

in Lebanon, the US cast a vote of no-confidence in Karami by deciding to move the bulk of its embassy work and staff to fascist-controlled East Beirut. Having failed in this round to incorporate Lebanon into its regional strategy, US imperialism may be seeking new means for the next phase. One should note National Security Adviser McFarlane's mid-May statement about the advantages of covert actions as a means between war and doing nothing. McFarlane was addressing the issue of Central America, attempting to justify the CIA's mining of Nicaragua's harbor. However, his remarks could be applicable to Lebanon where a combination of US military intervention and diplomatic pressure failed to fulfill US aims. Perhaps the CIA's links with the Phalangists will be upgraded; there could be new covert action to infiltrate the ranks of the patriotic forces in order to spread false divisions and confusions. In any case, a base remains in Lebanon for US operations connected to the 200 Marines who train the Lebanese Army and protect the embassy. It is known that a group of these are stationed in the Phalangist controlled mountains east of Beirut, near Beit Meri. When US warships were pounding the Shouf mountains, they served as spotters. Recently when the US Marine Corps headquarters unit in Lebanon was disbanded, US officials refused to comment on continuing reports that these Marines have been seen with the Lebanese Forces in the mountains. We can surmise that they are present still.

Fascist sabotage

The godfathers of the fascist forces, Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun, found it prudent to join the cabinet of national unity in order to preserve their remaining privileges. Their tactic is to block reform, especially on vital issues like the army. The nationalist ministers are pushing for collective leadership as an alternative to the one man Maronite command, which has kept Lebanon's military power under fascist control. The

fascist forces will at all costs block the army's becoming united and functional if its command structure rules out their control. They see no use for the army unless it can be deployed to repress the nationalist forces and masses.

The fascist godfathers have assigned their proteges, the Lebanese Forces, the task of sabotaging the experiment represented by Karami's cabinet. For one, the Lebanese Forces opened an office in occupied Jerusalem to insure high-level relations with the Israelis in the absence of the May 17th accord. This so-called Lebanese Christian Agency and its staff, headed by Pierre Yazbeck, enjoy most of the privileges accorded to embassies. Actually, it is an embassy for the East Beirut-Kaserwan fiefdom with which the fas-

cists, having again failed to control all Lebanon, must content themselves.

Moreover, by keeping the frontlines hot, the Lebanese Forces preclude a lasting ceasefire that would allow the cabinet to embark on its basic tasks, such as restructuring the army. This was especially apparent in the violent escalation of fighting in the second week of June as the parliament was meeting to give its vote of confidence to the Karami cabinet. On June 11th alone, 84 people were killed and 200 wounded in the heaviest fighting in four months. Significantly, most of the casualties were in West Beirut. Karami's government did receive the vote of confidence, but while it represents a new phase ushered in as a political truce, it does not mark the final chapter in the Lebanese civil war. ●

The Occupied South

Starting in April, Shamir and other Zionist officials were heard bragging about the improvement of their 'security' in South Lebanon. Supposedly, there were fewer Israeli casualties and better relations with the southerners. Some western correspondents studiously echoed these claims. However, a survey of events in South Lebanon gives quite a different picture of the level of armed resistance and the mood of the masses. This talk of a costfree occupation is a deliberate lie aimed at upping Likud's declining popularity before the Israeli elections.

One can ask: If relations with the population are better, why did the occupation troops find it necessary to besiege six Lebanese villages in the week of April 26-May 2nd alone? Why on April 28th, did they ransack the home of a respected Saida physician, Nazih Bizri, a former minister and presently the only member of the Lebanese parliament living in the South? Why did they launch a frontal attack on Ain al Hilweh camp in mid-May?

Claims of lower casualties were based on the fact that from March 19th until May 11th, the Zionists admitted no deaths among their troops. They simply denied that the April 13th explosion at

Deir Kanoun even took place, although the blast was heard in Saida and there were reports that six to fifteen Israeli soldiers were killed. Then on May 11th, an Israeli officer was killed and another wounded in a grenade attack in Nabatiyah. Enraged at being forced to break their wall of silence, the Zionists blew up the house from which the grenade was thrown as if they could isolate the Lebanese National Resistance Front to a single dwelling and then destroy it!

We see a direct connection between the Israelis' no-death toll and their blockading of villages. Actually the whole South has been blockaded. Throughout April, telephone and telex