

bloodlust sounded by the U.S. “Project Democracy mafia,” such as neo-conservative warmongers Paula Dobriansky, and Paul Wolfowitz, the number-two man in the Department of Defense, who was the architect of the Iraq war, and Principle Assistant Secretary of State David Satterfield, now acting as the ambassador to Lebanon, after the sudden departure of Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman, for “personal reasons.”

On Feb. 28, Dobriansky, an Assistant Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Satterfield and Wolfowitz were egging on mass demonstrations, extolling the “cedar revolution,” and telling “the people” to take destiny in their own hands. What they want to see in Lebanon is what happened in the impoverished nation of Khyrgystan on March 24, when opposition mobs (supported by the U.S. Ambassador) seized government buildings, took hostages, and set fire to automobiles and buildings.

This vision would be the fulfillment of what George W. Bush called, in his Jan. 20, 2005 Inaugural speech, lighting “a fire in the minds of men.” In reality, that phrase was fed to Bush by his handlers and speech writers out of Feodor Dostoevsky’s novel, “The Possessed,” where a nihilist revolutionary revels in the burning roofs set on fire by a mob he instigated, slyly insisting the violence is *good* because it is, “a fire in the minds of men.”

One of the key figures behind this policy of fiery chaos is George Pratt Shultz, the former Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan, whose maneuvers intensified and prolonged the fratricidal war in Lebanon in 1982-88. Shultz is now Co-Chairman of the Committee on the Present Danger, an outgrowth of the “Foundation for the Defense of Democracies,” (FDD), which he helped to build after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Under Shultz’s umbrella, which informally includes the neo-con “Temple of Darkness,” i.e., the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), and the U.S. Committee for a Free Lebanon (USCFL), are two would-be “Chalabis,” Dr. Walid Phares, a Senior Fellow at FDD, and Farik Ghadry, head of the supposed Reform Party of Syria, who are using the Israeli and neo-con press to build a false trail of information that can be then used to fool the U.S. Congress into repeating against Syria, the genocidal war it authorized Bush to wage in Iraq. Already the Christian evangelical fanatics and the right wing Israeli lobby are pushing warmongers in Congress to pass the “Syria Liberation Act,” to guarantee the implementation of “Clean Break.” The House of Representatives already passed a bill to “punish” Lebanese government officials, who do not demand the ouster of Syria, in the event that the opposition does not win the elections in May. Rep. Elena Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) is sponsor of both bills.

To fuel the Congressional moves, on March 24, Walid Phares wrote a lengthy piece for the neo-con lie factories that “Syria has no intention of relinquishing power over its puppet state [i.e., Lebanon]” and filled pages with half-cocked information about Syrian intelligence agents and terrorists. On March 23, Ghadry, who lived many years in Lebanon, wrote

even more inflammatory lies for the Israeli Ynetnews.com, internet version of *Yedioth Aharanot*, saying that Syria plans to “set it [Lebanon] ablaze” and has recruited Palestinian terrorists from the West Bank to kill Lebanese leaders. Washington sources find Ghadry laughable—he is a former contractor with the Department of Defense, a total neo-con agent, whose Reform Party of Syria, created in October, 2001, operates essentially “out of the washroom of AEI,” according to one specialist in South West Asia.

But the lies of these operatives are no small or laughing matter—they are targeting Lebanese unity itself. Members of the Lebanese opposition told *EIR* that it is by constant daily dialogue among all religious and political factions that a return to civil war is being avoided, and the dirty tricks are being surmounted. One ugly example of the disinformation occurred last week when the press throughout the Arab world was filled with a lie that Patriarch Sfeir had called on Bush to disarm Hezbollah. “This was a *manufactured* tale,” a Christian leader heatedly told *EIR*. Sfeir issued a strong denial of the false report, and plans are underway to set up a meeting between Patriarch Sfeir and Sheikh Nasrallah of Hezbollah. The opposition is extremely optimistic that Syria is withdrawing and that Lebanon can be whole for the first time in decades, and at peace with Syria.

But the arrival of Satterfield to beef up the U.S. Embassy as a “command center” for “fire in the minds of men,” i.e. in the streets and homes—could bring a new phase of violence.

Interview: Cardinal Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir

‘I Hope That Lebanon Can Be An Example Of Peace’

His Beatitude, Cardinal Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, of Lebanon, the Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, visited the United States March 14-21, and was received by many leading officials throughout the country, including President Bush and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The Maronite Patriarch, who is known in Lebanon by all religions and sects as “the conscience of his nation,” made this diplomatic visit to the United States during a time of great danger and tension for his country. The current, intensely complicated situation in Lebanon is balanced on a precipice between war and peace. Yet, the people of Lebanon, whatever their differences, have one unified determination; they will not be provoked into war again and they will uphold, not only the independence and sovereignty of their own nation, but



Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, shown at a press conference at the United Nations on March 19, 2005.

also that of their neighbors.

Throughout his visit to the United States, the Patriarch delivered this consistent message, whether speaking privately to political and religious leaders, or at public gatherings. In his speeches, one could hear a living echo of the Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the bloody Thirty Years' War in Europe in 1648. That Treaty's principles—"This Peace must be so honest and seriously guarded and nourished that each part furthers the advantage, honor, and benefit of the other"—shone through his discussions at the White House Congress, the Senate, and the United Nations. Participants in those meetings told EIR that many parties toned down their demands and rhetoric in the face of the Patriarch's calm and resolved authority.

The Patriarch granted the following interview to EIR correspondent Nina Ogden on March 18.

EIR: As you know, we have been discussing with our mutual friends in Lebanon, LaRouche's concept of a New Peace of Westphalia, which is based on the concord that brought peace to Europe after the Thirty Years War.

Patriarch: This is our image, and I hope I have gotten the message across in this country—the message that what we want in Lebanon is good relations with all countries in the region. What is good for Lebanon is what is in the common interests of all of our neighbors. We, in Lebanon, want peace. We want to be good friends with all of our neighbors. We

want to walk together hand to hand, heart to heart.

EIR: Many have feared the intention of some in the United States and other countries to use Lebanon as a playing card in the region, as a provocation for war.

Patriarch: I hope all have understood my message. Lebanon must be independent, sovereign, and free. Up to now we have not been free. Now Syria will have respect for Lebanon as a sovereign country, and Lebanon will have respect for Syria as a sovereign country. Lebanon as a free country must have no interference from any country in the world.

EIR: When you met with President Bush at the White House, do you think he understood this?

Patriarch: I am sure that he understands our position, because I sent him a message before I came here explaining this position and the context of the situation of our country. I emphasized that an independent, sovereign, and free Lebanon wishes all our neighbors also to be free and to be friendly.

EIR: What kind of example do you hope that Lebanon can be?

Patriarch: I hope that Lebanon can be an example of peace, of overcoming the problems of the past. A free nation has no reason for any interference from any country from the outside. When we have peace, we can create jobs and a hopeful future that can bring our young people back from all over the world.

EIR: I understand that you have identified this concept in the words of Pope Paul VI that "development is the new name for peace."

Patriarch: Exactly! It is true that our young people must be able to find this out for themselves. So many of our young people—Muslim and Christian alike—were pushed out of our country by lack of jobs and hopes. They were pushed abroad and are now living in countries all over the globe. I hope they will be happy and come back to Lebanon, when we have peace and a government of our own that can plan for the development of our country.

EIR: There were hundreds of young people at the reception for you and they seemed very happy about what you were saying to them.

Patriarch: I think the young people understand my message. There was much applause.

EIR: I think they were so enthusiastic that if you had asked them to all go back to Lebanon with you next week, they would.

Patriarch: Oh, I wish they could—but not yet; not yet. Things must be regularized for them. This is why we are working so hard on the new elections, so the young people will have hope—so the young people of every religion and sect will have prospects for the future—so they will not face fear and oppression, but will have hope for the future.