

Dr. George Habash. To prove this, Dr. Habash confessed that at one point he approached Michel Aflaq, the Ba'th leader, with the idea of accepting the Kata'ib as the armed arm of the Party. "We wanted to give the Ba'th teeth but its leadership turned us down. Aflaq asked us to join the party first and only then he would entertain our suggestions!"<sup>21</sup> Having observed the futility of political action through the channels of a system where the rules of the game have been set to perpetuate the men in power, the Kata'ib refused to dissolve itself.

The conflict between the main body of the Kata'ib and the Egyptian faction came to a climax when the latter group was induced by some Syrian politicians to plan the assassination of Col. Adib Shishakli and Akram al-Hourani. The majority of the Kata'ib leadership was alarmed by the misdirection and naiveté of their fellow partners. They rejected the suggestion off hand and called upon those who made the arrangements with the Syrian politicians to account for their undisciplined conduct. Indeed they believed that such indiscriminate acts of terror would endanger their cause and render their organization reckless and self-destructing. In the face of this opposition, the Egyptian faction of professional terrorists withdrew from the mother organization in order to be free to practice their

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<sup>21</sup>Based on personal correspondence between Dr. George Habash and the author.