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Speakers call for U.S. withdrawal

By Christopher Burbach

Three speakers called for the removal of American troops from Lebanon at a Sunday night meeting sponsored by The Militant Forum.

Rabih Haddad, vice president of the Organization of Arab Students of UNL, said, "The Marines, Italians and French can't have any business being in Lebanon right now."

The Marines are supporting the Lebanese army and a government (Amin Gemayel's established government) that doesn't represent all the Lebanese people, Haddad said. The Marines are jeopardizing the

Lebanese government and cannot advance further into Lebanon, he said, because of the determination of Druse Moslems and other groups which he said are fighting for representation in the Lebanese government.

"I hope the Marines will take the opportunity of the cease-fire to just get out of there," Haddad said.

The U.S. Congress is currently considering a measure which would allow the White House to maintain the Marines' presence in Lebanon for 18 months.

Bruce Erlich, UNL associate professor of English and Modern Languages, said U.S. and western interests are involved in the Marines' presence, citing the composition of the U.N. peacekeeping force as evidence.

Erlich said his "personal analysis of the situation" suggested interplay between U.S. and Israeli foreign policy.

The Israelis want a divided country on their north, so they can occupy southern Lebanon and use natural resources there for itself, according to Erlich. Israel also wishes to use the strife in Lebanon to justify its continued occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he said.

Erlich said the American people could have some effect on the situation.

"There is some point in trying to use bourgeois

politics," he said.

The issues that need to be addressed for peace in Lebanon, according to Erlich, are the removal of all U.S. troops from Lebanon, Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, acceptance by President Gemayel of Moslem participation in Lebanese government, and pressure on Israel to accept the idea of a Palestinian state.

Kevin Porch, a spokesperson for the Young Socialist Alliance, said the Marines' presence in Lebanon is unjustified.

"Reagan can't communicate very well to the American people why he sent the Marines to Lebanon," Porch said. "If he did, the American people would demand they be removed."

Americans have to ask themselves if they are being protected by the Marines in Lebanon, Porch said. "The answer is obviously no. The Marines should come home."

Erlich said the current U.S. force in Lebanon is not strong enough to move out of the positions they hold, which leaves two choices — withdraw the Marines or reinforce them tremendously.

"It seems to me the only thing to do is pull them out," he said.

About 10 people attended the forum, which was held at the Lincoln Indian Center.

Lebanese government announces cease-fire

From The Reuter News Report

BEIRUT — Lebanese Prime Minister Safiq al-Wazzan announced early this morning that a cease-fire throughout Lebanon would begin at 6 a.m. (12 a.m. EDT) today.

Speaking on Beirut radio, the prime minister said he was confident all parties would abide by the cease-fire.

In an official statement read on the radio earlier, the Lebanese government announced an "immediate cease-fire" throughout Lebanon and the creation of a reconciliation committee to discuss Lebanon's political future.

The statement said neutral observers would monitor the truce.

As the announcement was made, heavy fighting continued around Beirut, apparently between the Lebanese army and Syrian-backed forces — Druse Moslem and leftist militias assisted by Palestinian guerrillas.

Earlier, in Damascus, Syria and Saudi Arabia announced that a cease-fire agreement had been reached and that details would be given by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Lebanese opposition leader Walid Jumblatt, in Damascus, said his Druse forces along with the National Salvation Front and the Shi'ite Moslem Amal movement would honor the cease-fire.

The official Lebanese statement said the reconciliation committee would include the army, the right-wing, mainly Christian, "Lebanese Front"; the pro-Syrian National Salvation Front, the Shi'ite movement Amal and representatives of the Lebanese parliament and government.

If the cease-fire holds, it would mark the end of almost three weeks of fightings between the Lebanese army and the Syrian-backed forces helped by Palestinian guerrillas.



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Win 100

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne (left) is congratulated by UCLA coach Terry Donahue Saturday after winning his 100th game at Nebraska. For more sports stories, see Page 12.

Number of welfare cases is rising

By John Koopman

Despite indications that the economy is improving and the unemployment rate is dropping, the number of welfare cases has continued to rise, a state research analyst said.

Danny Johnson, analyst for the state Department of Social Services, said Nebraska distributed a record amount of Aid to Dependent Children in August — \$16,899.

Johnson said the increase in ADC and other social service payments can't be traced to any changes in the economy because no department or agency examines the reasons behind such fluctuations.

Of all the programs administered by the department of social services, Johnson said, the two that most accurately reflect changes in the economy are ADC and the food stamp program.

Johnson said food stamp distribution has decreased recently, which indicates that many of the program's former clients have found work. He said one part of the ADC program, Aid to Dependent Children with Unemployed Parents, also has decreased.

The majority of ADC recipients are single parents, but the ADCUP program is for families with two parents, both of whom are unemployed. The decrease in this part of the ADC program also may be attributed to more people finding jobs in an improving economy, Johnson said.

Johnson said the numbers concerning welfare and social services should be considered a "lagging" indicator. There is often a time lapse from the time people need aid and the time they apply for it, he said.

Johnson said there has been little or no change in the amount of payments made to Medicaid, the largest program administered by the department. He said the Medicaid program is used primarily by the aged and disabled, although ADC recipients also are eligible. Medicaid payments are based partly on the economy, he said, but more on the cost of medical care.

Jerry Lemonds, Lincoln's local office administrator for the department, said he noticed that the number of first-time welfare recipients has "eased off quite a bit lately."

For related stories on unemployment, see page 9.

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