

Memorandum of accord between Free Patriotic Movement and Hizbullah

FPM Leader General Michel Aoun and Hizbullah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah signed a memorandum of accord on February 6, 2006 in the hall of Mar Mkhael Church in Shiah. The memorandum raised many controversies among Christian parties, which accused Aoun of “aspiring to become president and seeking Hizbullah’s support by neglecting Christians’ rights and acting in accordance with Hizbullah’s plans which do not serve the Christians or Lebanon’s interests”.

The memorandum of accord was used as an electoral tool in Matn, and some people considered it as one of the reasons behind the drop of Aoun’s support in the Maronite street, and which was confirmed in the elections. *The Monthly* surveyed the opinions of Matn voters about their electoral choice and the memorandum of accord.

Respondents’ position toward the memorandum of accord

Around the half of respondents (48.3%) said that the memorandum of accord between Hizbullah and the Free Patriotic Movement was “positive”, against 28.7% who described it as “negative” and 23% said “don’t know”, which was an attempt to avoid giving a specific answer. Respondents’ answers by confession are seen in Table no.1.

Position	Confession	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Catholic	Armenian Orthodox	Armenian Catholic	Syriac Orthodox and Catholic	Shia’a
Positive		46.5%	57.9%	48.9%	39.9%	29.8%	73.7%	100%
Negative		35.6%	32.9%	35.2%	12.9%	10.6%	10.5%	-
Don't know		17.9%	9.2%	15.9%	47.2%	59.6%	15.8%	-

Source: Information International – August 2007

Electoral choice by position toward the memorandum

The position toward the memorandum played a role in the voters’ choice. A large majority of voters who said the memorandum was “positive” elected Kamil Khoury and the large majority of those who described it as “negative” elected Amin Gemayel. Table no.2 shows the voters’ choice of candidate in light of their position toward the memorandum.

Position on the memorandum	Chosen candidate	Amin al-Gemayel	Kamil Khoury
Positive		13.1%	87.1%
Negative		72.1%	2%
Don't know		14.8%	10.9%

Source: Information International – August 2007

“A large majority of voters who said the memorandum was “positive” elected Kamil Khoury”

Conclusion

- ⦿ The opinion poll shows that a high percentage of Maronite, Greek Orthodox, Catholic and Syriac respondents consider the memorandum “positive”. Meanwhile, around the half of Armenian respondents said “don’t know” to avoid giving their position toward a delicate issue.
- ⦿ Around half of respondents support the memorandum.
- ⦿ Positions toward the memorandum of accord, along with other factors, played a role in the by-elections.