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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Shami
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 01 February 2010

Good Morning.

I just had a very good meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ali Shami.

It was a good meeting and an opportunity to follow up on some of the issues that we first discussed two weeks ago.

Our talks also touched on the implementation of Resolution 1701. I informed the Minister that the twelfth report of the Secretary-General on this resolution is due to the Security Council at the end of this month. In that regard, we also discussed the situation in south Lebanon.

We have seen reports that a Lebanese citizen was apprehended yesterday by the Israeli Defense Forces in the area of Shebaa Farms but we are pleased to say that early this morning this Lebanese citizen was released and has returned to Lebanon. UNIFIL has launched an investigation to establish the exact circumstances of this incident but we are delighted that this Lebanese citizen has now returned home safely to Lebanon.

Last week, I also visited Israel with regard to consultations on 1701 and I briefed the Minister on this visit. And I heard from the Israeli officials their continued commitment to the prevailing cessation of hostilities with Lebanon. Of course, much more needs to be done and we, myself and the Minister, have just discussed this in great detail and we are hoping that progress can be made in order to move from a cessation of hostilities to a more enduring ceasefire.

Thank you very much.
