



## New England Americans for Lebanon

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### **Sorry Mr. Murphy, but we won't stop talking about 1988!**

Mr. Richard Murphy, former US ambassador to Beirut and engineer of the Syrian takeover of Lebanon in the late 1980s, is currently visiting his old friends in Syrian-occupied Lebanon trying to improve US-Syrian relations strained by disagreements over Hezbollah and terrorism. As he faces the press, Mr. Murphy appears to suffer from either amnesia or remorse as to his role in delivering Lebanon to the Syrian dictatorship. Unfortunately for Mr. Murphy, the events of September 11 have turned the tables on the pragmatic Realpolitik with which he sacrificed the legitimate Lebanese government in order to gain the favors of the Syrian dictatorship. The Syrians at the time held the keys to the padlocks with which Hezbollah, Syria's proxy terror group, had chained several American hostages in sub-human conditions, and Mr. Murphy decided on the *quid pro quo* deal with Syria: You give us back the hostages, and we give you Lebanon. In the course of implementing his plan, Mr. Murphy threatened the Lebanese government with Syrian terror if it did not subscribe to setting up a pro-Syrian puppet regime in Beirut (with Mikhail Daher as president). He gave the Lebanese President Amin Gemayel an ultimatum, "Agree to Mikhail Daher or you get chaos". And so it was. The Lebanese government rejected Mr. Murphy's plan, the Syrian occupation forces annihilated the last free Lebanese government of Prime Minister Michel Aoun, the US hostages were released by Hezbollah and were paraded in Damascus in an absurd orgy of Machiavellian politics, and Lebanon was abandoned by the US to Syria.

In Beirut these past few days, Mr. Murphy has naturally been welcomed as a hero by the Syrians and their Lebanese government puppets. Yet, Mr. Murphy's past is coming back to haunt him. In an interview with the Lebanese daily An-Nahar, and when asked about his 1988 "Mikhail Daher or chaos" statement, Mr. Murphy became visibly irritated at the reporter and responded: "It is time to stop talking about what happened in 1988!". A day later, and at press conference at the Press Club in Beirut and when asked again about the Mikhail Daher statement, he returned an Ollie North saying, "I do not recall saying that, although I can't deny saying it either".

Sorry to bother you, Mr. Ambassador, but the abandonment of Lebanon to Syria's terror empire was one of the fiascoes of US foreign policy that lead in a straight line to September 11. The bombing of the US Marines barracks in 1983 was yet another fiasco, since President Reagan at the time was advised by State Department not to respond to the attack. Instead, the mighty US packed and ran away. This policy of giving in to terrorism has now been identified, Mr. Murphy, as the primary incentive driving Al-Qaeda. And you are one of its engineers, and you have too much American and Lebanese blood on your conscience.

Sorry, Mr. Murphy, but we will not stop talking about happened in 1988. If for you 1988 has become your mark of Cain, for us it is a day that will live in infamy. We will always remind you of it should you one day forget to look in the mirror.

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Long Live Free Lebanon