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Reagan: No regrets for Beirut

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leaders Tuesday portrayed President Reagan as disappointed but having no regrets over a foreign policy setback in Lebanon caused by actions beyond his control.

"I think that the president clearly is unfortunate that we have not succeeded in bringing stability to Lebanon, but I think he is realistic and determined in the decision that he made," said GOP leader Howard Baker after Republican lawmakers met with Reagan at the White House. "The United States is pulling its peace-keeping troops out of Beirut and onto ships offshore as the military situation in Lebanon deteriorates and the U.S.-backed government of President Amin Gemayel falters."

Baker said Reagan did not indicate what the next policy step would be. Weinberger told the House Budget Committee the administration is resolved to "stay the course" in Lebanon. "We cannot permit terrorism to succeed. We cannot let those who promote terrorism to triumph against the wishes of the vast majority of the people," he said.

Baker, talking to reporters outside the White House, said Reagan disavowed leadership in formulating a Lebanon policy that is now tattered by factional warfare, Syrian dominance of the nation and the faltering authority of Gemayel.

"We also went there because we hoped the parties could work out the difficulties among themselves," Baker said. "The fact that has not worked out is not a valid criticism of the effort. I think there would have been a far greater criticism had we not tried and tried nothing at all."



Pottery prize winner

Photo by JOHN RYAN

James E. Sanders, a professional potter from Marshall demonstrates his skill during an exhibition in Harrington Education Center. A recent winner of the Citation and Special Merit

awards for pieces entered in the East Texas Fine Arts Association in Longview, Sanders will be showing his skill daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Feb. 24 in Harrington 621.

Marines begin Beirut pullout

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — U.S. Marines began withdrawing from Lebanon Tuesday, ending a 17-month peace-keeping mission with the country locked in civil warfare and Israeli warplanes again pounding targets near Beirut.

Moslem rebels who have shot at the American troops for months waved as the first members of the Marine Amphibious Unit boarded a helicopter for the short hop from their Beirut airport base to 6th Fleet ships waiting offshore.

Officials would not say how many Marines were withdrawn Tuesday but said the entire evacuation could be completed in a week. The Marines will be stationed offshore indefinitely under redeployment orders from President Reagan issued earlier this month.

The withdrawal of the 1,200 Marines remaining from a force that once numbered some 1,800 effectively ended Beirut's multinational peace-keeping force, which met with little success in keeping Lebanon's warring factions apart.

The American evacuation will leave only 1,400 French troops in Beirut of the original multinational peace-keeping force. The Italian contingent left Tuesday and the 115-man British force left two weeks ago.

Maj. Dennis Brooks, a Marine spokesman, said the Marines had "kept the cap" on the war in Lebanon. Others disagreed, noting the deaths of 265 U.S. servicemen and the suicide truck bombing last Oct. 23 that killed 241 of them.

"Maybe our presence kept total civil war from breaking out but as far as helping (Lebanese President Amin) Gemayel get a broader-based

government, it's pretty obvious we haven't accomplished much," said Lt. George Miller.

Two hours later, Israeli warplanes swept in to attack "terrorist" targets 12 miles east of Beirut for the second time in less than 48 hours.

Israel said the latest raid hit near Bhamdoun on the main highway to Damascus against "terrorist" command posts and bases. The Israelis use the word "terrorists" to refer to Palestinian guerrillas.

The private Lebanese Central News Agency said four Israeli planes struck while eight others flew protective cover above. The agency reported heavy anti-aircraft fire but Israel said all planes returned safely to base.

Israel also confirmed it sent hundreds of troops, tanks and armored personnel carriers sweeping north of their lines in southern Lebanon in an attempt to intimidate any Palestinian fighters moving into the region.

In Brussels, Belgium, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel would continue to attack Palestinian bases to prevent a new threat to northern Israeli towns but had "no intention" of moving its military lines north from southern Lebanon, which it occupies below the Awali River.

Col. Ed McDonald, the chief Marine spokesman, said a "comprehensive plan is being worked out" for the transfer of the airport perimeter that the Marines have guarded since arriving Sept. 29, 1982.

Recruiter explains Peace Corps experience

By SARAH OATES
Senior Staff Writer

Is it really the toughest job you'll ever love, as the advertisements claim?

Not everyone who joins the Peace Corps is prepared to endure the sort of hardships many volunteers learn to live with, but for those who do, being a volunteer is a one-of-a-kind experience that's hard to top.

Richard Sambrano, a Peace Corps recruiter for the southwest region, characterizes the volunteer experience as "something they'll never forget." Sambrano will be at Texas A&M today and Thursday to recruit volunteers. He is available to talk to students at the Peace Corps booth in the Memorial Student Center.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, U.S. citizens and have two years' work experience or a college education. The job requires spending two years overseas, teaching the people of a country various skills.

Mike McGirr, public affairs specialist for the Peace Corps' Dallas office, said that being 18 years old and

having two years' work experience are minimum requirements. He said most Peace Corps applicants are in their early 20s. It is preferable for people with only two years' work experience to have it in programs related to fields in demand by the Peace Corps, he said.

McGirr said that Texas A&M students would be valuable to the Peace Corps because many Third World countries need volunteers with training and experience in areas of study offered at the University.

"One reason why A&M students could be valuable is because a lot of them have degrees the Peace Corps needs," he said.

He said there is a high demand overseas for volunteers with training in "scarce skills," such as crop extension, soil science, agricultural education, plant protection, forestry, civil engineering and animal science.

"We really need math, science and engineering majors," McGirr said. "There's not too much demand for liberal arts degrees right now."

He explained that liberal arts ma-

jors should not be discouraged from applying, but that people in math, science and engineering-related fields have a greater chance of working in programs directly related to their degrees. He said that someone with a liberal arts degree may be put in a program related to his background, rather than his degree, because the Peace Corps doesn't have programs geared to some degrees, such as history, for example.

"Liberal arts people have to adapt to meet the Peace Corps' needs," McGirr said.

The Peace Corps sends volunteers to "about 60 Third World developing countries" ranging from areas in South and Central America to the Caribbean to Asia and the Pacific islands.

"We have more people in Africa than in any other part of the world," he said, "because there just seems to be the greatest need."

The Peace Corps has various programs that volunteers participate in when they are sent to a particular country. For example, there is a rural

youth development program that is similar to the 4-H clubs in America, McGirr said.

McGirr explained that volunteers must be interviewed before they are picked to go to a certain country. The recruiter nominates the volunteer to participate in a particular program and country that matches the volunteer's skills and experience.

"Volunteers don't know the geographic location they'll be sent to until we notify them, but we take their preferences into consideration." Volunteers do not always get the countries of their choice, he said.

McGirr said the volunteer experience can be helpful in getting a job after returning to the United States because the Peace Corps programs involve responsibility and often require leadership skills.

"For internationally-related jobs, it's almost a must to have Peace Corps experience," he said. For example, 40 percent of the employees for the Agency for International Development are former Peace Corps volunteers, he said. McGirr said the

experience is a good opportunity for "growth and maturity."

Sambrano agreed, saying, "We're looking for innovative self-starters, self-directed people who care about others."

Volunteers are notified about what country they will go to one to two months before they leave. The Peace Corps provides all necessary vaccinations, as well as information about what personal items a volunteer should take.

All volunteers participate in a two to three month training program after they arrive. For example, if 20 crop extension people were sent to Kenya, they would meet and train together for two or three months, then be sent to work in different regions of the country.

Three things stressed in training are learning the language, learning about the culture and adapting a volunteer's work experience or educational background to the needs of the country.

The Peace Corps provides volunteers with benefits such as medical in-

surance coverage, all medical care required overseas, transportation to the countries in which they will work and back to the United States, housing, food and a monthly living allowance that is "enough to live comfortably, but not at a level high above what the people of that country live on," McGirr said.

"Basically, all expenses are provided for," he said. "The allowance varies from country to country, but it's adequate."

McGirr said about 25 to 30 percent of Peace Corps volunteers request an early discharge from service. "Most leave early for personal reasons," he said. "It's something that happens back home, usually." Some volunteers leave early because they can't handle the living conditions or job frustrations, he said.

The Peace Corps provides a readjustment allowance of "about \$4,500" to help volunteers after they return home. McGirr said many volunteers find returning to American life after a two-year hiatus difficult at first.

Fraternities fall under trustees'

Students fasting to save Greeks

United Press International

AMHERST, Mass. — A group of Amherst College students Tuesday began a four-day hunger strike to protest a proposal to abolish the school's eight beleaguered fraternities.

"We don't want to threaten the trustees. But we want to send a loud message that we really care about this," said Robert Hecht, 19, a sophomore from Grand Rapids, Mich., and one of 10 fraternity members fasting.

"This is simply a way for us to show our concern for our fraternities," he said. "Hopefully it will make a difference."

The students gathered in the lobby of the campus dining hall at 1

p.m. and vowed to eat nothing and drink only water and fruit juice until Saturday, when the board of trustees meet in New York City to discuss banning fraternities.

Some 300 students Monday had staged a peaceful daylong sit-in in the Converse Hall administration building to protest what they said was a lack of student participation in the trustees' review of the fraternities.

About 239 of the 1,523 students at the prestigious liberal arts school live in fraternity house, which have come under fire for rowdiness, vandalism and mischievous initiation rites. Another 385 students belong to fraternities.

"I really don't have anything to say about that," said Trustee Chairman

George Beitzel. He said he was uncertain what effect the fast would have on the board's decision.

"It's obviously a matter of conscience," said college spokeswoman Terry Allen, adding no action would be taken against the students.

The students planned to attend classes and gather in the dining commons periodically to try to get more peers involved. Some students would also spend time in acting college President G. Armour Craig's office, Hecht said.

"We just want our presence known," said Bradley Whitman, 19, a sophomore from Livingston, N.J. "We hope this will make them think twice."

Several of the students ate lunch

before beginning the fast while other stopped eating after breakfast, he said.

Allen disputed claims by the students that their concerns had been ignored, saying officials were reviewing nearly 200 letters from students commenting on fraternities.

The trustees' Committee on Campus Life last month released a report that was critical of the fraternity system for "exacerbating" social problems by "their lack of social discipline" and "tolerating gross social activity."

The committee proposed creating a "cluster" housing system that would group the fraternities with other housing on campus.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- The TAMU Women's Chorus will be touring England and Wales in May. See story page 6.
- Applications are now available for students interested in resident advisor or head resident positions. See story page 5.

State

- Confessed killer Henry Lee Lucas says he falsely confessed to committing a 1979 murder. See story page 6.