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POL-NATO-SUMMIT-CHIRAC

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By Bashar Al-Khuraibet RIGA, Nov 29 (KUNA) -- French President Jacques Chirac called on Wednesday for dialogue with Syria and for the integration of Hizbollah in Lebanese politics.

Chirac told a news conference after the conclusion of NATO's Riga Summit that he acknowledges that not all European countries want to start a dialogue with Syria but that France supports the idea of dialogue with Syria. "I am supportive of a dialogue with Syria based on honesty and commitment to achieve the desired goals." He said. He added that US President George Bush supports the French ideas on dialogue with Syria.

On Lebanon, Chirac said that all the Lebanese people have a right for security and to live in peace. He said that national dialogue between all the Lebanese factions is the only way to reach peace and stability in Lebanon. France wants to see Hizbollah play its full role in the Lebanese political arena, Chirac said, adding that the role of Hizbollah is important in many aspects.

On Afghanistan, Chirac said that that nation's problems could not be solved by military means and that Afghanistan's predicament was one of a joint lack of security and socio-economic development. "I am not convinced that the solution for the situation in Afghanistan is exclusively military," he affirmed. "A military solution is not sufficient by itself." He concluded. (end) bk.