

Readout of Vice President Biden's Meeting with Former Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad Hariri

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The White House

Office of the Vice President

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The Vice President met this morning with former Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri. The Vice President reaffirmed the United States' support for Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, as well as the wide-ranging partnership between the United States and the government and people of Lebanon. The Vice President praised the courage of the Lebanese Armed Forces in confronting extremists inside Lebanon and expressed support for Lebanon's policy of dissociation from the conflict in Syria. The Vice President and former Prime Minister discussed regional and international developments, including ongoing nuclear diplomacy with Iran. The Vice President underscored that no nation in the Middle East should enjoy a sphere of influence at the expense of its neighbors' sovereignty.

The Vice President and the former Prime Minister also discussed Lebanon's political situation. They agreed on the need for Lebanese leaders to reach agreement, for the good of their country, to fill the current Presidential vacancy. The Vice President recognized the immense humanitarian challenge confronting Lebanon and all of Syria's neighbors, and the former Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for U.S. humanitarian support for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.