



American Lebanese Coalition

4900 Leesburg Pike, Suite 203 Alexandria, VA 22302

June 7, 2004

To the World Leaders at the G-8 Summit:

- The Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America
- His Excellency Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation
- The Right Honorable Tony Blair, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- His Excellency Gerhard Schröder, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan
- The Honorable Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic
- The Right Honorable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada
- His Excellency Bertie Ahern, T.D., Prime Minister of Ireland, President of the Council of the European Union
- His Excellency Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission

Dear Sirs:

The American Lebanese Coalition, a group of 6 organizations representing the views of Americans of Lebanese descent, would like to address your Excellencies on the eve of your important meeting on June 8th in Sea Island, Georgia.

We are aware that your conference will address the current threat facing all free nations today, namely Terrorism, and will examine the situation in the Middle East, where the roots of the problem seem to exist. Although the nations of the Free World might not agree all the time over the means and ways to combat this global enemy, they all fear the disastrous consequences of its ominous aspirations.

We realize that there is some good news coming out of the Middle East Region. Political Reforms are starting to materialize encouraged by the liberation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Countries that traditionally have been harboring terrorists, promoting their ideology or aiding their operations, are now realizing the dire consequences of their deeds. Some of them became victims of the same terror they once found justifiable.

But there are still regimes overtly supporting terrorism like Iran and Syria. While in Iran, the winds of change, opposed to the Mullah's iron rule, are starting to be felt, in Syria, a 35 year-old military dictatorship remains adamantly entrenched in its old ways.

Syria succeeded for years in swindling the West and escaping unscathed from its support of terrorist activities in Europe and the United States.

In the Middle East, Syria, by occupying Lebanon, supporting Hezbollah and other radical militants, has retained its ability to disrupt any effort aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Syrian regime has demonstrated without any doubt that, while it might embark on peace negotiations, it will not sign a peace agreement. The resolution of the conflict with Israel,

used for decades as a justification of the Assads' oppressive rule, will devoid the Syrian dictatorship from its reason for being.

While the status quo ensures the survival of the Syrian regime, it is having detrimental repercussions on Lebanon. The Syrian interference in Lebanon culminating in a complete hegemony in 1990 has transformed its once fledging democracy into a puppet dictatorship. This Syrian tutelage did not only strip the Lebanese of their freedom but also brought to power a group of corrupt politicians who drove the country into economic shambles.

Your Excellencies,

It is quite obvious that the stability of the Middle East will be best guaranteed by positive political changes in its countries. A democratic and free Lebanon presents a cornerstone in this process. It is unreasonable to expect Monarchies and Autocracies to embrace democracy while Lebanon, the first democracy in the Middle East, is not allowed to rejoin the ranks of the free nations.

Only free nations can achieve long term peace and prosperity. In the case of Lebanon, freeing it from Syria's grip will allow the Lebanese to recover their once vibrant economy and to emerge from the socio-economic crisis they are currently suffering from. Once Lebanon enjoys again its freedom and democracy, it will become a promoter of dialogue and tolerance in the Region. The members of the American Lebanese Coalition and other similar organizations worldwide can affectively assist in this endeavor and invest in a stable and independent Lebanon.

This G8's meeting comes at a critical historic turn. Its decisions will impact the future of many people. We all hope that this meeting will bring us closer to a safe and better World.

Respectfully,

Joseph Gebeily, Lebanese Information Center
John Hajjar, World Lebanese Cultural Union-USA
Tom Harb, American Maronite Union
Mel Zohrob, Assembly for Lebanon
Joseph Hage, American Lebanese Coordination Council
Tony BouSamra, American Lebanese Alliance

Executive Director:
Dr Joseph Gebeily, MD
President, Lebanese Information Center
4900 Leesburg Pike Suite 203
Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703-578-4214 ** Fax: 703-578-4615
E-Mail: lic@licus.org - www.licus.org

Below: list of signatories-organizations and their addresses

American Lebanese Alliance
8025 Bonhomme Avenue
Suite 1403
Clayton, MO 63105
Phone: 314-727-7494
Fax: 314-721-8588
email: bousamra@mindspring.com

World Lebanese Cultural Union-USA
21 McGrath Highway, Suite 501,
Quincy, MA 02169.
email: WLCU_US_Canada@aol.com
www.WLCU.com

American Lebanese Coordination Council
4889 Lindsey Lane
Richmond Heights, OH 44143
Phone: 216-382-1817
Fax: 216-381-1640
e-mail: josephhage@aol.com

American Maronite Union
3700 34th St
Orlando, FL 32805
Phone : 407-383-9600 Fax: 407-909-0203
e-mail: AMU@maroniteunion.org
www.maroniteunion.org

The Assembly for Lebanon
24037 Acacia
Redford, MI 48239
Phone: 313-535-5252 ** Fax: 313-535-4411
Email: mz@instrumentsales1.com
www.Assembly-for-lebanon.org

Lebanese Information Center
4900 Leesburg Pike Suite 203
Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703-578-4214
Fax: 703-578-4615
E-Mail: lic@licus.org
www.licus.org