

Risking a Soviet confrontation

Marines caught in middle of violence in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (AP) — The growing violence in Lebanon, punctuated by the first clash between U.S. and Syrian forces last weekend, increases the risk of a confrontation with the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

The Reagan administration has asserted its determination to protect the 1,500 Marines hunkered down in the outskirts of Beirut, and the Soviets pledged to stand by Arab forces "who are fighting the Israeli and American aggression."

U.S. Marines are caught in the middle, a target for various groups in Lebanon that want to weaken Pres. Amin Gemayel and give the United States a bloody nose.

Unless the latest show of U.S. force persuades Syria to reverse its policy and withdraw from Lebanon, the Marines' mission appears open-ended.

The Soviets, stung by the U.S. aerial strike against their Syrian allies, said Monday they would provide "moral and material" support to those opposing the United States and Israel. A Kremlin spokesman called the U.S. bombings against Syrian artillery and anti-aircraft positions "a new factor of aggression" in the Middle East.

Pres. Ronald Reagan insisted Sunday that the United States was not spoiling for a fight with Syria, but sought only to help the Gemayel government stabilize Lebanon and to defend U.S. forces against attack.

Although Reagan emphasized that "we don't desire" a broader confrontation with Syria, and the bombings were in response to an "unprovoked attack" on unarmed U.S. reconnaissance planes Saturday — the show of American muscle could prove ominous.

On the diplomatic front, the United States informed the U.N. Security Council that the attack on the Syrian positions was "a discrete measure taken in self-defense." White House spokesperson Larry Speakes said the U.S. Embassy in Damascus had made unspecified "additional diplomatic representations to Syria."

Syria is armed by the Soviet Union, and its gunners are trained by Soviet advisers. U.S. firing on Syrian positions, which Reagan and Defense Department officials suggested might be repeated, brings the superpowers closer to a clash in the Middle East than at any time since the Yom Kippur war of 1973.

The Soviets rebuilt Syrian forces after they were humbled by the Israelis in Lebanon last year. The Soviets supplied them with 800 to 900 T-52 tanks,

more than 450 combat jet planes and four batteries of surface-to-air missiles near Damascus and at Homs in northern Syria.

No fewer than 7,000 Soviet technicians and other support personnel are in Syria, according to Israeli estimates. The Reagan administration places the figure closer to 9,000.

In Lebanon, about 100 Soviet military advisers are serving alongside the Syrians.

So far, the Soviets have avoided direct combat involvement. But if the Syrians are subjected to continued U.S. poundings, the Soviets may be forced to choose whether to abandon their closest Arab ally or to join the fray.

At a Kremlin news conference Monday, government spokesman Leonid Zamyatin said "the Arab countries will take the measures necessary" and the Soviet Union "will support those who are fighting the Israeli and American aggression."

For his part, Reagan said Sunday the Marines, sent to Lebanon 16 months ago to help evacuate Palestinian guerrillas after an Israeli siege of Beirut, will stay there "to bring peace to that area."

But with peace still extremely elusive, the Marines are likely to remain an inviting target for attacks that could draw the United States into repeated acts of retaliation.

"We are going to defend our forces there," Reagan said.

"We are not at war with the United States," said Rafic Jouejati, the Syrian ambassador to Washington. "But the escalation is imposed on us, and what are we supposed to win by that? We want to defend ourselves, to defend our positions, to defend the independence and the sovereignty of Lebanon."

U.S.-Syrian hostility can be traced to the troop withdrawal agreement that the administration helped arrange last summer with considerable effort. Under the accord, Israel promised to withdraw its 15,000 troops from Lebanon, contingent on the pullout of the 40,000 Syrian troops who control about half the country. But the Syrians refused to budge.

In the violence that followed Israel's evacuation from the Chouf mountains southeast of Beirut in early September, the Marines suffered casualties and responded by shelling Druze positions.

Then, when the terrorist bombing of Marines headquarters in Beirut killed 239 U.S. military personnel on Oct. 23, U.S. officials blamed a pro-Iranian faction and the Syrians.

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necessary materials ready.

About one or two of the estimated 20 mobility handicapped students use the office each year, he adds.

But Kittredge is not convinced. "The idea of accessibility is mainstreaming," he says. "It is hardly mainstreaming to put these people in a little office downstairs that has separate but equal facilities."

Associate Provost for Student

Affairs Gerard Moseley, who originally suggested the ill-fated Chapman plan, says it was impossible to come up with an answer that makes everyone happy.

"It's always political when space is involved," he says. "We've got a lot to be thankful for. It's just that some of us would have done things a little different."

But the move into Hendricks is

not entirely permanent, says Barbara Edwards, executive assistant to the vice president for University relations. Oregon Hall, with its elevators and high visibility, is the obvious, although as yet not financially realistic, solution to the problem, she says.

"There were a number of problems with the plan, as there were with any plan," she says. "My personal feeling is that some day it will be moved into Oregon Hall."

Clarification

Presidential candidate George McGovern will speak Wednesday in 180 PLC at 3:30 p.m., not 3 p.m., as stated in Monday's *Emerald*. The *Emerald* regrets any confusion created by the headline of the Monday story, which did not mention that McGovern would speak in Eugene.

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