

Lebanese Republic  
Ministry of National Defense  
Army Command

The Lebanese Defensive Policy  
In Light of  
Vital Interests

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## **1 Introduction.**

Despite its small size and the small number of its people, Lebanon represents a unique example in its civilization and plays a significant role in the Middle East region. From Lebanon, the Alphabet emerged and spread out and within its boundaries, many civilizations, cultures and religions met and intermingled to produce a unique formula of coexistence for its sons, endowed with the spirit of cooperation, tolerance and love, which induced his holiness Pope John Paul II to declare " Lebanon is far more than a country, it is a message to East and West alike.

In addition to its strategic geographic location and splendid climate, Lebanon is characterized by its democratic regime, universities, press media, hospitals, banks, its free economy and diversified services, which made of it a centre of attraction to tourists and international investments.

It was the destiny of this country and since the beginning of the nineteenth century, to interact in a region full of tension, conflicts and wars, due to the Arabic-Israeli conflict, which made it pay an exorbitant price during a fifteen years of ordeal. However, Lebanon like the phoenix, emerged again, live as ever, continuing to serve its destined role and message.

We will endeavor through this briefing to cast a light on the Lebanese defensive policy starting from the potential threats, which Lebanon might be exposed to, passing by the requirements and constants of this policy and arriving to specifying the Lebanese military forces, which are responsible for its implementation. We will be most ready at the same time to answer any possible question and give any possible clarification.

### **1. Geographic, Natural and Demographic features.**

#### **A. Location** (annex 'A')

Lebanon is situated on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, with an area of 10452 square kilometers. It is predominated with two western and eastern mountainous chains embodying the Al-Bekaa valley. Lebanon is bounded to the north and east by Syria and to the south by Palestine. This Geographic distinguished location made of Lebanon a bridge between East and West, connecting the three continents Asia, Africa and Europe.

#### **B. Geographic Characteristics** (annex "B")

##### **1) THE Coastal Region**

2) **The Western Mountainous Chain.** A mountainous region, which runs alongside the coastal plain from one, side and overlooks the Bekaa plain from the other side. It embraces the highest mountainous peak in Lebanon with an elevation of 3088 meters.

3) Al-Bekaa Valley. Lies between the Western Mountainous chain in the west and the Anti-Lebanon Mountains in the east. The valley approximately 180 kilometers long and from 3 to 15 kilometers wide, is considered the major source of agriculture in the country and is well known for its fertile soil.

4) The eastern Mountainous Chain (The Anti-Lebanon Mountains). It is semi-barren and constitutes the eastern boundary with Syria.

C. The Natural Resources: Lebanon is not considered a rich country in raw materials. Its mineral resources are limited; of most important are the limestone, marble and granite sand used in cement, tiles, ceramics, porcelain, pottery and glass industries. As for water resources, it is more than sufficient compared with a neighboring region that suffers of scarcity in water resources. Its most important rivers are the Litani, the Orontes (nahr al-Asi), Al-hasbani and the Awwali. Some of the latest researches revealed possibility of existence of oil and natural gas on the coastal line.

D. Demographic features.

The present population of Lebanon is estimated at 4.000.000. Consisting of different religious sects and rites. The coastal region is the most populated area. Lebanon is rich with its human resources where more than ten million Lebanese emigrants and descendants spread all over the world many of which occupied major positions in their lands of emigration. Arabic is the major language in the country but French and English are also widely spoken. The demographic distribution is as follows:-

### -Agerates

Under 15 years	20%
From 15 to 64 years	55%
Above 64 years	25%

### -Ethnic Groups

Arabs	95%
Armenians	4%
Others	1%

### -Religions

Muslims	55%
Christians	45%

## 3 - Political and economical System

### A - The Political System.

Lebanon is a democratic country with a parliamentary system of government based on honoring public freedoms. The people are the origin of powers and owner of sovereignty. The political system is formed of three independent yet integrated authorities and construed on the principle of separation, balancing and cooperation between these three authorities which are :-

#### (1) The executive power.

##### (a) President of the Republic.

He is the president of state and the symbol of solidarity of the nation. He watches over observance of the constitution and maintenance of independency of Lebanon, he is the supreme commander of the armed

forces, which submit to the authority of the council of ministers. He is elected by the parliament for a six years period.

(b) **Prime Minister**

He is the Head of Cabinet who represents it and speaks in its name. He is responsible for the execution of the public policy laid down by (he cabinet

(c) **The Cabinet.**

Entrusted with the executive power and the armed forces submit to its control, it draws up the public policy of the state and enacts laws and organizational decrees and take the necessary steps for their implementation.

(2) **The Legislative Power**

Represented by a parliament consisting of 128 members elected for 4 years period according to the following rules: -

- a) By equality between Muslims and Christians.
- b) by proportional representation between the two groups.
- c) By relativity between the regions.

(3) **The Judicial Power.**

Administered by the courts on different levels and jurisdiction, within a regulation stipulated by law, which preserves full rights to judges and defendants alike.

## **B - The Economical System.**

Lebanon adapts the free economical system, which is built on encouraging individualistic initiative. Trade and Services Sector constitute the economical pillar of the System and encompass most of the labor power. This Sector contributes to more than two thirds of the National Gross Product and is followed in importance by the Industrial Sector and the Agricultural Sector respectively.

## **4- Vital Interests.**

The Vital Interests in Lebanon are summoned as follows:-

- a) Defending the sovereignty and territorial unity of Lebanon against any external threat.
- b) Liberation of "Shebaa farms" and all other occupied territories.
- c) Maintaining and Consolidating National Unity.
- d) Protection of Strategic National resources and Water Resources in particular.
- e) Protection of the constitution.
- f) Enhancing the Social and Economical Standing.
- g) Return of Palestinians Refugees to their lands in accordance with U.N. resolution 194.
- h) Development of the state based on the legislation and modernization of the institutions.
- i) Solving the Middle East problem in accordance with International Resolutions 242 and 338.
- j) Seeking to establish amicable relations with sister and; friendly countries.

## **5- National Goals and Causes.**

Departs from the belief in a Final, Liberal and Unified Nation calling for tolerance, love and respect of political freedoms and the freedom of opinion and believes in social justice and equality among its citizens both in rights and responsibilities .

### **a. National Goals.**

1. Developing Lebanon as a Modern, Democratic and Parliamentary Republic.
2. Pursuing the Reconstruction Process.
3. Developing Human Resources, Modernizing and Generalizing the Educational Means.
4. Preparing to face the Globalization Challenges in the Inside and through External Collaboration.
5. Striving to consolidate peace and stability in the Inside and in the Region and on International Level.
6. Advancement towards strong Economy, Flourishing and Competitive.

### **b. National Cause.**

1. Encountering probable Threats against Institutions or the Acts of Coercion or Destruction or Terrorism.
2. Reducing level of Poverty and fighting Unemployment.
3. Increasing the Rate of Economical Development and Reducing the General Budget deficit.



4. Motivating the Trade Exchange and the Policy of attracting Foreign Investments in the aim of establishing Social Economical and Political Development
5. Development of most reliable and Honest Relation and Diplomatic Ties with the International Community.
6. Privatization of Public Utilities on mid term basis in aim to reduce the burden on Economy.
7. Protecting the Environment and combating contamination particularly, the water contamination in the Mediterranean Sea Basin, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Basin Countries.
8. Asserting on accelerating the de-mining process, particularly in the southern region.

## **6 -Foreign Policy**

Summoned as Follows :-

- A. Adherence of Lebanon to the United Nations' conventions and the League of Arab States, particularly since he is a founder and active member in them both, as well a member in the non-alignment movement.
- B. Renewal of trust in Lebanon's model role within the Arab Region.
- C. Asserting on the Lebanese distinguished relations with the Arab Neighboring countries and friendly states which are based on mutual respect of sovereignty and independence of each of them.
- D. Contribution of the Lebanese Diplomacy in developing and realizing progress and enhancing economical, social and educational prosperity.

- E. Strengthening relations between Lebanon and the European states. following the joining and signing of Lebanon on the Mediterranean partnership with the European Union.
- F. Directing the Lebanese associations spread all over the world to create best ties and integration between immigrants and residents.
- G. Adoption of just and comprehensive pence in the middle east as a strategic option in accordance with the international legitimacy resolutions and the principle of "Land for Peace"
- H. Belief of Lebanon in the justice of the Palestinian case and supporting the Palestinians legitimate rights in all international circles, particularly the right of refugees to return to their homes and establishing their own independent state.

## **7- The Defensive Policy.**

### **A - potential Threats to the State .**

- 1) **External Threat** . the major external threat is represented in Israel's greed and its aggressive and expanding policy.
- 2) **Internal Treat.** After the defeat of the Israeli's forces in South Lebanon and taking hold of security by the Lebanese state institutions, breaching of security on the internal and external fronts became limited. however, what ever still exists of the internal threats and challenges could be summoned by the following:-
  - a) Undermining internal stability .
  - b) Organized Crimes.

c) Drugs of different types. in terms of plantation, processing and smuggling.

d) Illegal immigrations from and to Lebanon.

In this area, Lebanon achieved great success through the efforts made by his security instruments. In this connection, the Interpol Organization declared in: February 2004 that Lebanon has achieved important results in the field of security and reduction to the crime rate in comparison with many Arab countries.

### **B - the Defensive Policy Requirements.**

The Constitution entrusted the Army and the remaining armed forces the responsibility of defending the nation and preserving its security and protecting its institutions and laws. The basic defensive requirements are represented by the following:-

- 1) Constructing the national principles and constants which secure the vital interests.
- 2) Enhancing the national and security awareness and closing the gaps that effects them.
- 3) Qualifying military forces capable of confronting the external and internal threats alike.
- 4) Watching over the respect and protection of democracy and human rights.
- 5) Working to gain the public opinion to support the states's policy in spreading security.

### **G - The defensive Policy Constants.**

- 1) Adoption of defense on Strategic and Operational levels.

- 2) Protecting the national fusion and national unity.
- 3) Fighting and combating terrorism.
- 4) Avoiding war and military actions by adopting political and diplomatic means.
- 5) Reaffirming the necessity of total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the remaining occupied Lebanese territories. (Chebaa Farms.) towards the international borders by diplomatic means, and the right of resistance against occupation.
- 6) Defending the nation and citizens against all threats and aggressions.
- 7) Confronting all threats effecting the vital interests of the state
- 8) Cooperating and Coordinating with the Arab armies and friendly armies through conclusion of treaties and conventions.
- 9) Conserving security and internal stability.
- 10) Contributing in the development and execution of social activities serving national interest.
- 11) Executing rescue and relief operations in coordination with social and humanitarian institutions.
- 12) Employment of security based on the terms of law and equality and securing freedom of political work to all.
- 13) Protection of citizens, residents, institution and foreign missions.
- 14) Protecting the historical and archeological sites and contributing to perseverance of the environment

- 15) Cooperation of the army with the other state institutions and placing its technical and logistical capabilities in contribution of the development process of economy and the countryside.
- 16) Establishing the right security atmosphere and taking necessary steps and effective measures to attract foreign investments to Lebanon.

#### D The Lebanese Military Forces.

1. the armed forces is responsible for the execution and protection the defensive policy. It is allotted as follows :
  - a) the Army. (Infantry. Air and sea forces.)
  - b) Security forces.
    - aa) Internal security.
    - bb) Public security.
    - cc) State security.
    - dd) Customs.
2. the Organizational scheme of the armed forces.

#### 8 -Summary.

In spite of limited means available, Lebanon strives to accomplish full liberation of his territory and pursues the advancement process and reconstruction. And through the will and solidarity of his sons and their absolute belief in their country , much can be done to make of Lebanon a leading example.

( a short word of thanks in due time and according to the event.).

