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Lebanese Elections

Daily Press Briefing
Sean McCormack, Spokesman
Washington, DC
August 6, 2007

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12:39 p.m. EDT

MR. MCCORMACK: Good afternoon, guys. I don't have anything to start off with, so we can get right into your questions.

...

QUESTION: Do you -- is there any comment on the results of the by-election in Lebanon, particularly the loss of Gemayel?

MR. MCCORMACK: Right. I think there were two elections that went on there, as far as I can -- in that particular area. And as far as I can tell, that these were free and peaceful. I'm not sure that we have a final tally but it appears that a supporter of Mr. Aoun won one of the seats, although you can check to see if the results are final.

Look, this is a functioning of Lebanese democracy. Ultimately, all of those elected to the Lebanese parliament are going to have to be accountable to the Lebanese people whether or not they fully support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, political reform, as well as economic reform. But as for the election itself, it appears that it played out in a free and peaceful way.

QUESTION: Speaking of functioning democracies, can I go on a little bit more about what we were talking about this morning about the ferment in Iraq within the government there?

...

QUESTION: Thank you.

(This briefing concluded at 1:06 p.m.)

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