. Israel broke a cease-fire which all parties including the United States had signed when it entered Beirut. American honor is at stake, and no amount of verbal criticism from Washington can excuse the breach of document that has occurred.

Isn't it about time the American people took an interest in their country's foreign policy instead of standing on the sidelines and taking the blame for the Israeli lobby's decisions on their government's every action? We, the Arab people, know exactly what to do. Our first goal is to tear down the reactionary regimes which rule much of the Arab world, who rattle their sabers in the air and then sit complacently by while our brothers and sisters are murdered. There will be a new order in the Arab world and what the American people do today, not just say, will decide Arab-American relations for a long time to come.

Nabil Al-Khowaiter

Issue is now security of Palestinian people

Editor:

Last week, a carnage of the style of Dier Yassin was recreated on a much larger scale in the Chatilla and Sabra camps outside West Beirut. Once again the victims were unarmed innocent Palestinian men, women and children. It is hard to believe that Israelis were caught by surprise when they discovered that hundreds of Palestinians were killed in cold blood. The massacre continued for over 24 hours while Israeli forces were on guard in West Beirut.

Most fingers point toward the group of Saad Haddad, an accessory of Israeli army in southern Lebanon. It is unimaginable that Haddad's men would travel over 70 kilometers past various check points in occupied Lebanon without any plans blessed by Israel. How can one be-

lieve that Israeli forces were unaware of the groups of killers and thousands of rounds fired when they were not willing to spare a marine on duty on the roof of the American Embassy and fired at him? Israel is directly responsible for letting the killers in the refugee camps and indirectly for the slaughter.

The fear of reprisals against the Palestinian civilians after PLO's departure from Beirut has become a reality. Israel's latest venture in Lebanon in the name of security for her citizens has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. The issue now is the security of the people of Palestine, at least those in exile.

W.E.K. Warsi
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Any life after Doonesbury?

by Maxwell Glen
and Cody Shearer

WASHINGTON — It's like losing your favorite teacher. Come next year, millions of faithful Doonesbury readers will have to look somewhere else for wisdom each morning. At 34, cartoonist Garry Trudeau is taking a much-deserved sabbatical.

Yet as much as we'll miss Trudeau's work, 20 months of freedom may produce something more remarkable than Doonesbury itself. Besides, even sages need an opportunity to put things in perspective.

Trudeau has undoubtedly been the leading chronicler of the Baby Boom generation. He's shepherded us from the early confrontations at home and school in the 1960s into the wholly different world of the Reagan era, noting and illuminating our every move.

It all began 15 years ago, when, with the encouragement of a sports editor, the lanky sophomore from Saranac Lake, N.Y., walked into the Yale Daily News office in New Haven, Conn., with a proposal to draw a strip called "Bull Tales." Before long, Trudeau was winning peers' accolades for his caricatures of such stereotypes as football players, radicals and social dilettantes, following them later in Doonesbury through work, Vietnam and, of course, love.

"He really had our number," reminisced Mark Zanger, the Yale student leader who was the prototype for Megaphone Mark, "particularly when he

wrote that 'even revolutionaries enjoyed chocolate-chip cookies.'"

While he soon began to tackle bigger targets — Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, among others — Trudeau never lost sight of the rest of us and how we managed the ebb and flow of each year.

Perhaps no character better personifies this universal ordeal than Jonie Caucus, the unhappy wife of an inveterate bowler. Initially, "Ms. Caucus" leaves her husband, goes to Walden Puddle and takes a job at a local day-care center where she converts many of the girls, including star pupil Ellie, to feminism. Subsequently, Joanie goes on to law school and falls in love with a Washington Post reporter named Redfern. Today, both pregnant and a full-time campaign manager, Joanie is worried about her age and the need for amniocentesis.

If the strip adds up to anything, it's probably that "the personal is political." That is, concern about our own lives should foster a similar concern about those of others. The presence — or absence — of this homespun philosophy permeates every character in the strip, from Michael Doonesbury on down. In an apolitical age, Trudeau's is a badly-needed contribution to the conscience of a generation.

"Garry has been a spokesman for the children of the '60s and done a great deal to politicize kids in the 1970s," said Joe Wheelwright, the cartoonist's roommate at Yale. "He's also introduced the latter

group to some of the world's harsh realities."

Moreover, Trudeau has sought to provide explanations of a much-divided group and to broach issues that, even recently, were considered taboo. Only two weeks ago, for example, gracefully confronted the emerging gays as a political force in the United States.

That Trudeau will step aside in January hasn't surprised his friends. He had known that his 12-year contract with the Universal Press Syndicate would expire in three months, allowing his characters, as Trudeau explained it, the chance to adapt to a new era.

Indeed, to a large degree, catching is what Trudeau has planned for himself. Unfettered by a daily deadline, he'll be able to free his energies for the substantial demands of screenwriting, which he adores. Trudeau has already finished one film comedy about the national police corps and is now considering a collaboration with friends on a musical version of Doonesbury. The theater might have potential that Trudeau has possessed since, as a teenager, he first put on a play at home.

Most of all, the husband of NBC's Pauley wants a child. His closest friends are crossing their fingers that his sagittal will turn into a paternity leave, become a parent, more than anything else, could guarantee Trudeau the long role as a generation's chronicler.

Slouch By Jim Earle

"It's just a nightmare you're having! You won — now get some rest, Jackie!"

The Battalion

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