

Editorial

Lebanon: the next Islamic republic?

In February 1979, the Carter administration handed over Iran to the insanity of Ayatollah Khomeini under the policy stated by then-National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski that "Islamic fundamentalism is a bulwark against communism"—the same line still held to by Brzezinski and the Kissinger crowd at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies. But what do these Khomeini boosters say now to the radical Islamicization of Lebanon under the aegis of Soviet-backed Syria?

When the United States pulled out of Lebanon, it reneged on its commitment to defend that country's sovereignty, leaving it to de facto partitioning between Syria and Israel. This left a vacuum of centralized power for a population increasingly demoralized by years of futile civil war. The result among the Muslim population has been the eruption of radical Islamic fundamentalism.

Heretofore, in Lebanon, the Islamic fundamentalists were concentrated in the Baalbek Valley, near Syria, home base for the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) terrorist-kamikazes. Supplies and funds are funneled to these Shi'ite fanatics from Iran through Syria. Direction is supplied by Moscow. This is the grouping that has claimed responsibility for the destruction of two U.S. embassies in Beirut in the last 18 months, and the kamikaze hit on the Marine barracks a year ago.

Now, the fundamentalists are gaining control of Beirut. This week, for the first time, the Amal Militia of Nabih Berri, the anti-Khomeini but pro-Syrian Shi'ite leader from the south, battled the armed gangs of the fundamentalist Hezbollah (Party of God). The ranks of the Party of God have been swelled by refugees coming north to Beirut to escape the Israelis. Now it is commonplace to see Beirut Muslim women covered head to toe in the black chadors women must wear by law in Iran.

The leader of the Hezbollah is Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah. As described by the Beirut correspondent for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Fadlallah harangued the crowd for the commemoration of the feast of Ashoura: "Pray in the name of Mohammed for the

people of Mohammed! God is Great! Khomeini is leader! Victory for Islam! Death to Israel! War, war until victory! Creeping, creeping toward Jerusalem!"

During Ashoura, fundamentalist men and young boys shave a part of their heads and make a bloody incision with a knife in their scalps. They then flagellate themselves with whips. Said one young man whipped up into a frenzy by Fadlallah: "I am ready to drive a dynamite truck. I want to eat an Israeli. I want to drink some good Israeli blood."

This is the insanity that has resulted in 300,000 children in Iran being sent to their deaths on the battlefield. The Teheran cemetery, built in 1972 to last 80 years, is almost full. One gravestone reads: "After a long inward conflict, I finally understood the beauty of death. Then I decided to write my will hoping that it would one day become useful to others."

The "Martyrs Foundation" provides cash, television sets, and free tickets to Mecca and Damascus for families who can boast of "martyrs."

The Khomeini regime thrives on the glorification of irrationalism and bestiality. This is the organized barbarity that has led the "Islamic Court" to allow a jealous husband to be blinded by his wife as a punishment for blinding her. Mrs. Maryam Zavarei, aged 22, has already chosen her instrument: a pair of scissors. The event may be nationally televised.

This is the organized insanity that is not only threatening the nations of the Mideast, but also those of Asia, from Pakistan to Indonesia. The Moscow-unleashed "Islamic revolution" is a war against the principles of Western civilization and human progress. For what it wrongly perceived as geopolitical interests, the United States has destroyed the principles for which it stands. The United States has a responsibility to act decisively to end the Khomeini scourge by: 1) taking decisive action against Khomeini in Iran; 2) imposing a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis; and 3) taking leadership to bring industry and technology to this region that has been devastated physically and mentally by the geopolitical aims of the Soviets and their Kissingerite partners in the West.