

# Pompeo - We want a non-corrupt government that reflects the will of the people of Lebanon

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Interview of Secretary Michael R. Pompeo With Kevin Cirilli of Bloomberg

MICHAEL R. POMPEO, SECRETARY OF STATE  
PEGASUS HOTEL  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA  
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QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, thank you for the interview.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. Thanks for being with me.

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QUESTION: I just have a couple of final questions. The situation in Lebanon &ndash; they&rsquo;ve had their cabinet, and they&rsquo;ve got Hizballah connections. Is the U.S. going to work with this new cabinet?

SECRETARY POMPEO: We&rsquo;ll have to take a look at it. I don&rsquo;t know the answer to that yet. I saw what happened over the last 24 hours. We&rsquo;ve been very clear about the requirements for the United States to engage. Lebanon has a terrible financial crisis that lays in front of it in just the weeks ahead. We&rsquo;re prepared to engage, provide support, but only to a government that&rsquo;s committed to reform. That&rsquo;s important for America, but if you look at the protests that are taking place in Beirut and cities outside of Beirut, you can see, just like in Baghdad &ndash; go look at the protests in Baghdad &ndash; these aren&rsquo;t anti-American protests; these are protests demanding sovereignty and freedom. The protests taking place today in Lebanon are saying to Hizballah, &ldquo;No mas.&rdquo; No more. We want a non-corrupt government that reflects the will of the people of Lebanon. If this government is responsive to that and there&rsquo;s a new set of leaders that&rsquo;s prepared to make those commitments and deliver on that, that&rsquo;s the kind of government that we&rsquo;ll support around the world and the kind of government we would support in Lebanon.

QUESTION: All right, Mr. Secretary, I know you have a busy schedule. Thank you &mdash;

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you.

QUESTION: &mdash; for talking to me.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Kevin, thank you so much.