

## INTRODUCTION

Israeli policy concerning Lebanon has been shrouded in confusion for over a year now -- since the summer 1982 Peace for Galilee Campaign. Indeed, confusion and concerned deliberation have cast their shadow over the full gamut of issues that influence Israel's security policies, and raise a number of very central questions: are Israel's goals in Lebanon in the nature of "broad" or "narrow" objectives? Is the security of the Galilee dependent on range of weaponry alone -- or on the existence in a certain sector of a hostile actor who operates that weaponry? Do we desire a Lebanon with a completely sovereign, centralized government structure, or a Lebanon in which viable security provisions can be established in autonomous regions? Is Syria a temporary reality in Lebanon, or a permanent factor? Is American involvement in Lebanon a help or a hindrance from Israel's standpoint? Are the Lebanese Christians (primarily the Phalangists) "true friends," or an interest group with temporary loyalties, and what is their real potential? Are the Lebanese Druze an enemy or a potential ally? Is the removal of the PLO possible, or is its return to Beirut inevitable?

These and many other questions require at least a measure of clarification if we are to adopt an intelligent and practical approach to the problem of formulating a realistic and viable security policy -- a policy un beholden to past public positions or investments which might now require public justification. In the following pages, then, we shall attempt to examine and assess Israel's position in Lebanon today, and to put forth possible policy options for the future.