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**Letter of condolence from M. Jacques CHIRAC,  
President of the Republic, to the widow of Mr Elias  
HRAWI, former President of Lebanon.**

Paris, 7 July 2006

Dear Mrs Hrawi,

I was extremely shocked and saddened to learn of the death of your husband, Mr Elias Hrawi.

With his passing, Lebanon loses a great public figure, politician, a president who wholeheartedly committed himself to serving his country.

I pay tribute to the memory of a man who, after so many years of suffering, in the wake of President RenØ Moawad's assassination, devoted himself to the difficult task of taking his country from war to peace and beginning the essential process of reconciliation, modernization and reconstruction.

I pay tribute to Mr Elias Hrawi, a friend of France, a personal friend too. I shall not forget the warm welcome he extended to me during my two official visits to Lebanon, in 1996.

At this very sad time, I want to express to you my most sincere condolences and tell you that I share your grief and that of your whole family.

(complimentary close, with handwritten addition).

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