

WORD OF THE FR. TALAL HACHEM
PHOTO EXHIBITION:
VISIT OF PRESIDENT CAMILLE CHAMOUN TO ARGENTINA
(1954)
November 24, 2021

Good morning,

Mr. Mauricio Alice, Ambassador of Argentina, dear Ambassadors, and diplomats

Mr. Camille Chamoun

Dear USEK family members,

- I would like to welcome you all at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) for the launching of the exhibition that will be highlighting an important historical event in Lebanon, which is the visit of Camille Chamoun, former President of the Lebanese Republic and one of the main pillars of the Independence of Lebanon.
- Our gathering today commemorates not only an official visit that took place in 1954, but it rather reflects what was the first formal bridge of the Lebanese Argentinian diplomatic relations that will last, will grow, and will be translated in mutually beneficial collaborations and activities.
- Our photo exhibition that will last till December 3rd will be backed up today by the presentation of Mr. Mauricio Alice, Ambassador of Argentina to Lebanon, a close friend of USEK, who will shed light on the different

diplomatic, commercial, and cultural linkages between our two countries; strong linkages that were nurtured by a wave of emigration from Lebanon to Argentina that started in the 19th century and made Argentina host of a large Lebanese diaspora that, although geographically distant, I am sure is, and will remain, rooted in Lebanon.

- It is this phenomenon of intercultural exchange that takes different forms and through different periods of time, it is this very exchange that USEK is keen on reflecting to its students and community members to give them hints of the different periods and different historical events that Lebanon went through and that have contributed to making of our country the Lebanon we know today; the Lebanon of its sons who decided to stay on its soil no matter what, combined with the Lebanon of the people who decided to explore the world and enrich the land of the cedars with their experiences, ideas and global perspectives.
- It is worth mentioning that the preparations for this event have been launched a while ago now, but unfortunately, the exhibition was postponed due to the prevailing situation in the country. Today, thanks to the efforts of His Excellency, Ambassador of Argentina, and those of many people at USEK, the event could take place.
- Mr. Ambassador, I would like to thank you for your friendship with USEK and for always paving the way for different avenues of collaboration between the Embassy and USEK.
- USEK team... thank you also for all your efforts and for your commitment to contribute to the University's impact at both the local and international levels.
- To our students and faculty members, especially our students at the School of Law and Political Sciences, I wish you a fruitful event from which you would learn and acquire rich and valuable information.

- Again, I would like to welcome you all at USEK and I am sure we will all enjoy this historical flashback and learn from it.

Thank you!