

***Bulgarian TV visits LERC and Shoot Scenes at the Lebanon Migration Museum***

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan, LERC

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, Lebanon, welcomed to its premises an international team of correspondents for a filmed interview and a photo session. The team was led by journalist Mr. Nikolay Doynov and cameraman Mr. Rossen Iliev of NOVA TV of Bulgaria, and included Mr. Mohamed El Bakary, an Egyptian emigrant and president of BBC-Arabic Balkans centered in Sofia, Bulgaria. The team was sponsored by the Association of Lebanese Industrial Investors in Bulgaria under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Feghali. Mr. Abdo Medlej, a financier and a Lebanese emigrant living in France, accompanied the team. The visit to LERC was included in their itinerary at the recommendation of Maronite League and World Maronite Foundation member and close friend of LERC, Mr. Antonio Andary.

The visit to LERC and NDU will be included in a documentary on Lebanon, for the political programs section of NOVA TV.

Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer at LERC, represented the Center in the absence of LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani, who was at a conference in Egypt.

Discussions with Mr. Doynov centered on the history of Lebanese migration, the destination countries for Lebanese migrants, the causes for emigration, the advantages and disadvantages of migration on a personal and country level, and the significance of the large remittances received by Lebanon from its expatriates in the world.

When asked about the expectations of LERC concerning migrants and migration in the coming few years, Mrs. Haddad pointed out that in Lebanon people just live from day to day especially because of the political and insecurity circumstances that plague the socio-economic situation in the country.

Needless to say that Lebanon will always export its talents, with individuals searching for better jobs and a more secure way of life, as it has done throughout its history in the past century and a half.

The correspondents were then given a presentation of LERC's electronic archives and taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU. The NDU campus, which delighted the team, was photographed and filmed while several students were approached for impromptu interviews.



The team at the museum (from left to right) Mr. R. Iliev, Mr. N. Doynov, LERC's Mrs. L. Haddad and Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. A. Medlej, Mr. M. El Bakary (Dec 2010).