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Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly
Statement following Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Samir
Mokbel**

(Delivered in Arabic)

Beirut, Lebanon

Tuesday, 22 July 2014

I had a very good meeting with His Excellency the minister, the Deputy Prime minister. We discussed the efforts that we have been making in the Office of the Special Coordinator to encourage international support and assistance for the Lebanese Armed Forces. Of course, over the past year there has been real success in that area with a number of governments increasing their assistance or providing new assistance or agreeing to provide assistance. We also had a very successful conference in Rome only a month ago and follow up to the Rome conference and how to build on the decisions there was a crucial part of our discussion.

I understand that his Excellency the Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister will be in the south tomorrow with the Italian Defense Minister and I'm sure that issues with regard to follow up will be discussed then, as well as bidding farewell to the UNIFIL force commander.

We also discussed the situation in the south, and as I said after seeing the Speaker of Parliament a couple days ago, it is very important I think to all of us, and I know that the government here strongly agree, that calm be sustained in the south despite the awful events that are going on elsewhere in the region.

Thank you very much.
