Muslims, Christians balanced

Pact aided Lebanese politics

Lebanese Independence Day on _

by Toni Prince

A unique political system existed in Lebanon from 1943 to 1975. Confessionalism - strict Muslim and the prime minister adherence to a particular religious creed — accompanied in-dependence in the Lebanese government. An unwritten understanding, the National Pact, was reached between Christians and Muslims.

Christians and Muslims.

The pact set the basis for Lebanon's unique political system. In a country with 17 Muslim and Christian religious sects, a republic was instituted. The republic was governed by a unicameral parliament of 99 members, each elected for four-year terms, and a president who was elected every six years.

elected every six years.

To preserve the delicate religious equilibrium, the seats in the parliament were divided be-

Editor's note: This is the second tween Muslims and Christians at dencies and the Muslims' tradiof a three-part series on Leba- a ratio of 5 to 6. The president non written by several members was a Maronite (an Arabicof the Lebanese Student Asso-ciation to commemorate of the chamber was a Shi'ite

Analysis

This diversity of religious

representation was integral to

the state's structure. The system

generated a relative amount of freedom and guaranteed full

and cultural center of the Mid-

dle East. Lebanon remained the

world's link between the East and West through the 1950s and

That freedom - coupled with Lebanon's geographic loca-tion — made Lebanon the trade

was a Muslim Sunni.

civil liberties.

tional quest for Arab union. Economic development resulted from the compromise and from the nature of Lebanon's people.

One Western diplomat referred to Lebanon as "a country, of course, but above all, a people."

The 1948 Palestinian War, the tragedy of the Palestinian people and the Nasserite revolution in Egypt increased social tensions that culminated in a rebellion in 1958. The disturbance was quelled with the intervention of U.S. Marines in July

President Chehab, who refused to let the Lebanese army become involved in the 1958 rebellion, began the introduction of scientists and engineers into the government, regardless of their religion.

in 1967. The Arab world then focused its attention on the Palestine Liberation Organiza-

permitted the PLO to develop, organize and arm itself. Because of Arab and international pressor Arab and international pressure, the Lebanese government and the PLO signed the Cairo Accords on Nov. 3, 1969. The PLO was allowed to police the refugee camps and set up military bases. The PLO also was given control over a 270 squaregiven control over a 270-squaremile area which bordered Israel near Bint-Jubayl. This marked

Through the 1960s, social tensions were heightened by an increasing number of qualified and educated Lebanese who

the beginning of a state within a

could not gain political power because of religious quotas. In September 1970, King Hussein's army drove the PLO out of Jordan and its leaders fled A period of economic development followed and congreat numbers of Muslim Palestinued until the Arab-Israeli war tinian refugees. Lebanon's religious equilibrium had been broken. Many intellectuals Lebanon came in February 1975 embraced the Palestinian cause in the southern town of Saida. and the Palestinian and consequently polarized Friday: The Lebanese Holo-

From 1970 to 1973, corruption in Lebanon's government reached staggering proportions. The PLO took advantage of this and armed itself heavily. In May 1973, the PLO clashed with the Lebanese army. One serious fact was noted: some Lebanese na-

tionals fought on the PLO's side. The October 1973 Arab-Israeli war and the oil embargo made the Western world realize a solution to the conflict had to be found. The PLO was the main problem. It either must be eliminated or given a piece of

In the meantime, Lebanese militias had formed to counter the PLO's armed presence. The corrupt government, which was under Arab and international pressure, was unable to stop the flow of arms to both sides.

By January 1975, Lebanon became internally explosive because of military and social tensions. The spark that ignited

Vital statistics about Lebanon Bettality

•Official name: Republic of Lebanon

•Capital: Beirut (population 1,200,000)
•Major cities: Tripoli,
Saida, Tyre

•Area: 4000 square miles •Geography: neighbors: Syria (east and north), Israel (south), western coast on the Mediterranean Sea. Has two mountain chains running north to south called the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon which are separated by the Al Biqaa Valley.

•Highest elevation: Qur-

net assauda (10,131 feet) out 1.5 c •Population: 3,161,000 our to as n percent urban, 40 percen kilowatt

• Principal languages: An ebic (official), French, English •Religions: Christia

Muslim, Druze · Agriculture: fruit, wher crease. Th

tobacco
Manufacturing: products, textiles, cemen petroleum products, chemic

ver a fi eriod," said ahager of th After the

nt period, ir will de

als, metals, plastics, cigaretts

• Currency: one Lebanes lira or pound equals 100 pix tres; U.S. \$1 equals 4 Lebanese liras

Rape discussed Off at OCA meetingn v

by Brigette Crossland Battalion Reporter
Rape is a problem in the

Bryan-College Station community, the assistant director of student affairs told the Off Campus Aggies Wednesday night. People have the attitude that

it will never happen to them, unfortunately that's not the case," Jan Winniford said. The Bryan and College Sta-

tion police departments re-ported 31 rapes last year. Texas A&M has had one reported rape this semester. But Winniford stressed that

usually only one out of 10 rapes are reported. 'Texas A&M is faring pretty

well when compared to the number of rapes at other universities, but we have our share,"

people forget to take - little will be admitted.

things like locking your by United Property DALLAS door and having your ready when you get to your las have be
The issue of what to do led by two
are attacked is a control lam they

are attacked is a controve one, Winniford said. Some experts say to be part election.
to minimize chances of injura. The laws to death, and some say to use an alf of Isaac J

"What a person should byce Washingto the individual and im Bell Co. up to the individual and They cha pends on several factors sud cks were what that person is capable e polls beca and the circumstances of es and tha

attack," Winniford said. Members also discussed upcoming Christmas Ball at eavily black

, threate The ball will be held Dec. To because 8 p.m. at the Ramada Inn T The suit s wersities, but we have our share,"
Winniford said.

"The best preventions are the common sense precautions that people forget to take — little will be admitted.

"The katinada illing in the salidate illing is to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due at the bar because 18-year folection under the salidate illing is to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the MSC Box Office. Barding lights to due to ket sgo on sale Fridayfors see irregule the man see in the

Women's past Bra subject of talk alk

"The New Deal and the For-tten Woman" is the topic of a American Historical Asso gotten Woman" is the topic of a speech by Dr. Martha Swain tonight at 7:30 in 226 MSC.

Swain, associate professor of history at Texas Women's University, is the author of the biography "Pat Harrison: The New Deal Years." She is currently writing a biography of Ellen S. Woodward and women's work during the New Deal era.

Swain is a member of the Committee on Teacher Education and Certification for the National Council for the Social Sciences. She also is a member of Sciences. She also is a member of the Committee on Congressional Fellowships and a program are sponsoring the presentation

She has received ser under an awards, with the most recent with two other being the American hon Tuesda sophical Society grant. Swain Judge ceived grants to the Ecapproved Bra Roosevelt Institute and the ry Truman Library Institute arganization.

from Vanderbilt University 3 is a former president of Southern Association of Wome

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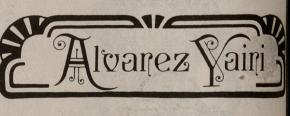
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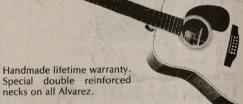
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