

Travel Sanctions Against Lebanese and Syrian Political Figures

Contributed by Administrator
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State Department Daily Press Briefing
Sean McCormack, Spokesman
Washington, DC
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LEBANON / SYRIA

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QUESTION: Can you discuss what you expect to achieve with those travel sanctions that were announced Friday against some Lebanese and Syrian political figures? There's a report in the press today that the United States is concerned that there might be an effort in the coming weeks to set up a -- sort of a counter-government to the Siniora government. Is that a real concern of yours?

MR. MCCORMACK: Well, I know it's been something that's been threatened by the antidemocratic forces in Lebanon as well as those who support those forces. Quite clearly, I think that's something that we as well as other responsible members of the international community would reject out of hand. The imposition of the travel restrictions is intended to restrict the ability of these people, in a way, to negatively influence the events in Lebanon so that they cannot travel abroad to help organize activities that might be detrimental to the growth of political reform in Lebanon.

(The briefing was concluded at 1:58 p.m.)

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