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recording of a conversation between far-right former US presidential candidate Ron Paul and Hezbollah official Hasan Nasrallah (Getty Images) A recording of a conversation between far-right former US presidential candidate Ron Paul and Hezbollah official Hasan Nasrallah has surfaced online. In the conversation, Nasrallah tells Paul he will be unable to attend the libertarian candidate's upcoming fundraiser in California, an event that Paul had hoped to attend. The US politician says "I've been on the record saying that I thought it was a big mistake to support [Syrian president] Bashar al-Assad and all that, you know," Paul says in the recording. "But if I had a choice, I would prefer [Assad] to the Islamists, you know," he adds. At the fundraiser, Paul will be joined by far-right conspiracy theorist David Duke, who is known for his views on race and Judaism. The recording of the conversation was posted to YouTube in a video titled "One on One with Ron Paul and Hasan Nasrallah". The video was posted on the website of Canadian news website The Rebel, which describes itself as "libertarian politics and rationalism". A statement from the campaign of the Canadian-born Paul, who finished

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a distant fourth in the 2012 presidential race, called the video "sick and outrageous". "Ron Paul does not have anything to do with the video," the statement said. "He has never met Nasrallah. He has never held any public meetings with any Palestinian official. He never claims to be a neutral party." 'Dream ticket' Nasrallah, a Shia Muslim cleric who is the secretary-general of the Lebanese militant Shia group Hezbollah, also praised Paul, saying "he is perhaps the best person who has talked and criticised the United States, to our tastes, for many years." Nasrallah added that the former Texas congressman had "been the only person in the United States Congress who has been willing to criticise Hezbollah, to criticise Hezbollah, to criticise Iran, to criticise the United States." While Paul is often associated with libertarian views, the candidate has previously called for close ties with Shia Muslim groups. In 2012, he led the opposition to 2d92ce491b