



*Embassy of Lebanon
Washington, D.C.*

Remarks by the Ambassador of Lebanon

Antoine Chedid

At the Presentation of the 2012 Issam M. Fares Award for Excellence

To Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

At the Middle East Institute's 66th Annual Banquet

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

First, I would like to thank MEI, its President, my very good friend, Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin for inviting me to be with you tonight along with this very distinguished audience of officials, philanthropists, politicians, Ambassadors.....

Tonight, I am deeply honored to present Dr. Hanan Ashrawi with the prestigious Issam M. Fares Award for Excellence.

Former Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Issam Fares is a prominent and respected statesman who served not only the State of Lebanon but specially cared for the People of Lebanon. He concentrated his efforts on the democratization and reconstruction of his country and on improving Lebanon's relations with the international community by working with all concerned for a just and stable peace in the region. In Issam Fares' opinion, a just peace is the best guarantee for a future Lebanon that is free, pluralistic and democratic.

Issam Fares contributed in a major way in the making of several essential financial and social legislations during his tenure as Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon. He was very enthusiastic on the educational, social and development levels. Issam Fares exerted important efforts for the establishment of local and international centers and institutions. Through his outstanding programs, he helped