

Conference of the National Alliance of Lebanese Women

The National Alliance of Lebanese Women held its second conference at the Carlton Hotel on May 8, 1982. It was presided over by Mrs. Linda Matar who said in an opening word that the creation of the Alliance came as a response to the needs imposed by the present circumstances. The aim of the conference was to give a comprehensive view of women's demands in political, legal, economic and educational fields, based on cooperative work between representatives of both sexes and of various communities. These demands will thus be brought, early enough in time, to the attention of the future President of the Republic and will serve to enlighten the Lebanese people regarding the necessity of progressive reforms.

Here is a summary of the most outstanding claims and recommendations presented by the Conference:

1. Elaboration of a unified system of personal status laws to apply to all Lebanese communities.

2. Reform of the electoral law to include, as a first step, the elimination of its sectarian basis.

3. Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the field of political leadership and in all other fields of employment.

4. Extending social security to cover all citizens, including mothers and children.

5. Extending maternity leave to three months with full pay.

6. Checking the unlimited expansion of monopolies by encouraging cooperatives and establishing a systematic control of prices.

Mrs. Janine Rebeiz proposed the creation of a Ministry of Women's Affairs, directed by women, as a transitional step to the stage of complete freedom from sexual discrimination, the stage to which all women aspire.