

FBIS-NES-88-082  
28 April 1988

35

LEBANON

According to sources close to the conferees, Hizballah insists the Amal Movement return all the weapons it confiscated in the South, as well as the positions it captured during the clashes.

Hizballah also demands that it be allowed to restore its political and military activities in the South. The same sources noted that Minister Birri did not fully respond to such demands and said that this and other issues should be handled by the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

**Soviet Envoy on Improved Syrian-PLO Relations**  
*NC271313 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Apr 88*

[Text] Vasily Kolotusha, the Soviet ambassador in Lebanon, today expressed the Soviet Union's satisfaction at the improvement of relations between Syria and the PLO.

Speaking at the airport to a delegation from the Soviet-Lebanese Friendship Association that had just returned from a visit to Moscow, Ambassador Kolotusha stated that the Soviet Union had for some years made efforts to improve these relations.

This, he said, is in the interests of both Syria and the PLO, who share the view that a permanent and comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem must be found.

**Islamic Grouping Praises Al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting**  
*NC271546 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic. 1500 GMT 27 Apr 88*

[Text] The Islamic Grouping has expressed satisfaction with the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, which it viewed as a great step toward unifying the Arabs and closing their ranks.

The Grouping has also voiced hope that the Arabs will soon hold an emergency summit conference, believing that a new situation has developed which should break the deadlock in the reform process.

The Grouping noted that it fears the explosion in Tripoli is a prelude to a series of criminal acts aimed at drowning the country in blood, anarchy, and catastrophes.

The Islamic Grouping held its weekly meeting at the mufti's office shortly before noon today under the chairmanship of [Former] Prime Minister Taqiy al-Din al-Sulh. [Former] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, and Deputies Zaki Mazbudi, Jamil Kibbi, Talal al-Mir'ibi, and Nazim al-Qadiri also attended.

**Envoy Denies Knowledge of 'Spiritual Summit'**  
*NC271434 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 88*

[Text] Today, the Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, Mas'ud al-Hadi, gave Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, a copy of a statement issued by the Algerian Foreign Ministry at the conclusion of the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking.

Meanwhile, the Algerian ambassador denied any knowledge of rumors that a Lebanese spiritual summit conference will be held in Algiers. However, he noted that his country is willing to help convene any meeting among the Lebanese brothers, be they political or spiritual figures.

Mas'ud al-Hadi expressed the hope that any rapprochement among Arabs would yield positive results in the Arab arena.

**Zahlah Deputy Al-Ma'luf Dies of Disease**  
*NC271138 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Apr 88*

[Text] The office of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies was informed today that Zahlah Deputy Salim al-Ma'luf has died as a result of an incurable disease. This reduces the number of deputies to 76.

**Newspaper Examines Hizballah Structure, Command**  
*PM271115 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20 Apr 88 p 15-17*

[Untitled report by Jalal Muhammad]

[Excerpts] The hijacking of the Kuwaiti Airways plane (Flight 422) has again turned the spotlight on the identity of the hijackers, their party, political affiliation, and the group that supports them.

The intricacies of the Kuwaiti Airways case have clearly shown deep Iranian involvement in the operation.

Although several organizations, including Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Revolutionary Brigades, said that they would kill a number of American, British, and French hostages if any harm came to the hijackers or if the 17 people detained in Kuwait were not released, most analysts confirm that only one group was behind all these declarations, and that "the Islamic Jihad" and other such names are all names of one and the same party: Hizballah, the voice of Iran in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

How does Hizballah operate? According to a well-informed source, there is no local command for Hizballah in Lebanon because the Iranian Defense Council has not appointed a representative to head the party, which has remained directly linked to the Defense Council with members taking turns in assuming leadership of the party.

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X-2

FBIS-NES-88-082  
28 April 1988

36

LEBANON

However, the council, with Khomeyni's approval, appointed (Al-Fahri) as a representative in charge of financial affairs. He moves between Damascus, Beirut, and Tehran and is in charge of all financial matters. He is in direct contact with Tehran.

As regards the command structure, it is as follows: Khomeyni is the supreme commander. Next come the ulema appointed by Khomeyni himself. They, in actual fact, are the active members who command the various bodies of the party.

The source says that there is a 12-member Hizballah consultative [shura] council in Lebanon. Eight of the 12 members are Iranians and the rest are Lebanese. The decisions are made by majority vote with Khomeyni having the final say.

There is a branch consultative council for the Al-Biqa' region, another for Beirut and its southern suburb, and a third for the South. A joint committee from the three councils is in charge of the affairs of the rest of Lebanon.

These consultative councils report to the higher consultative council. The higher consultative council has its own ideological, financial, political, informational, military, and other committees.

The branch councils also have their own committees, which are concerned with direct activity in the Lebanese arena.

The higher council publishes the monthly magazine AL-SABIL. A weekly magazine, AL-'AHD, covers news and political affairs. This is in addition to pamphlets which are issued periodically.

Hizballah collects donations, but Iran remains its main source of funds for all activities. The total monthly allocation for Lebanon is 10 million Lebanese pounds.

The party concentrates its activities in Al-Biqa', especially Ba'labakk and western Al-Biqa' where it is more influential than the Amal Movement. Recruitment to the party takes place in two stages. The first, which takes a whole year, is for so-called "indoctrination" of individuals.

The second is the regular phase when a person becomes a member of the party and carries out the military or organizational tasks assigned to him.

This party structure of Hizballah makes it quite different from the Amal Movement. The issues with which Hizballah is concerned are different from the issues which preoccupy the Amal Movement and other Lebanese parties.

The party carries out the missions assigned to it by the leadership in Iran. Primarily, they are the kidnapping and assassination of foreigners on the pretext that they

engaged in suspect activities such as intelligence or espionage. Furthermore, the party has now joined the game of nations in the service of Iran before anything else.

Meanwhile, Hizballah tackles some dangerous issues. It is in a state of hostility with the Syrian forces in Lebanon, rejects alliances with the Lebanese political forces, and resorts to bloody methods to achieve its objectives.

It carried out such bloody operations as the attack on the Marine headquarters near the airport in which scores of people were killed, and the attack on the French forces headquarters in Beirut, in addition to numerous kidnapping and assassination operations. [passage omitted]

#### Iran Ties Said To Split Lebanese Shi'ites

PM271059 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic  
24 Apr 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Special Message to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT From Inside Iran on Riddle of Hizballah and Its Ties With Tehran"]

[Excerpts] London-Tehran—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT exclusive report: With the power struggle in Tehran and its likely effect on the entire Middle East strategy, Lebanon's extremist Hizballah Party in Lebanon is heading for a major crisis. That is the view of many experts watching developments in relations between Tehran and the Khomeyniite groups in several Middle Eastern countries.

According to a prominent Iranian diplomat who, until recently, was in contact with the Shi'ite movement in Lebanon, "The Hizballah leaders in Lebanon are now divided into two groups."

He adds that "one of the two groups is led by (Muhammad Husayn Fadhallah) and it insists that the Shi'ites in Lebanon would have no future without Iran. The other group, led by (Muhammad Shams al-Din) tends to gradually distance the Shi'ite movement in Lebanon from what it sees as Iran's national designs."

Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, former Iranian president under the Khomeyni regime, says that the clique currently in control within the Iranian regime has decided to drive Lebanon's Hizballah into the sea. Bani-Sadr adds that "Tehran no longer objects to the destruction of Lebanon's Hizballah by the Syrians."

According to Iranian sources in Tehran, the recent hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane returning from Bangkok reflected the confusion within the revolutionary commands both in Tehran and Lebanon.

The majority of the Iranian groups, the sources say, did not want such an incident to occur during Iranian elections, but other groups encouraged and may have

FBIS-NES-88-082  
28 April 1988

37

LEBANON

actually planned the hijacking as a way of demonstrating the ever-ready capabilities of the hard-liners organized and financially and ideologically supported by Iran.

There can be no doubt that the exiled Kuwaiti opposition members who had chosen Mashhad as their headquarters played an effective part in the hijacking, along with the Iraqi and Lebanese terrorist groups associated with Iran.

In the early stages of the hijacking the government authorities in Tehran considered storming the Kuwaiti airliner to dispel any suspicions regarding Iran and its position on the hijacking.

However, that step was vehemently opposed by Khomeyni himself, who ordered that the hijackers be given time to leave Iran. Khomeyni was the only person who could have put a peaceful end to the hijacking, but he refused to ask the hijackers to do so. [passage omitted]

The Iranian connection is no longer as acceptable to the Lebanese Shi'ites as it was a year or so ago. Some Lebanese Shi'ites critical of Khomeyni maintain that the latter pursues his major objectives without any significant regard for his supporters outside Iran.

A Lebanese businessman who is highly regarded in Tehran says that "the exaggerated contacts with Iran have now caused a rift within the Shi'ite community in

Lebanon and divided it into two blocs: Amal and Hizballah. In Hizballah itself there are signs that other divisions are likely to occur in the near future." [passage omitted]

It is now certain that, apart from Khomeyni himself, none of the ruling mullahs in Tehran can claim to have any religious support in Lebanon. A prominent Lebanese Shi'ite says that "as soon as Khomeyni goes Iran will have nothing but money and power left, as in the days of the shah, and many of us dread that day."

The weakening Iranian standing with the Shi'ites of Lebanon is evident in the fact that today there is no longer any talk of setting up "an Islamic republic" in Beirut and the South.

Two years ago, 60 leading Hizballah figures signed a document which they declared was the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Lebanon, presented as a draft to be completed by 1990. Today, the implementation of such a plan appears to be more remote than ever.

That, however, does not mean that Tehran has actually accepted Syria's plan to destroy Hizballah with the help of Amal. Iran is likely to keep a network of supporters and agents in Lebanon without claiming that they would be the future rulers of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the possibility of a deterioration in Syrian-Iranian relations over the future of Hizballah is not as strong as it was some 2 or 3 years ago. [passage omitted]

FBIS-NES-88-082  
28 April 1988

SYRIA

38

### Further on Results of Syrian-Palestinian Talks

#### PLO Office To Reopen

NC271315 (Clandestine) Voice of the People  
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The new course charted for Syrian-Palestinian relations following the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus continues to generate interest.

During this qualitative meeting the discussions focused on several issues: most importantly, supporting the Palestinian uprising; confronting the Shultz plan; convening an international conference with full power to impose a solution; recognizing the importance of a relationship with the Lebanese nationalist forces; emphasizing the fact that there is no alternative to the PLO; and making the forthcoming Arab summit the conference of the uprising.

A source that took part in the meeting between Al-Asad and 'Arafat told us that an agreement was reached under which committees will be formed to continue the dialogue on points of disagreement.

Sources in Damascus have told the Voice of the People that Yasir 'Arafat will return to Damascus for a ceremony to be held 40 days after the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and perhaps earlier, to complete discussions.

Before 'Arafat left for Baghdad, these sources said, he met with Syrian Vice President Khaddam. Their meeting produced an agreement to form a joint committee to formulate a unified working paper for presentation at the forthcoming Arab summit.

Meanwhile, Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that the PLO offices will be reopened in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources have said that a joint Syrian-Palestinian delegation has been formed to brief Soviet officials on the results of the Syrian-Palestinian talks.

#### Talks Continue in Damascus

JN271330 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic  
1210 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday, will hold a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Baghdad to discuss methods to escalate the uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

This was reported by 'Arafat's aides. Meanwhile, the Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, continued talks with Syrian leaders.

Last night, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held lengthy talks with Qaddumi and the other Palestinian officials in Damascus on rebuilding the alliance between Syria and the PLO in the wake of the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting.

This morning, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and Fatah Central Committee member, left Damascus for Tunisia. Hani al-Hasan, Abu Mahir, and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, members of the Fatah Central Committee, remained in Damascus to resume Palestinian-Syrian talks.

Answering a question from AFP on the differences between Syria and the PLO and whether these differences have been overcome, a responsible Syrian source said: They are being discussed now. It will take time.

On the results reached, the Syrian source said that practical stands are required. He added that Syria has not closed its doors in the face of the Palestinians. Syria's stand is firm and principled. It is based on the principle of the Palestinian people's national rights, adhering to the liberation of the land, rejecting all forms of capitulation and direct talks with Israel, and adhering to the international conference and PLO representation in this conference, as the Syrian source put it.

The source added that whoever approaches this stand will come closer to Syria and whoever departs from it will be further away from Syria.

On the Syrian president's meeting with the Palestinian leader, the responsible Syrian source said: There were no personal differences, only political differences.

Answering a question on the reasons that made Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Syria possible, the responsible Syrian source said: After the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] Syria decided to open its doors to the Palestinians. There were contacts in the past. And what is taking place now is a continuation of these contacts.

The responsible Syrian source concluded by saying: The Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting focused on the Arab and Palestinian situation, the uprising in particular, and the existence of schemes hostile to the Arab rejection of capitulation. But, what are the results of the meeting? The Syrian official said: The dialogue continues.

#### Habash, Khalaf Comment

JN271956 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic  
1900 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] At a press conference held in Damascus this evening, PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash confirmed five outstanding points of difference between Syria and the PLO.