

October 24, 2005

**VISIT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSADOR TO NDU
FR. WALID MOUSSA**

On behalf of all NDU family, I would like to welcome among us His Excellency Jeffrey Feltman, ambassador of the United States of America.

Your Excellency, we understand how busy these days your schedule is. In spite of all that, you were able to give us some time of yours.

While many are expecting a political statement from your person, you honor us with a cultural visit.

In your presence, I would like to confirm three objectives:

1. We are proud of being the First Catholic University in Lebanon following the American system of instruction, and we are going to keep fostering the effectiveness of this system.
2. We believe in the necessity of a strategic plan for an institution like NDU, and we understand the importance of accreditation from an American association. As a matter of fact, we are preparing ourselves for starting such a process.
3. We are aware of our role in the region, it is very significant in many ways, and we are striving to play this role through our activities and research.

Your Excellency, to successfully achieve the aforementioned objectives, we rely on your support.

1. NDU is willing to host two to three Fulbright Professors every academic year. How can the Embassy help attracting Fulbright professors to join NDU?
2. The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU has started on a research project, namely the data for Lebanese-Americans in different careers and fields of specialty. Is there a possibility for AID, or a similar agency, to support financially this on going project?
3. The Lebanese Center for Societal Research (LCSR) at NDU has initiated a research project on Democracy in Lebanon and the Middle East based on a comparative study between the American and the European applications of Democracy. This study includes public surveys and a thorough study of the Lebanese social and political components. Is there a possibility for AID, or any similar agency, to support financially this significant and timely project?

We are very appreciative for the trust the American government put in our research abilities. The approved grant to jointly work with Madonna University on a cultural exchange project is of great encouragement to our institution. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm our immediate interest in three scholarly projects, namely:

Once again, Ambassador Feltman, thank you for accepting our invitation and welcome to Notre Dame University.