La Maison du Futur
Beit al Mustaqbal is an Institution of public Interest adjudged by a presidential decree no. 4831 issued on May 12, 1988
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Amin Gemayel was born in Bikfaya, Lebanon, in 1942.

He is the 14th President of the Republic of Lebanon and was elected to office in September 1982. He holds a law degree, which enabled him to be called to the bar in 1965. He entered Parliament five years later as the youngest member and came to the fore during the war years of 1975-76, displaying outstanding qualities of leadership and earning a reputation for moderation and dialogue.

His passionate commitment to Lebanon does not preclude a deep involvement in family life and in cultural activities.

He founded a group of institutions, notably in the fields of social and economic development and fundamental research.
A non-profit making Institution, Beit al-Mustaqbal (Maison du Futur) is at the scale of progress and one of the most modern institutions in the Middle East; but above all it was a concrete symbol of a simple and generous idea: mobilizing goodwills in shelter away from the passions of war, for studying ways of reconstructing Lebanon on the basis of tolerance, development, culture and science.

In effect, Beit al-Mustaqbal is a vision required and realized, simultaneously, as a platform for the promotion of culture and as a Center for relevant Documentation and Research, at a time when the increasing violence and dangers of the war were producing political conditions too uncertain and unstable for normal planning or for any statement of intellectual and cultural objectives.

Today, and after 12 years, Beit al-Mustaqbal constitutes a forum for continuous consultation and dialogue and to further social development and stability, both nationally and regionally.

The building itself of Beit al-Mustaqbal has been specifically designed to provide ideal accommodation for national and international conferences and conventions, and to serve as a venue for exhibitions, seminars and discussion groups. The main assembly hall is equipped with all the facilities needed for a simultaneous translation service into several languages as well as a full range of audio-visual support equipment. In addition to the main hall, there are several exhibition areas and conference rooms. Within the building itself provision has been made for full residential accommodation, with excellent catering, for all who participate in the conferences, seminars or study-groups.
Beit al-Mustaqbal is a non-profit making foundation. Its purpose is to coordinate all the potential energies, as well as the wisdom and knowledge of its members to elaborate and implement a clearly defined plan in the economic, social, development and reconstruction field.

It’s final goal is to realize a durable, peace for Lebanon’s stability and serenity.

Beit al-Mustaqbal comprises the following component institutions:

1. **The Institute of Strategic Studies for Peace (IESP)**, established in 1979, constitutes the real reflection cell of Beit al-Mustaqbal; its members form a select group of experts and specialists in political science, economics, and social science and development planning. Their main task is to set in motion studies and projects designed to further the cause of peace in Lebanon and the Middle East.

2. **The Scientific Consortium for Research and Planning (GSRP)**, set up towards the end of 1982, whose members are experts in various fields of scientific research, plays an active role in the reconstruction of Lebanon by commissioning studies specifically aimed at meeting the country's needs in both planning and development.

3. **The Lebanese Center for Documentation and Research (CEDRE)**, founded in 1975, and set from the beginning to become an instrument of reference and work for all researchers, is today a vital support for the Institute of Strategic Studies for Peace (IESP), thanks to the information and documentations stored in its Data Bank which is regularly up-to-date, be it in the political, economic or cultural field.

   Its principal publication is "Haliyyat" — "Panorama of Events," a quarterly on the Middle East and the Lebanese affairs, which contains documented excerpts from 185 agencies, newspapers and periodicals printed in three languages: Arabic, French and English. It is a comprehensive reference to every researcher, politician, scholar and decision-maker.

4. **The Information Data Center (ID)**
THE INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES FOR PEACE (IESP)

The Institute for Strategic Studies for Peace (IESP) founded in 1979 is the reflection cell of Beit el Mustaqbal. The Institute’s purpose is threefold:

- Undertake research aiming at producing the necessary knowledge capable of building a strong, peaceful and stable country.
- Provide decision-makers dealing with Lebanon and the Middle East with the necessary facts and options to effectively address a given issue.
- Provide a forum for a constructive academic exchange of ideas toward the containment of conflict and peaceful solution of the Lebanese crisis and the Middle East problem.

In essence, the over-riding purpose of the Institute at present, is to play an active part in shaping Lebanon’s future.

Since its inception, the Institute has undertaken the following activities:

1) It has hosted academicians and prominent people in policy-making and business for an exchange of views aiming at studying, analysing and proposing solutions to the Lebanese conflict.

2) Many members of the Institute have published articles dealing with Lebanon and the Middle East in "Haliyyat."

3) It has produced studies dealing with contemporary issues such as:
   - The Lebanese-Syrian Relations
   - The Lebanese-European Relations
   - The Lebanese Economy and the Arab Market
   - The Palestinians in Lebanon (1947-1982)

- Lebanon’s neutrality
- The Lebanese-Israeli Negotiations
  Many such studies have already been published in Haliyyat.

4) It has organized conferences, seminars, study-groups and workshops dealing with the most urgent political, social and economic issues of Lebanon.

5) The Institute published the following books:
   - Kayrouz, Akl
     U.S.-Soviet Policy Towards Lebanon.
   - Raad, Ghassan
     Commercial Conflict in Multi-Ethnic States: A comparative study of six countries.
   - Yabroudi, Abdou
     The Structure of the Lebanese Economic System.
   - Charaf, George
     Power and Communities (Communautés et Pouvoir)
The GSRP was established in 1982. Its members are specialists and experts in all scientific fields. The group's main function is to ensure the active practical application of the results of those scientific research studies most relevant to the reconstruction and development of the country.

The efforts of the Consortium have already produced feasible and realistic proposals, stated in terms that clearly indicate the way in which they are to be implemented.

The Consortium acts as an initiator in the identification of Lebanese potentialities, scientific, technical and economic, both at home and overseas.

We can illustrate as example from the Consortium's wideranging activities the following achievements:

- A conference on Structural Designs to Counter Earthquakes in Lebanon (1982).
- A feasibility Study on the Founding of a Zoological Center in Lebanon (December 1984).
- The Founding of the "Lebanese Science Newsletter" (January 1985).
- A Study of the Requirements for the Founding of a National Institute for Cancer Research.

The two conferences referred to above were attended by international experts, and reports of their proceedings were subsequently published in two separate portfolios.

The Lebanese Science Newsletter published by the GSRP (January 1985) was intended to help Lebanese scholars and scientists, both at home and abroad, by providing them with an appropriate outlet for the publication of their studies, projects and activities.

The GSRP is managed by a board which defines its objectives and assists the implementation of its policies. Working committees have been set up to study the following subjects:

- The Environment in Relation to the Pattern of Daily Life
- Medicine and Health
- Civil Engineering
- The Problems of Housing
- International Relations
- Water Resources and the Equipment Required to Exploit them
- Sources of Energy, Traditional and Modern.
The objective of CEDRE is to constitute a Data Bank related to the developments in Lebanon and the Middle East. The researchers who seek the services of CEDRE are thus provided with the information needed by using the computer according to the most advanced documentation techniques.
CEDRE gathers authentic data and information from the local press and from the Arab and foreign press, in accordance with a well-defined objectivity and impartiality. The survey covers a list of 53 dailies, 37 weeklies, and 118 monthlies and quarterlies in the three basic languages: Arabic, French and English, and takes account of the varying political and geographical interests and attitudes involved.

All the information extracted from these newspapers and periodicals is systematically and scientifically organized so that it may be stored and retrieved by computer means, through a trilingual Thesaurus from the data bank.

The objective of CEDRE is to ensure a better understanding of Lebanese affairs and the Middle East crisis.

The researcher is provided with up-to-date information from various sources.

The Institute of Strategic Studies for Peace (IESP) make use of the services employed by CEDRE and the data bank.

These information, the evolution continuity of national and regional conjuncture and the progress made in the fields of studies and researches, are reviewed in Haliyyat (Panorama of Events), which gives a global outline of events and an up-to-date bibliography.
"Haliyyat" (Panorama of Events) is published and distributed by CEDRE. Haliyyat is a quarterly trilingual review of developments in Lebanon and the Middle East.

As a research tool, it provides comprehensive information that leads to a better understanding of Lebanese affairs and the Middle East crisis.

Information is reported objectively and without comment, since the aim of Haliyyat is to supply the researcher with primary sources of information.

Each volume of Haliyyat contains approximately 900 pages, divided into three independent and distinct sections, each in one language: Arabic, French and English.

Haliyyat consists of the following:

- Articles and summaries - studies by experts on Lebanese and Middle Eastern affairs.
- Notes on the Quarter - an analysis of the developments taking place in the Middle East and their repercussions on Lebanon.
- Book Reviews - reviews of recent books on the subject of Lebanese and Middle Eastern affairs.
- Chronologies - daily news excerpts, selected from a wide variety of publications, classified and indexed under two main headings: Lebanon and the Middle East.
- Themes - summaries of the major political trends in opinion, carefully chosen from many newspapers and periodicals to represent the diverse viewpoints that prevail in regard to Lebanon and the Middle East.
- Documents - texts of the principal documents, speeches, reports, resolutions, letters, etc. pertaining to Lebanon and the Middle East.
- Bibliography - a listing of the principal scholarly books and articles written on Lebanese affairs and the Middle East conflict.
- Index - a comprehensive listing of subjects, proper names, geographical names, and names of institutions for entries contained in the Chronology and Themes.

Books in Arabic, French and English. The most recent are the following:

- A soixante ans d'intervalle by President Camille Chamoun, 1980.
- Communautés et pouvoir au Liban by Georges Charaf, 1981.
- L'aventure de la liberté by André Chaib, 1983.

— Lebanon, the Nation and the State as Perceived by Amin Gemayel (in Arabic) by Georges Charaf, 1985.


— Lebanese-Syrian Relations: 1943-1985 (in Arabic and English) by CEDRE, 1986 (2 volumes).

— Le défi de l'or by Naaman Khoury, 1987.

Thanks to CEDRE, and for the first time in the Middle East, a fully operational Data Bank into which a mass of information on political, social and economic development is fed daily, is now available for instant retrieval and use.

By availing itself of the most modern techniques invented by the Honeywell Bull Company, notably its DPS-7 Computer, The Data Bank is now in a position to undertake a range of programming, field and market studies.

CEDRE possess a complete series of studies and documentations. It also uses the most modern means: Photography, photocopy, microfilm and recording. These services are always available to the public. This Center is managed by specialists holding university degrees from Lebanon or abroad, and operates in the three basic languages of Beit al Mustaqbal: Arabic, French and English. The need for a microfilm service was felt by the increasing need for archive’s preservation, space saving and quick retrieval of data in a business environment more concerned with productivity management.

CEDRE is actually considered a pioneering center in the Micrographic field.