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NAYLA MOAWAD

Beirut the 22^d of
December 1997

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Back to Lebanon, and after having had the honor of meeting with you, I told everyone how impressed I had been and how much "Hillary Clinton" deserves the consideration and the admiration one would naturally feel towards her.

I have been long to write, and first to thank you for having had the privilege of talking to you and telling you more about Lebanon, the situation of Democracy in my country, the role of Women and all the issues that you have been striving for all through your life.

I admired the way you go straight to the point, the sharp questions you have been asking about "the financing of islamism" for example and, after I left you, I had perfectly understood why "Hillary Clinton" represents such a symbol and high example for all women all through the world.

Mrs. Clinton, I think we have agreed on the necessity of having more presence of the American NGO's in Lebanon. This would help implementing a better Democratic Practice in the only Arab country who can present a political project based on Democratic values. This project could counterbalance the other only current viable political project for the Arab world and which is - very unfortunately - radical islamism.

We had also agreed that, through these NGO's we would tackle all the issues related to Democracy, such as Human Rights, Economic, Social and Human Development, Environment etc.. And, of course, the headline of all the activities would be the Empowerment of Women.

The American NGO's would be related to Lebanese NGO's that really work on the ground, in all the areas of Lebanon and deal with all the religious communities. As I mentioned to you, you already have the USAID people who are very active on the ground and who have now – and for the first time ever since the breaking of war in Lebanon (1975!) an American officer in charge who – believe or not – knows already more than even Lebanese people would know!..

I will not bother you with too many details. I am thrilled about the idea of the meeting you would organize with an number of important NGO's of the United States.

This would be a wonderful occasion for both our people to meet, to interact and communicate, to dialogue and then to deliver on the ground thanks to your help.

Your Excellency, I will keep in touch with your Chief of Staff, Mrs. Melannee Verveer.

I take this occasion to wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Coming Year full of Success, Achievements, Peace and Happiness.

Let me express again my very high admiration and deepest consideration.

*Thank you again to have
give me the opportunity to
talk about Lebanon!*

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Nayla René Moawad'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nayla René Moawad
Member of Parliament
President of the René Moawad Foundation

NAYLA MOAWAD

Dear Mrs. Verveer,

It was indeed a pleasure getting to know you when I had the honor to meet with the First Lady, Mrs Clinton at the White House on November 7.

After this meeting, I realized how challenging it must be working with Mrs. Clinton. She is such a dynamic person, tackling essential issues that we should rather call "Causes". Causes that we share worldwide and consider personified by the first lady who really represents a leading figure and a high example. Such a monumental work could not have been achieved if a person of your caliber was not present to help in this endeavor.

Mrs. Verveer, ever since I came back to Lebanon, I have been studying the fabulous idea launched by Mrs. Clinton: Increasing the collaboration between the Lebanese NGO's and the American ones. I do not know whether I have been clear about it when we met: the NGO's organizations are very active in our country, extremely efficient and mostly credible. These contacts could be the starting point for actions that would enhance the Democratic Practice through Educational and Economical Development projects and would also implement the Empowerment of Women.

As I said during our meeting, I believe it is worth helping Lebanon who is the only country in the Arab Middle East where we could imagine a project of Society built on Democratic values.

I had also mentioned that, for the moment, and because of the prevailing situation in the area, the enormous difficulties of the Peace Process as well as the different Arab “regimes” based on persons – without real institutions – the only political project for the younger generation is “Radical Islamism”.

No need to go into the details of the danger this project represents for the whole Free World.

On the other hand, the U.S.AID programs have been reinforced in Lebanon, ever since we have had – and for the first time after twenty years– an American officer who is tremendously active on the ground. I think that all this prepares a very good ground for the implementation of our project.

I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible to know more about the First Lady’s conception and how to approach the idea she launched during our meeting in Washington. If you recall, she mentioned that the details should be studied between yourself and me. I am ready for any suggestions. The people accompanying me would represent NGO’s from the various parts of Lebanon and different religious communities. They would be chosen according to their efficiency, their credibility and with the background we have been describing during our meeting.

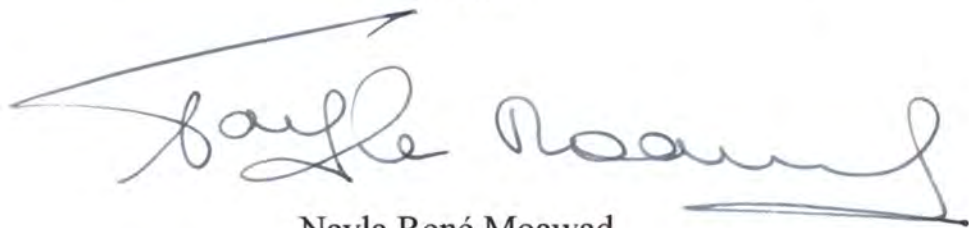
If you need contacting me, you can do so by either calling the Foundation in DC or myself directly. Our Executive Director, Ms. Nadia Abou Rizk, knows how to reach me. Please find herewith our address and telephone numbers in Washington and my coordinates in Beirut.

I hope for my Country, for my Democratic Belief and Strive that we will be able to put together a comprehensive action that will really enhance the values we believe in. These are the only ones that can lead to a sustainable Peace and Understanding amongst the People of the World, under the leadership of the United States of America who must defend these values and the people who want Freedom and Democracy.

With my deep apologies for my being so late to send my letter, and my hope to see you very soon. I would like to tell you again my appreciation and esteem.

*Thank you again and
hoping to see you very soon*

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nayla René Moawad". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Nayla René Moawad

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