

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Reagan diverts citizen anger

The loss of the Korean airliner over the Soviet Union is being used to build pro-war, anti-Soviet hysteria which will result in vastly increased expenditures for war, including the MX missile and deployment of Pershing II missiles in Europe.

Five days passed after the disappearance of the jetliner before the U.S. admitted that a spy plane was in the area. As more information is released it becomes apparent that the USSR's version is true — that the airline was warned and refused to respond and that the USSR believed that airliner was a spy plane.

The question that remains is whether the Korean airliner was really a spy plane or whether it was being used by other U.S. spy planes in the area. The CIA and other U.S. intelligence services and the Japanese intelligence services were watching the flight for 2½ hours as it penetrated Soviet air space. Why didn't they warn it? And why was the Korean pilot afraid to land?

South Korea is one of the most repressive countries in the world, and the plane's pilots were reportedly military reserve officers. The nation was created by the U.S., which permanently partitioned Korea. Its government, military and economy were constructed in large part by U.S. economists and intelligence agencies and it is dominated by U.S. transnationals. Over 40,000 U.S. military forces and hundreds of intelligence agents are stationed in Korea.

Was the flight merely a spy mission or was it designed to create a climate favorable to the war industry?

Recently the U.S. and the USSR have made some progress with economic, diplomatic and cultural agreements. The nuclear freeze, anti-war movement is growing world-wide and in the U.S. But there are forces in the Pentagon, the CIA and the Reagan administration that are opposed to normalizing relations with the Soviet Union.

In 1960 there was a similar period in which the cold war relations were beginning to thaw. On the eve of President Eisenhower's planned visit with Premier Khrushchev, a U.S. spy plane was shot down over the USSR. The U.S. first blamed the USSR but later admitted the U-2 was on a spy mission. This incident was calculated to

strengthen anti-Soviet feelings in the U.S. and end any moves toward detente. Does the Korean plane incident have the same purpose?

The hysteria campaign launched by the U.S. government and the press diverts attention from the U.S. intervention in Central America, the Middle East and Africa. It diverts the public attention from the fact that the U.S. is waging war against Nicaragua and propping up the dictators of El Salvador, Chile, Guatemala, Philippines, etc. etc.

It also diverts the attention of the American people from the real problems at home — poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism, poor education, lack of medical care and housing, etc.

The people of the United States are justifiably angry over the social and economic conditions imposed on them while their government builds an ever larger war machine, but the Reagan administration — the target of that anger — is successfully diverting it into anti-Soviet hysteria.

The Korean airline incident meets two objectives for the Reagan administration — it aids their plan for a new military build-up and it turns the attention of the people from problems at home to an "enemy" abroad.



## Lebanon: Land of conflict, pain

On June 4, 1982, under the code name "Peace for Galilee," Israel launched an air, sea and land attack against Lebanon. More than 120,000 soldiers armed with the most sophisticated U.S. arms participated in the assault. The invasion destroyed 18 Palestinian refugee camps and four principal cities of Lebanon — among them the capital, Beirut. More than 20,000 people were killed, 40,000 wounded and 20,000 detained. Twenty-five communities were destroyed, 800,000 made homeless and 10,000 are missing. The invasion was a massive effort to destroy the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the progressive Lebanese National Movement and units of the Syrian army.

The goals of Israel and its partner, the United States, were to:

- Eliminate the Palestinian cause and impose a so-called "autonomy" in the West Bank
- Install a fascist government in Lebanon that would form an alliance with Israel and Egypt
- Annex southern Lebanon to Israel
- Force the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

The Camp David accords would be imposed on the Arab nations — one by one. This would assure making the Arab countries politically, economically, and militarily dependent on the U.S. and insure its access to oil.

The weakness of the Israeli plan was that the new Lebanese government was not able to impose its will on all of the people of Lebanon and as the Israeli troops withdrew, the civil war, in a state of truce when the Israelis invaded, erupted again.

posed their plans and terrorism was used to impose their rule. By the 1950s, Lebanon was a showcase for the rich — the "Switzerland of the Middle East" — but it was being destroyed by internal conflict.

The 1950s were a period of growth of Arab nationalism and development of new Arab-based parties. In April 7, 1975 civil war broke out, lasting until the next summer. This was a period of growing strength for the Falangists, who were allied with the Lebanese National Party of ex-President Chamoun and the followers of ex-President Frangie. They were all Maronites and all were representatives of the aristocracy, united momentarily to crush the progressive forces and their allies, the Palestinians. Large contingents of Palestinians had moved into Lebanon after the 1970 massacre of Palestinians in Jordan.

In 1976, Bashir Gemayel became the chief of the Maronite militias of the "Lebanese Front." The country was divided, some ports under the pro-Western fascist Maronite rule and some under the rule of the progressive forces. Beirut was divided: the Falangists controlled the eastern sector, while the western sector was held by the Palestinian-Lebanese command. In 1978, Gemayel killed his ally, Frangie, and many of his followers, and attacked the LNP, at last consolidating his power over the right-wing factions.

### Saad Haddad

In 1979, Saad Haddad proclaimed a "Free State of Lebanon" in the southern area bordering Israel. In 1977, he had publicly called for an Israeli invasion. With Israeli financing and arms, he has maintained a type of mini-state which has expanded greatly as the result of the Israeli invasion.

More than 25 years ago Moshe Dyan said, "What is needed to create a Maronite state in Lebanon is to find an officer — even if he's only a major — and convince him to declare himself a savior of the Maronite population... then the Israeli army will go into Lebanon, occupy the necessary territory and create a Christian regime that will be allied with Israel."

### Lebanese National Movement

In 1975 Kamul Joublatt and other progressive leaders created the Lebanese National Movement — the only opposition to fascism in the country. The LNM from the very beginning took the position of practical solidarity with the Palestinian people. This position, together with growing popular support, gave it the strength to resist the bloody offensive of the Lebanese Front in 1975-1976 as well as Israeli invasions and incursions.

Joublatt, a Druse by origin, was killed in 1977. His son, Walid, replaced him and in 1980 was elected head of the LNM.

Since its foundation, the LNM has announced its program of "channeling the struggle of the Arab masses in favor of a united Arab, democratic, non-sectarian Lebanon allied to the Palestinian resistance."

### Gemayel government

The president is elected by Parliament every six years and the people elect members of Parliament every four years. The current Parliament was elected 10 years ago and when it was elected, it represented only 28 percent of the population. Today Parliament represents only the upper class and the remnants of feudalism (4 percent control 40 percent of the economy).

The August, 1983 election of the president was held in an occupied city, with the parliamentary buildings surrounded by Israeli and Falangist tanks and with many members of Parliament threatened with death.

Bashir Gemayel was elected president and immediately assassinated. Israel entered West Beirut. Gemayel's brother, Amin, was elected president; nobody dared vote against him.

The Gemayel government does not have the support of the vast majority of the people and he has not been able to consolidate his power over the nation.

### The United States

The U.S., which supported and financed Israel's war against Lebanon, has established a beachhead in the oil-rich, militarily strategic Middle East through its participation in the United Nations peace-keeping force. With troops caught in the fire from the LNM, the Navy has moved in reinforcements and has shelled LNM positions. The British and French have strafed LNM positions from the air, ostensibly to protect their own armies.

What began as a force to keep Lebanese, Israeli and Syrian troops apart and to protect the civilian population has become a military program to aid Gemayel. Defense Secretary Weinberger has indicated the possibility of expanding the force from 1,500 to as many as 10,000 and to expand its role outside of the Beirut region. There are reports that U.S. advisors are accompanying, if not leading, the Lebanese Army in their battles and Ronald Reagan has talked about sending Marines to southern Lebanon to "guarantee" Israel's borders.

The Reagan administration has attempted to avoid congressional scrutiny by denying that the Marines are in "hostile" territory. This week, Congress should consider invoking the War Powers Act of 1974, which states that the president cannot place military personnel in hostile territory for more than 60 days without congressional approval.

## Letters to the Editor

### Equality, justice know no race

To the Editor:

The case for justice knows no race or religion. One has to rise above individual deprivation and suffering to recognize it for what it is and speak out against it when it occurs, be the victims, Jews, Chinese, Indians, Hispanics, Japanese or Blacks.

Washington State Senator George Flemming recognized the injustice done against persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and not only spoke against it but sponsored a bill which subsequently led to reparations of \$2,500 for each victim.

In the battle for equality and justice for all there is little to be

gained and much to be lost in arguments about who suffered the most, who should be compensated first, second, etc. That kind of divisive reasoning serves only those who would discriminate against us. In the end, the women and minorities will be the losers.

Walter Sakai

### Emergency food donations increase

To the Editor:

Thanks for the lovely surprise — a story about our emergency appeal for food items... on page 1 no less!

It may interest you to know that thanks to your help in getting the

word out, contributions to The Salvation Army's Family Services offices in our area have increased. I hope it's a trend that continues; besides Christmas, late summertime traditionally has been a very tough month for us in terms of the number of people coming to us for food and help.

The New Portland Observer's continuing support for people-helping agencies is another outstanding example of editorial leadership and commitment to upgrading the quality of life for our whole community. May God bless you and this newspaper for your support.

Sonia Fetherston  
Media Relations Coordinator  
Cascade Division  
The Salvation Army

### Background to civil war

The influence of Western Europe was strong in the development of Lebanon's political system. The upper class, which in Lebanon is predominantly Maronite Christian (followers of Maron, a hermit monk who lived in the 5th and 6th centuries), control the wealth of the nation and have held political power since the establishment of the "Great Lebanese State" by France in 1920.

In 1943, when the nation became independent, a verbal agreement called the "National Pact" was made between the Maronites and the weak Arab entrepreneur class who were competing for power. The Pact insured that the president will always be Maronite; the Sunni Moslems would have the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers; the Shiite Moslems would have the head of Parliament and the Greek Orthodox the vice-president of Parliament. Parliament is 54 Christians and 45 Moslems, although the country is 58 percent Moslem.

### Falangists

In 1936, Pierre Gemayel established the Kateb Party (the Falangists). Paramilitary bands were formed to attack anyone who op-

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