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Demonstrators demand justice for Palestinians

By Michiela Thuman

The flags of Lebanon and Palestine waved side by side as about 50 people — Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian and Iraqi Arabs and Iranians, Americans and others gathered outside the Nebraska Union Wednesday afternoon, with common demands.

Amid shouts of "Long Live the Palestinian Revolution," "Long Live the Palestine Liberation Organization," "Israel Out of Lebanon Now," and "Long Live the Lebanese People," the demonstrators joined in a two-hour rally against the recent massacre of reportedly more than 1,500 Palestinian civilians in their refugee camp homes in west Beirut.

Noting the deaths of countless Palestinian and Lebanese civilians since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June, a participant in the demonstration, which was sponsored by the Organization of Arab Students in Lincoln, outlined one goal of the demonstration.

We demand "immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories," including Lebanon and "Israeli-occupied Palestine," said speaker Krishna Madan of Lincoln.

"Israel can take everything from the Palestinians but justice. The Palestinians have justice on their side," he said.

Amid occasional shouts of "Go home" from the circulating crowd, the demonstrators held a one-minute vigil for the Palestinian and Lebanese dead. Many sang the Palestinian national anthem before a series of speeches were presented by various organization spokespersons.

President of the Organization of Arab Students in Lincoln, Haytham Zaitr, presented the second demand.

"The Organization of Arab Students condemns Israel's barbaric acts against our Lebanese and Palestinian people. We plead with all progressive and democratic forces to press Reagan to halt military aid to Israel."

"The Lebanese, the Palestinians and other Arabs ask the people of the United States: 'What have we done to America so that you would go out of your way to kill our people and displace innocent human beings?'" an Organization of Arab Students' pamphlet said.

Kevin Porch, a representative of the Young Socialist Alliance in Lincoln, said, "Reagan isn't terrified by what has happened to the Palestinian people — he aided it. . . The source of the power is in America." The Israeli government is an agent of U.S. policy against the people of Lebanon and Palestinians, he said.

The demonstrators also demanded recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, the Arab organization pamphlet said.

"Let the Zionists know, we will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the heroic people of Palestine," said Mansoor Parsaye, a representative of the Iranian Students' Association of Lincoln.

Quiet came when Lebanese UNL student Nabil Khachab stepped up to the microphone to elaborate on the fourth demand, an end to Israel's alleged "war of genocide in Lebanon," on behalf of UNL's Lebanese students.

"I am sorry for the fact that it took such a massacre to arouse your curiosity," he said to the crowd. "We want all foreign armies out of Lebanon, out of every inch of our land. . . We want the Lebanese army to control the country. . . We want one Lebanon. We want the chance to prove ourselves, so we say to you, Mr. Begin, 'Lift your bloody hands off Lebanon.' Let our country survive and it will rise again."

The demonstration also was supported by the Moslem Iranian Students' Society — Lincoln chapter, the Progressive Student Union, the General Union of Palestinian Students, the Latin American Solidarity Committee and the Organization of Arab Students — Omaha.



Photo by Michiela Thuman

Lebanese student Saad El-Tabash marches with the Lebanese flag in Wednesday's demonstration condemning last week's massacre of Palestinian civilians in refugee camps in west Beirut.

Return to Beirut is opposed

David Forsythe, a professor of political science at UNL, said Wednesday that he opposes the return of U.S. Marines to Beirut, Lebanon.

Forsythe said he thinks that the role the Marines would play in Beirut has not been well-defined yet and that their lives may be endangered.

He said he favors the idea of using United Nations peacekeeping forces rather than U.S. Marines.

As for the massacre of thousands of Palestinian refugees last week, the pro-

fessor said he thinks it was the work of a right-wing Lebanese terrorist group and that Israel had some knowledge of the incident.

Forsythe said he does not think Israeli troops will leave Beirut soon. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is trying to put right-wing Lebanese officials in power to be favorable to Israeli policy, he said.

He also said he does not think Begin will step down if Israel's left-wing Labor Party calls for his removal. Begin has too much at stake trying to direct Lebanese affairs, Forsythe said.

ASUN opposes change in handicapped education

By Eric Peterson

The ASUN Senate passed a resolution introduced by Sen. Kristine Mullen which opposes changes in federal protection of handicapped education at a meeting Wednesday night.

Annie Mumgaard, a UNL student who spoke for the resolution, said the Lincoln City Council and Mayor Helen Boosalis have supported similar action. The Reagan administration is seeking to deregulate some sections of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires educational institutions which have received federal funding to provide "a free appropriate education" for all children and adult students with disabilities.

Under current law, all schools which have any handicapped students must maintain the least restrictive school environment, update and evaluate each individual's progress every year, and grant due process hearings to people who don't feel they've had adequate treatment under the law.

Mumgaard stressed that mainstreaming with others is essential to a handicapped person's life. Mainstreaming involves integrating handicapped students into regular classrooms. The administration's proposal would make this impossible in many cases, with negligent state governments failing to take up the abandoned authority.

Responding to a Daily Nebraskan editorial critical of the handling of a dispute between the UNL Student Court and ASUN Electoral Commissioner Jennifer Fager, ASUN President Dan Wedekind said, "You can only beat a dead horse so long."

ASUN adviser Dolores Simpson-Kirkland explained the Mentor program at UNL to the senate. "It provides a chance for students to get to know faculty and university staff members," she said. Simpson-Kirkland said the Mentor program was begun four years ago to help students fit into UNL in a more personal way.

Students in the program match up with faculty or staff people to talk about personal problems, career plans, or share aesthetic and multi-cultural experiences,

Simpson-Kirkland added. Interested students may contact her for more information.

Sen. Kathy Roth announced new appointments Wednesday night. Deb Blair, Reg Kuhn, J. L. Spray, Mary Marcy, and Mike O'Neal will be on the Judicial Board, and T. J. Kinnick, Phil Ginsburg, Carolyn Coffey and Lee Ann Kullenburg will be alternate board members. John Fordham, Stacey Svoboda, Jan Schelkopf and Ron Rose will be members of the Appeals Board. Mike Klein and Kelly Ethridge will be on the Constitutions committee. David Spencer will be the senate appointee to the electoral commission. The UNL student court, ASUN president and faculty also appoint electoral commission members. All the appointments were approved by the senate. Dave Dittmar, student health insurance representative

from the University Health Center, explained to the senate why the university has changed student health policies from last year. Dittmar said the Keystone Insurance company offers wider coverage for only a little more money than does Mutual of Omaha, last year's insurer. Dittmar said a lot of students find they need a health insurance policy for themselves when they come to college.

"A lot of students are coming off their parents' coverage, it's a new experience, and it's good to have a group policy there," he noted. If a UNL student is a policy member, all care at the health center is free; if the student goes somewhere else for health care, 80 percent of costs up to \$2,500 are covered after a \$50 deductible, and all costs are covered between \$2,500 and \$25,000.



Staff Photo by Craig Androsen

Sophomore mechanical engineering student Tom Whitney dozes on the grass near the College of Business Administration. Wednesday's sparkling weather should continue through Friday, according to the National Weather Service.