

Save Lebanon UPDATE



June 1985

SAVE LEBANON AFTER THREE YEARS: EXPANDED LEADERSHIP, NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

As Save Lebanon enters its fourth year of activity, a new effort is underway to evaluate its work and to chart a strategy for the future. The priorities for Save Lebanon in the next few months are to preserve its original mission of providing medical care to those Lebanese and Palestinian children and youths who have been brought to the United States, and to aid in rebuilding Lebanon's medical institutions.

At its board meeting in Washington, D.C. March 3rd, Save Lebanon registered gains in broadening its leadership, expanding the board to encompass Arab American community activists and leaders from 11 cities.

Save Lebanon commissioned board member Marti Ammar of Wichita, Kans. to develop a consensus position on the relief group's immediate and long-term goals. Together with Save Lebanon's Washington staff member Carol Bisharat and Beirut-based board member Dr. Amal Shamma, she presented this position to the March board meeting.

The consensus position explains that Save Lebanon will:

- * maintain as its primary objective providing relief to the people of Lebanon while at the same time encouraging the Arab American community to play a major role in such relief work;

- * continue to bring children from Lebanon to the United States for medical treatment, but will select only those children unable to receive specialized care in Lebanon;

- * continue to provide funds directly to treat wounded children in Lebanon;

- * provide training for physicians now working in Lebanon, and will fund the purchase of sophisticated eye care equipment; and

- * continue to finance its activities through the organization of both large and small fundraisers in cities and communities across the United States.

While most of the points raised in the consensus position reaffirm Save Lebanon's goals and priorities from the past three years, two points are new -- the training program for physicians working in Lebanon, and the purchase of emergency eye care equipment.