

years ago, students from Lebanon comprised the university's largest minority group; now they make up only a little over half the student body. According to a member of an AID committee that investigated AUB's financial and academic problems last spring, students from Lebanon would account for an even larger percentage had AID not sent some 485 students each year from other Near East nations to study at AUB on full-cost scholarships.

Isolated from a Lebanese context, allegations of subtle bias in admissions or in the tone of instruction might not be so inflammatory. But in the emotionally and politically charged Lebanese environment, such perceptions are as important as reality.

An even more difficult problem confronting AUB is the growing anti-American sentiment stemming largely from the U.S. government's staunch support of Israel. George Hakim, AUB's vice president for public relations and development, recently said publicly what most professors and administrators will only admit privately: "Dissatisfaction with U.S. support of Israel has definitely hurt AUB. We are certainly not responsible for those U.S. policies, but the school suffers because of them."

During the strike, students accused the university of having an overly "American perspective." What had previously been AUB's primary selling point—an American-style education—is now seen by many in the era of rising Arab nationalism as a political disability. Indeed, many American instructors emerged from the bitter strike less confident that AUB still has a contribution to make in the Middle East. "We were personally reviled, insulted, and abused," said one long-tenured professor. "Students whom I had taught and with whom I thought I had rapport were denouncing us as CIA agents."

American support for Israel is an important cause, but not the only one, of a cooler attitude toward AUB in the Arab world. The Middle East's oil-based wealth has given Arab nations new alternatives to Western-style education. In 1945, there were only 18 universities in Arab nations; today, there are 36, in almost all of which classes are taught in both English and Arabic. Besides their own universities, many Arabs can now afford to send their children directly to the United States for undergraduate or graduate study, rather than to AUB—a good school, but certainly not competitive with the best American universities.

Thus, Terry Prothro, former dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and head of the department of behavioral studies, be-

lieves that AUB faculty and administrators must at least examine the possibility that the university, as it is now constituted, is an anachronism.

"When I came to AUB," mused Prothro, "it took me 3 weeks by ship to reach Beirut. There was no central heating, no air conditioning; communication facilities were terrible. I brought knowledge and teaching techniques that were not available here. I introduced B. F. Skinner to

AUB, to Lebanon. Today, we are no longer the sole purveyors of American education or technological know-how. Does foreign education make sense in a satellite era?"

Many AUB boosters insist that it does. They concede that the university's role must change and assert that the institution is, in fact, evolving to meet the new demands of the region. The university has expanded and strengthened its courses in nu-

Briefing

Senators Blast German, French Nuclear Sales

The Ford Administration tried unsuccessfully in April to dissuade West Germany from selling Brazil a full array of nuclear technology, Senator John Pastore (D-R.I.) has disclosed. In an emotional speech on the Senate floor on 3 June Pastore, the vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, expressed anger and dismay at Germany's intention to sell nuclear reactors, a fuel reprocessing plant, and a uranium enrichment plant to Brazil (*Science*, 30 May).

Pastore said a delegation of American officials went to Bonn in April in an effort aimed particularly at stopping the transfer of the reprocessing and enrichment plants to Brazil, which indicates a continuing interest in building nuclear explosives. The Bonn parliament approved the sale on 30 April.

"Despite the protestations of our State Department, the West Germans have decided to go ahead because they apparently look on this as 'business as usual,'" Pastore said. "Nothing could be further from responsible action, no matter who the supplier might be."

The State Department reportedly did persuade West Germany to obtain special assurances from Brazil that the nuclear plants, to be sold during the next 10 to 15 years, would be used only for peaceful purposes. It was not clear, however, that this ruled out "peaceful" nuclear explosives. In any case, U.S. officials remain concerned that Brazilian scientists and engineers could legally duplicate the reprocessing or enrichment plants and turn the home-built plants to military purposes. As Senator Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) put it, "there is nothing that stops Brazil

from building their own indigenous plants using the technology the West Germans give them." Symington said he was "shocked" at news reports of the pending deal.

At the same time, Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) said that France was providing nuclear fuel reprocessing technology to Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Argentina. Arms controller analysts are particularly concerned about the spread of reprocessing technology, whereby plutonium is chemically extracted from spent reactor fuel. In his remarks in the Senate, Ribicoff quoted Rudolph Rometsch, who is the inspector general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as saying that "So long as people try to make a business out of reprocessing, it won't be brought under control. It could be very costly to verify [safeguard] the small reprocessing plants that France is seeding throughout the world."

Ribicoff said the U.S. government could, if it chose, exercise considerable leverage on French and West German sales of nuclear technology. He said that large numbers of the nuclear reactors currently being sold by these countries are based on American designs duplicated under licenses sold by Westinghouse and General Electric. "Why," Ribicoff asked, "should the United States have permitted France and West Germany to engage in the reexport of U.S. nuclear technology under safeguards conditions that are less stringent than those we impose on our own exports?"

Ribicoff called for an "understanding" with other nations selling nuclear technology to limit exports only to those countries willing to refrain from building nuclear explosives and willing to place all nuclear power and fuel facilities under IAEA safeguards and inspection procedures.—R.G.