

The Battle Lines Have Been Drawn

by Adib Farha

Below are Adib Farha's remarks at the American Lebanese Coalition' Luncheon Celebrating Lebanon's Cedar Revolution and Honoring Ambassador John Bolton

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The success of the Cedar Revolution was the result of the convergence of three main efforts: the heroic bravery of the Lebanese people, the unwavering support of the US government and the firm resolve of the international community.

While it is understandable that the Lebanese people would rise against thirty years of oppression and that the US, as the foremost champion of democracy and of human rights in the world, would lend its support for such a worthy cause, bringing together an international consensus to pressure Lebanon's occupiers into withdrawing from its territory and to call upon all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias operating on or from Lebanese territory to disarm is not an easy task. The first part has nevertheless been accomplished thanks to the vision and the resolve of President George W. Bush, diligent U.S. diplomacy led by America's Iron Lady, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and the perseverance and innovative maneuvering of three American Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, Ambassadors Negroponte, Danforth and John Bolton.

While Ambassadors Negroponte and Danforth will always be remembered with fond memories and with profound gratitude for their role in the adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 1559, a succession of pursuant relevant Security Council resolutions have since been adopted, thanks to the tireless efforts of Ambassador John Bolton. Further, more forceful resolutions will follow--very soon! Do you hear me Bashar?

Ambassador Bolton has faced formidable resistance from his counterparts who represent apologist nations that have commercial or political ties to Syria and Iran. But the ideologue in John Bolton is tireless and unwavering.

More so than most, Ambassador Bolton is cognizant of the fact that the battle to restore democracy and sovereignty to Lebanon is an issue that surpasses Syria's historic goal of annexing Lebanon and the financial interests of the joint Lebanese-Syrian intelligence mafia that wreaked havoc in Lebanon for thirty years.

He realizes, more than most, that the battle lines have been drawn between advocates of regression, terrorism and theocracies and advocates of freedom, human rights and democracy. A battle between forces of good and forces of evil. Between those who work for a better future and those who work for a return to

the dark ages. Between people who believe that governments should be of the people, by the people and for the people and people who remain in the throws of the Middle Ages and believe in the Divine Rights of Ayatollahs, despotic rulers and oppressive autocrats.

Unlike some weak-hearted commentators and liberal think-tankers who pontificate from their ivory towers, promoting appeasement with rogue regimes, Ambassador Bolton is aware that the success of the Lebanese Cedar Revolution in restoring democracy to the oldest democracy in the Middle East is the litmus test for the success of the campaign for the spread of democracy in that region.

It is his recognition of the regional geo-political dynamics that makes him equally ardent at pressuring the autocratic regime in Syria as he is at pressuring the theocratic regime in Iran, which is the foremost supporter of terrorism in the world today.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Ambassador Bolton has been accused of being confrontational and uncompromising. I would not try to prove them wrong. He is guilty as charged!

But it is his confrontational and uncompromising positions against the Axis of Evil that makes him the great man that he is!

It is his nerves of steel when he is drawn into the brinkmanship game that the Bashars and the Ahmedinajads of this world play that makes us proud that he represents us at the U.N.

Would his domestic critics rather have him negotiate with wolves in lamb skin, -- who speak of peace while they prepare for war and assemble atomic and biological weapons?

Would they rather that he cowers down to the Ahmedinajads of the world, men who speak with forked tongues, who denounce the United States as the Great Satan and then send an appeasement letter to its president extending a flimsy olive branch?

Would they rather that he strikes a deal with the Syrian junta, which would like to think that it has the United States and the rest of the free world hostage thanks to its support of the Iraqi insurgency and of terrorist organizations and to its open borders that provide a convenient conduit to the flow of money, weapons and terrorists who derail the Iraqi people's struggle to live in freedom?

Yes, Ambassador Bolton is an uncompromising man and a confrontationalist. And it is because of his uncompromising style, his profound commitment to

democracy and to world peace, and his ardent support of good over evil that we salute him.

And it is because he has been as bold as he has been in support of Lebanon's Cedar Revolution that the American Lebanese Coalition invited him to be our keynote speaker today and feels honored that he has graciously accepted to address us today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great honor and significant privilege to introduce to you America's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the Honorable Mr. John Bolton.

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