

# 1978-8-1, Faranijeh CIA Report

DCI Notes  
1 August 78

## REVIEW OF LEBANESE SITUATION

More fighting likely as result of near term issues raised by Jumayyil's determination to take offensive against Syrians & his murder of younger Franjiyah

Not clear we, anyone else, can dampen explosiveness of situation

Scorecard chart -- brings out ~~in~~ incompatibilities:

Christians -- Domination --

Unacceptable to Muslims/Palestinians

Either Domination or Partition

Unacceptable to Syrians - Domination - threat or flank -  
Partition - Prestige of Assad - '75/'76 objectives

Syrians - Feel compelled control or eliminate Christian militias  
*Phalange - support Syrians*  
Israelis - Protect northern flank from raids/attacks

See Syrian/Palestinian domination as threat - determined to neutralize

### 45 Directions

1. Negotiation
2. Partition
3. Canton
4. More of same
5. Renewed fighting

1. Incompatibility - so stark - makes negotiation unlikely

Plus Sarkis gov't too weak - cautious to point of paralysis -  
to be catalytic force behind some comprehensive peace plan

Moderate elements less forceful - though if Jumayyil  
were murdered in revenge might be less radical pressure

2. Partition could be one result of negotiation - possible long term solution

Possible attractiveness of some form of Palestinian homeland

Even if could negot - intractable problem of boundaries - Greens/Browns

Compounded by Israeli insistence on Christian buffer zone -

CHART

No way to connect to rest

Basic Syrian objection

3. Cantons

Swiss model -

On paper looks good -

Central gov't - defense, for affairs

Cantonal autonomy, including local militia security

Borders difficult

External arbitration?

Probably require imposition by external force

Who? no likely candidates

Probably degenerate into partition

Syrians see coming

4. More likely - Renewed fighting

Appears likely Christians - at least Bashir Jumayyil - will continue provoke a showdown w/Syrians

Persuaded must get Syrians out

If Assad, as we believe, cannot tolerate this, question is how hard he'll dare strike back at Christian militias w/o fear of stronger Israeli retaliation he can take

What degree Syrian offensive action would bring Is in?

(1) Too great an artillery pounding of Christians -

a. Overflights - movement to border

b. Air strikes - artillery - supply -

Airlift brigade to Beirut

(2) If Christians on verge of massacre  
March N - thru UN & Palestinians

Risky -

Casualties

Use US equipment

World opinion

Think Syrians attempt limit amount  
direct conflict - hoping some form  
mediation - difficult position be  
likelihood Is open Golan Front if  
full scale hostilities

Overall Syrian mil position better than  
'73 in absolute terms - but poorer relative  
to Israel

5. About best hope for more of same

Semi-anarchy

Between militias

Central gov't too weak to contest

Palestinian state within

Effort rebuild Leb army

*Not much can do*