

# Kissinger makes a drug deal over the corpse of the Lebanese nation

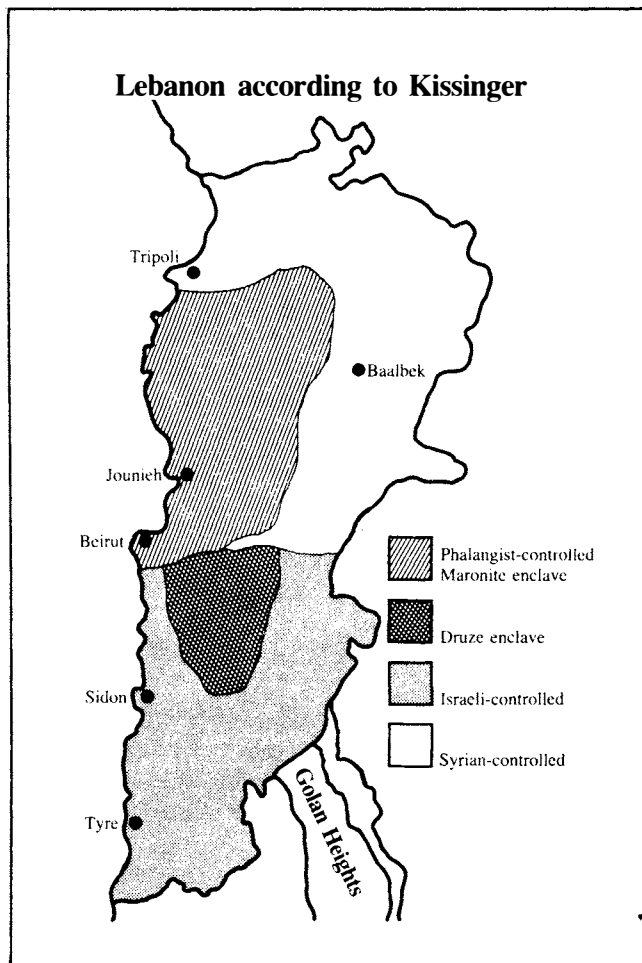
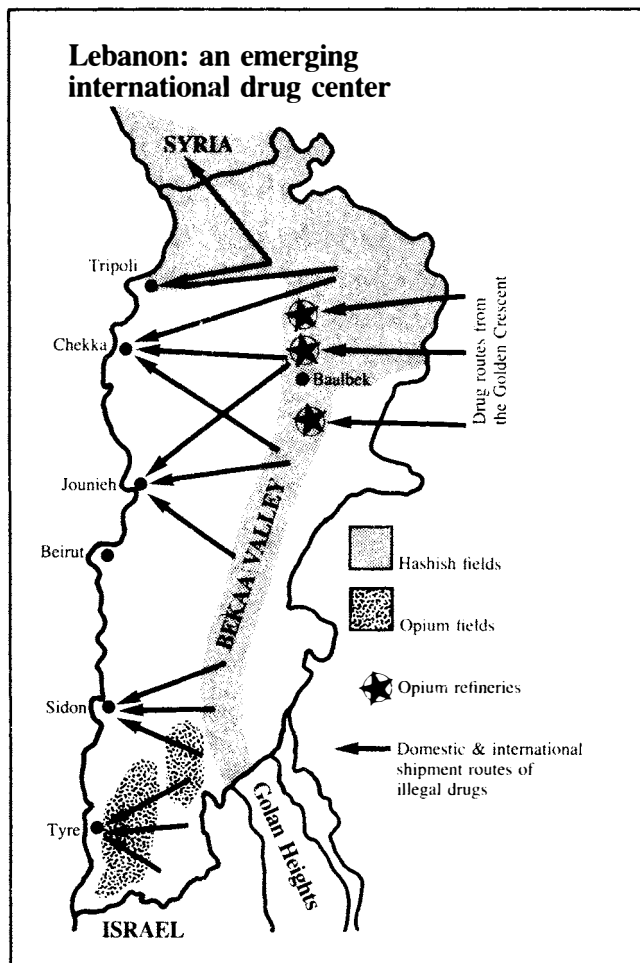
by Judith Wyer

As the architect and crisis manager of the 1976 Lebanese civil war, then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger drew up a plan to partition Lebanon. If Kissinger now has his way, Lebanon will soon be divided between Israel, Syria, and the Falangist gang. This chop-up of Lebanon will make it the hub of a drug and organized crime operation reaching from Pakistan to the Mediterranean.

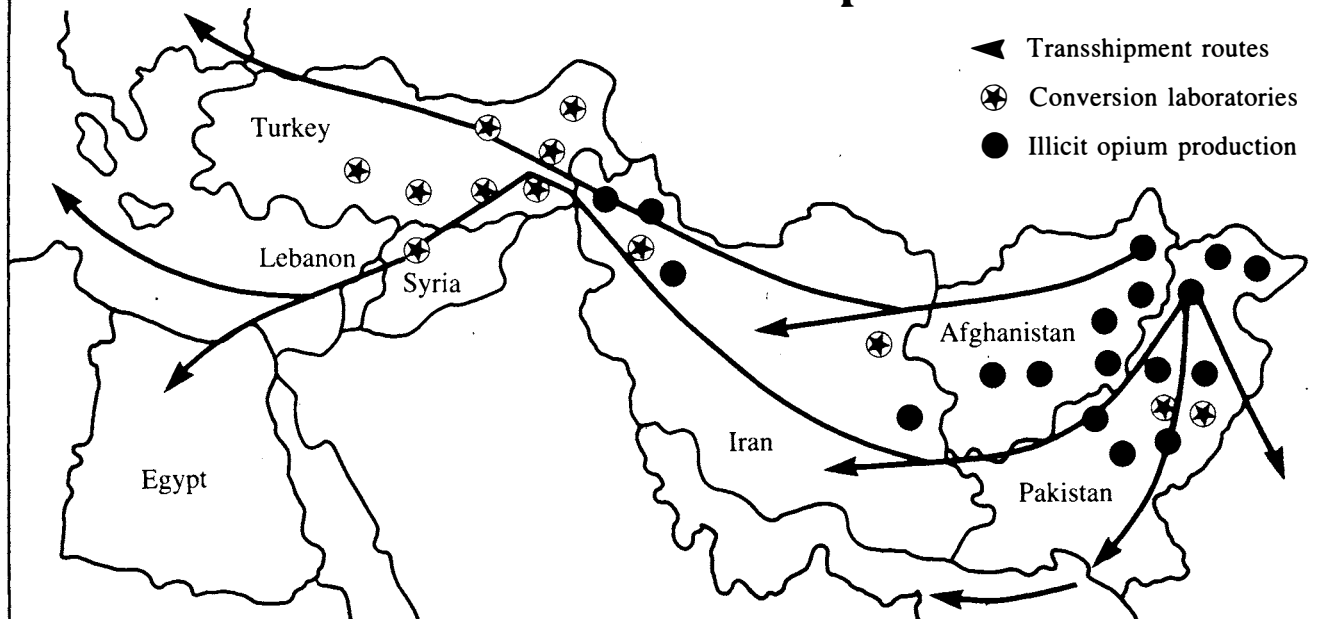
An unspoken element in the Middle East policy doctrine drawn up by Kissinger in 1972, the so-called step-by-step approach which led to the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel, is the transformation of the region into a

haven for what Kissinger and his backers like to call "free enterprise." As a result of this policy, both Egypt and Israel have been turned into havens for "Dope, Inc." over the past ten years.

It is no exaggeration to state that criminal activity is the definition of "free enterprise" for the Kissinger network. The prototype of the enterprise zone policy was imposed on Egypt in 1974 by Kissinger and his traveling piggybank, David Rockefeller, under the name of the Open Door. President Anwar Sadat was offered plenty of credit from private banks, as long as the Egyptian government did not ask too



## The Golden Crescent: illicit sources of opiates



many questions about what the money was being used for. Soon after Sadat finally began to crack down on the "enterprise zones" around Alexandria, where warehouses full of illegal opium and hashish were discovered and major arrests made in September 1981, he became the victim of terrorist bullets.

Central to the Rockefeller-Kissinger policy is the spread of unregulated offshore banks as repositories of "hot money" from shady enterprises. With 120 such banks already in Lebanon, operating according to the Swiss numbered-account model, Lebanon has been designated as the financial center for illicit opiates originating in the Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan) as well as Lebanon's traditional crop, the potent cannabis drug hashish.

Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, a tool of the powerful Israeli Mafia run by David Rockefeller's business partner Meyer Lansky, has shown himself to be prepared to cut Israel into Lebanon's lucrative drug trade. Israeli sources report that shortly after Sharon's invasion of Lebanon 40 tons of Lebanese hashish were confiscated by Israel to be sold on the open market. This is, presumably, one of the financial benefits of Israel's occupation of south Lebanon to which the Israeli Finance Ministry has referred.

Since Israel's first invasion of south Lebanon in 1978, Israel has cultivated a close alliance with the Shiite Muslim minorities in the region. These Shiites are allies of both the fanatical Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran and the ruling Assad gang in Syria. This alliance serves to conduit the drugs produced by Iran and Syria that are moved via south Lebanon through the port towns of Sidon and Tyre.

Guiding Kissinger's longstanding design to carve up Lebanon is a plan authored by British intelligence agent, Prin-

cton University's Professor Bernard Lewis, to undermine the sovereignty of all the states in the region, transforming them into lawless tribal fiefdoms of organized crime and its British and Venetian oligarchical controllers.

In the decade that Kissinger has dominated the American policy toward the Middle East, a series of catastrophes have swept it and Southwest Asia, contributing to the massive increase in illegal drug exports.

- The 1975-76 Lebanese civil war began the slow disintegration of Lebanon as a state and claimed well over 100,000 lives.
- In July 1977 a coup d'état in Pakistan installed General Zia ul-Haq as dictator. The episode brought to power a regime that has been proven complicit in heroin running, including Zia's own family. Zia's predecessor, the legally elected President Bhutto, testified that shortly before his overthrow Kissinger promised to "make a horrible example of you" because of Bhutto's commitment to developing an independent nuclear energy capability for Pakistan.
- In 1978 the Israelis invaded south Lebanon, transforming that once-prosperous agricultural region into a lawless territory in which illegal drugs, notably opium, and international illegal drug transshipments proliferated.
- In February 1979 the so-called Islamic Revolution brought mass murderer Ayatollah Khomeini to power in Iran.

U.S. drug enforcement authorities report that as of 1981, Pakistan had become the world's largest opium exporter. Though it is difficult to quantify, Khomeini's Iran is thought to have become another major exporter, as well as consumer, of opium and heroin. It is known that since 1978 a growing portion of heroin consumed in the United States and Europe has come from the Golden Crescent. It is also known that the

Muslim rebels fighting Soviet occupation of Afghanistan are an important component of the Golden Crescent drug trade, swapping opium for arms.

Since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in September 1980, Israel has made no secret of its alliance with the murderous Khomeini regime, supplying millions of dollars in arms to Iran. Zia maintains secret relations with Israel through various military and intelligence channels, the most important being the Canadian based Space Research concern.

### The transformation of Lebanon

According to the Italian weekly, *Panorama*, since 1978 Lebanon, too, has become an up-and-coming opium, hashish, and now heroin exporting center. *Panorama* estimates that at least 30 percent of Lebanon annual income is earned through illegal drugs. The funds for such trade ends up in Lebanon's unregulated banks, Lebanon's largest industry.

The process of transforming Lebanon into a vast drug plantation began immediately after the 1976 civil war when destitute farmers in the Mermel region of northern Lebanon converted their fields from cash crops to hashish, under the tutelage of the Syrian occupying troops. Today the Hermel and the remaining territory occupied by Syria in the Eastern Bekaa Valley constitutes one of the most profitable hashish-exporting enterprises in the world.

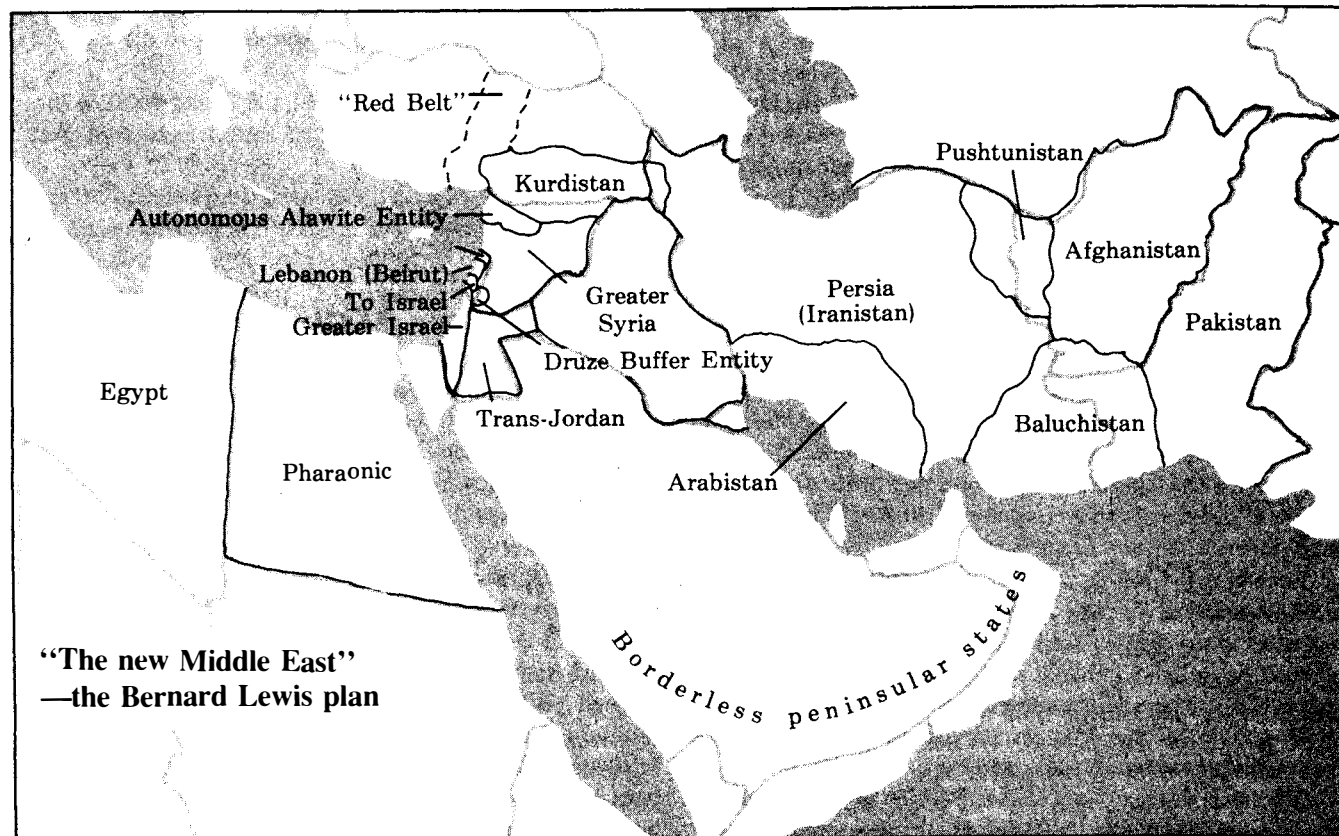
Late last year during the investigations by Italian authorities of the terrorist kidnapping of the U.S. Gen. James Do-

zier, it was revealed that the Italian Red Brigades, some of whom were trained in Lebanon, are also a part of the Lebanese drug pushing syndicate through their ties to the Sicilian Mafia. Days before the rescue of Dozier, the Italian government tried to extradite a Syrian drug merchant, Salah ad Din al Bakhsh, from Greece. He was reported to have conducted drug transactions with Italian terrorist Rafael Reggio, who was arrested in connection with the Dozier affair. European terrorists are reported to be an outlet for drugs grown in the Mideast, from which they generate funds to buy guns.

The Italian trail also reveals the smelly pawprints of Henry Kissinger. Testimony in the trial this summer of the Red Brigaders who kidnapped and assassinated Italian Christian Democratic statesman Aldo Moro revealed that a "prominent international figure" (Kissinger) threatened Moro that he would "pay dearly" for his political plan for a national unity government. Moro himself believed that Kissinger hated him for his role in the Euro-Arab dialogue, a policy which could have led to a sound peace settlement between the Arabs and Israelis, jettisoning the Dope, Inc. partition scheme.

### Israel's free enterprise zone in south Lebanon

Israel's successive invasions have made south Lebanon a lawless, virtually ungoverned territory, and provoked a demographic shift in which the Shiites have become dominant. These Shiites, in combination with the followers of Col. Saad Haddad, the mercenary militia leader in Israel's pay, are



destined to become the gauleiter in Israel's occupation of the south.

Since the June 6 Israeli invasion under Sharon's orders, the occupying army has begun to carve out an entity in south Lebanon making Israeli-allied Shiites Israel's colonial governors. In early August, the Israeli Tourist Minister announced that south Lebanon will become a tourist and casino center which will benefit Israeli's economy.

Detailed plans drawn up by the Israeli foreign intelligence service, Mossad, *well in advance of this year's invasion*, called for Lebanon's freewheeling Swiss-modeled banking system (an entrepôt since the 1950s for international organized crime), to become Israel's offshore banking center. On cue, the first Israeli government delegations to visit the southern Lebanon ports of Sidon and Tyre after Israeli troops occupied them were led by the Israeli Finance Minister and the governor of the central bank.

Like Tyre and Sidon in the south, the major ports north of Beirut in the Maronite enclave have become prime outlets for illegal drugs and other contraband. As early as 1976 Bashir Gemayel began to cultivate his relationship with Israel, sealing their support for his bid to succeed Elias Sarkis as President of Lebanon. Since then, Israel is reported to have delivered up to \$100 million worth of arms to the Bashir Gemayel-led Falangist militia.

Israeli support was the key to Gemayel's victory over the Maronites during a series of blood feuds in 1979 and 1980 which destroyed the power of the contending Maronite clans led by former President Camille Chamoun and Suleiman Franjeh. Bashir Gemayel is personally responsible for the atrocious murder of Franjeh's son Tony.

Immediately after Gemayel took control of the Maronite enclave he seized the ports previously controlled by his Maronite adversaries. According to an exiled Lebanese banker, the ports and the lucrative casinos in the Maronite capital of Junieh have already netted the Gemayel clan tremendous returns.

A Maronite supporter of Gemayel revealed recently that once the "smoke clears" in Lebanon, it will become the dominant banking center in the Mideast functioning exactly like Switzerland. Despite six years of civil strife and foreign occupation, the central bank still is reported to have several billion dollars in gold in its coffers. And despite the chaos, the decentralized Lebanese banking system has continued to function.

Another piece of the picture is the notorious gold bullion market in Dubai, which is reported to have been resuscitated earlier this year. Besides being the Persian Gulf headquarters of British intelligence, Dubai is ruled by Sheikh Rashid, whose regime is the closest in the Gulf to Ariel Sharon's drug-running Muslim allies Zia and Khomeini, and who is a known funder of the British intelligence-created Muslim Brotherhood. The gold, which originates in Zurich and London, is important because it is a universal currency for opium transshipped through southern Iran.

## The Assad Mafia and the Middle East crisis

by Thierry Lalevée, Middle East Editor

The recent Lebanese war was not fought over drugs, but there was definitely a "drug connection" to it which will be the basis for a most cynical, dirty deal in the coming weeks between Syria and Israel. This will most likely be concretized in the shape of a partition of Lebanon between Syria and Israel, as we document above, leaving a token "independent" Lebanon under the rule or some Israeli-controlled puppet à la Bashir Gemayel, who will control a "greater Beirut" whose territory will extend no farther than to Khalde or the Mount Lebanon region.

Underlining this drug aspect of the war was the Israeli army's behavior in Lebanon, acting under the orders of the plenipotentiary representative of the Israeli Mafia, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Entering the destroyed cities of Tyre and Sidon, the Israeli Defense Force took two steps; first to load hundreds of trucks with seized Palestinians weapons which, as the Vienna *Kurier* revealed Aug. 21, were sold afterward for hard currency to willing arms dealers who transported them to Iran, then in the midst of its offensive against Iraq. Secondly, dozens of other trucks were loaded with the local hashish crop, evidently not to be burned in Israel, but rather sold through Sharon's American Mafia connections, represented by Meshulem Riklis of the Rapid American Corporation. Hence, a few weeks after the beginning of the war the Paris daily *Le Monde* could quote Israeli officials as saying that "the war has been a good war; we have made a lot of benefits."

But the Israelis cannot be really totally blamed for this state of affairs, as they were merely emulating Israel's supposed "enemy," Hafez al Assad of Syria, who since 1972 has based his regime on creating a "greater Syria" by partitioning Lebanon with Israel, a rationale to include that country in his mafia activities.

Indeed, if Lebanon is partitioned into three spheres of influence—at least—the prime object will be control of drugs, production and trade, and the recycling of dirty money. Israel is expected to retain control over southern Lebanon where "Major" Haddad has for years been using the production of hashish by the local Shiite community to buy the weapons he needed from the Israelis. Syria, on the contrary, will try to retain its control over northern Lebanon and the key city of Baalbeck, the real revolving door of the drug market where, especially in the last few years, the first refineries for the