

population were maintained through the renegade "Syrian Baath Party," an Assad-controlled splittoff from Iraq's Baath. Syria's volatile Palestinian refugee population was controlled through the institutional set-up of the Syrian army-backed Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) and through the Syrian wing of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Saiqa. Prevailing at the top of the pyramid was the Assad clique, basing itself on top-down control of one of Syria's minority sects, the Alawites, of which Assad himself is a member, in alliance with right-wing honchos from the majority Sunni Muslim sect, united around British-created "Arab nationalism" and obsessive opposition to the "Zionist state."

The first victim of Assad's collaboration with Kissinger in carrying out the second phase of Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy after the September 1975 "Sinai Pact" between Egypt and Israel were the Communists. By the end of 1975, as Assad moved for the first time to openly collude with the fascist Lebanese Falangists, Communist leader Khaled Bakdash was placed under preventive detention, and the first wave of what became periodic arrests of leftists began. By April 1976 as the collusion between Assad, the Israelis, and Kissinger around a stepped-up Syrian intervention into Lebanon on the side of the fascists emerged, the Communists moved out of the erstwhile "National Front," collapsing it. Communists and leftists have since been subjected to continuous repression by Assad's secret police.

By mid-April, all institutional props began to disintegrate. The "Syrian Baath Party," described by one knowledgeable Washington source as a series of "little offices in little villages with pool tables in them" but with at least some minimal significance as an informational apparatus, collapsed. According to *Le Monde* reporter Eric Rouleau, 80 percent of the electorate stayed away from the polls in the most recent regional administrative elections, while only 15 percent voted for the "Baath."

As this month's Syrian invasion of Lebanon unrolled and in the weeks immediately preceding, PLA units suffered a steady stream of defections. The Saiqa group, always an arm of Syrian intelligence but formerly boasting nominal ties to the PLO, has also been hit with heavy defections, and has been systematically repopulated through the deployment of thugs paid by "praetorian guard" head Rifaat Assad.

Dissension has spread to the armed services. According to *Afrique-Asie* magazine, the commandos of a 10,000-member elite corps in the army have issued an organizational denunciation of the Lebanon intervention. Four generals were reportedly arrested last week by Assad's police for refusing to order troops into Lebanon and for plotting against Assad. Rouleau reports that loud debates have broken out throughout army units being mobilized for Lebanon duty, while one Arab diplomatic source wryly commented, "If Assad allows his troops time to think as they move into Lebanon, he'll be in trouble."

#### Assad's Vietnam

Assad's debacle in Lebanon is ironically the culmination of six decades of counterinsurgent manipulation of the Arab sector population, first by British Intelligence and more recently by the Rockefeller-run CIA and National Security Council. Assad's backing boils down to a set of peasant-paranoid fantasies, manipulated by intelligence services, which have compelled him to enter a path leading rapidly to his own demise.

Syrian nationalists have never relinquished the dream of the reconstruction of the "Greater Syria," split up by the French into the countries of Lebanon and Syria in the 1940s. To this day Syrians, as personified by Assad (who also seeks "stability" and "honor" for his fellow Alawites) yearn for a Middle East map from which the "Lebanese" and "Zionist" "entities" have magically disappeared. As an aspect of this fixation, the Syrian population is bewitched by the "return of the Golan Heights" from Israel, lost under humiliating circumstances in the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Henry Kissinger, during his brinkmanship "shuttle diplomacy" over the past nine months, has cynically convinced Assad that the National Security Council will rein in the Israelis, that at the end of the arduous path of the Lebanon invasion lies the prize of the Golan Heights, if Assad unleashes his police and armed forces to exterminate the widespread opposition to Kissinger's diplomacy along Israel's northern tier.

At each juncture at which Assad, seeing his internal position evaporate, has had the choice of pulling out through some face-saving device; he has instead only more wildly thrown his forces into the battle, like a gambler who compulsively keeps going after yet another disastrous loss. At each juncture, it has been Kissinger's cajolery and promises that have kept the gullible Assad strung along.

As this week's events decisively demonstrate, Assad has been played for a sucker, and his regime is suffering the consequences.

#### Exclusive Interview:

### State Department Advisor: 'Syria Will Destroy the Left'

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 10 (NSIPS) — *The following interview was conducted today by NSIPS with a top U.S. State Department advisor on the nuclear war threat posed by the Syrian invasion of Lebanon.*

**NSIPS:** Mr. L—, it seems we just squeaked by last night, and that an element of rationality has finally entered into Syrian President Assad's decision-making.

**Dr. L—:** Rationality? Ha! It would be useful for everybody if the PLO would be crushed in Lebanon. The Syrians just might do it yet. Somebody will have to. Only the Syrians can do the job properly.

**NSIPS:** Are you serious, Dr. L—? The Soviets will never allow that, as their public statement makes absolutely clear. The U.S. should thank the Iraqis ...

**Dr. L—:** The Iraqis are just playing the Russian game, and the Russians, with presumptuous peasant bluntness, said (in the Soviet government statement) that the Middle East was much closer to them than to us and other such nonsense. The Russians are bluffing. The U.S. it seems, has a fear of involvement (in the Mideast) and the Iraqis. The Russians have no interest in the Middle East, except for Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organization school girls. Ha!

**NSIPS:** Are you saying that President Ford, who seems to be for Geneva, has wrecked Mr. Kissinger's confrontation plans for the Middle East?

**Dr. L—:** Ford is stupid. That's ridiculous. The U.S. is lily-livered. Do you know what the State of Alert in the 6th Fleet is? State Five! At State Six they dock and let the troops go swimming. Ha! There is zero chance of a superpower confrontation over the Middle East. Zero!

**NSIPS:** The Syrian troops appear to have been badly defeated at Sidon and they've been stopped long before Beirut, reports say. There are also rumors of many Syrian troops deserting to the Palestinian and Lebanese left forces, and that Assad is facing serious coup d'etat threats.

**Dr. L—:** Assad got his ass kicked? A couple of homosexual, bugged newsmen wander around stupidly in Sidon and see a few busted Syrian tanks. So a few rockets hit a few tanks. The Syrians have not yet made a decision to use their real force in Lebanon. They're playing around. And what do you mean the 'left'?? These people deserve the bilharzia they get. Leftists? A bunch of Muslim tribalists. They are not a force for anything but Bilharzia and destruction. And destroying hotels.

**NSIPS:** The Israeli rightists behind (former Israeli Defense Minister) Dayan and Israeli Defense Minister) Peres are threatening intervention and will almost certainly use nuclear weapons.

**Dr. L—:** Israeli General Sharon is pushing like he is because he knows the Israeli government is not capable of dealing with the PLO like it must be dealt with.

**NSIPS:** Will Syria make a decision to use their force in Lebanon, as you said?

**Dr. L—:** There is evidence they will. They said so, that they are still considering action. Iraqi pressure counts for nothing. It's Saudi pressure that counts, and the Saudis cut leftist theories. So Syria stopped. But they might move. Israel and Syria are in the business of building hotels, not to have them destroyed.

**NSIPS:** What evidence?

**Dr. L—:** There is evidence. believe me.

### Exclusive Interview:

## What L. Dean Brown Thinks About Lebanon Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C. June 10 (NSIPS) — *The following interview of L. Dean Brown was passed to NSIPS today by a Washington newsman. Brown recently returned from Lebanon, where he functioned as U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's special envoy. Arab sources have identified Brown as chiefly responsible for the Secretary of State's effort to create a new Middle East war and nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union. This interview was reportedly conducted by telephone with Brown who is now stationed at his former post in Washington's Middle East Institute.*

**Reporter:** Mr. Brown, what in your opinion does the Soviet statement on Lebanon signify. It seemed extraordinarily straight forward and to the point, that they consider their strategic interests to be involved in the situation, are militarily prepared, etc.

**Brown:** The Soviets have been sort of on the top in relation to Lebanon; the Syrian moves started when Kosygin arrived in Damascus. But the statement you mention, I think that's all part of the game, we warn about intervention, they warn about intervention. You say they warned us against doing anything there? Ha, Ha!

**Reporter:** But Mr. Brown! This is an obvious and qualitative shift from the previous character of Soviet statements. The Soviets have never said anything so forceful and directed ...

**Brown:** The Soviets have always been heavily involved in Lebanon. When I was there, a Soviet group, who called themselves journalists, was around, no one paid any attention to them specially, they maintained contact with Assad. I think the Soviets have always kept themselves in the situation; Soldatov is very active.

**Reporter:** What about the Arab League peace-keeping force. What does that do to the situation?

**Brown:** Arab League! I would read between the lines on that one. The question is whether Assad stops the war, because it'll be a late day in the morning before you get an Arab League army together. By the time the Arab League gets anything together, it'll be weeks at least. They'll spend more time fighting each other than getting an army. Why should Assad be concerned? His attitude must be, if you want me to come to a meeting, why not? Why shouldn't I go to a meeting? He'll ask, an Arab army to do what? Assad can save face, he can now say, using pan-Arab language, we're here for Arab unity, for the Arab cause?

**Reporter:** Are you then saying that Assad will move his troops into Beirut?

**Brown:** Continue his military advance? Why? He can stay where he is and sit and wait and apply a tremendous amount of pressure.

**Reporter:** But all reports indicate that Assad faces a coup ...

**Brown:** Nonsense! He's running a country through the army and the party. There are manifestations here and there, but that's to be expected. The problem is more one of economics than it is of internal struggle or strife; the moves on Beirut have hurt the economy enormously; it's had an effect on development internally.

**Reporter:** According to the New York Times and Arab sources, you have been an advocate of the Syrian invasion.

**Brown:** I didn't repudiate the Times article, I only objected that it tried to condense the two hours of talk into a few paragraphs. My attitude is to stop the killing, there's no way out of doing that first. I was never making considerations from the standpoint of U.S. policy, that's entirely up to Henry Kissinger. I just want the killing stopped, and I've thought the best way was to have the Syrians do it. If it could be done by a pan-Arab army, I'd support that, but don't count on that coming together.