

**RELEASE IN FULL**

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:37 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Lebanese leader heads to Paris (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker@state.gov <OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_OS  
**Sent:** Wed Jan 12 12:30:26 2011  
**Subject:** Lebanese leader heads to Paris (AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) - A Lebanese government official said Lebanon's prime minister is heading to France for consultations on his government's collapse. Prime Minister Hariri met with President Obama. The official said Obama offered U.S. support. Hariri made no public comment after meeting Obama. The Lebanese official said Hariri was traveling to Paris to meet President Sarkozy before returning to Beirut. The official discussed the matter on condition of anonymity due to security and diplomatic concerns. Lebanon's year-old unity government collapsed after Hezbollah ministers and their allies resigned over tensions stemming from a UN-backed tribunal investigating the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, father of the current prime minister. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran and Syria, has denounced the tribunal.

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