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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad
Damascus, Syria**

Wednesday, 02 June 2010

I just had a very good meeting with Dr. Faysal Mekdad, Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister.

We discussed recent developments in the region, including the developments on Monday with the Israeli action apparently in international waters. We are all shocked by this tragedy. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has condemned it and called for a full investigation to determine exactly how that bloodshed took place. It is unacceptable and a double tragedy when you consider the general situation in Gaza.

Of course, my talks today with Dr. Mekdad also touched on the wider tension that has recently surfaced in the region and other issues that shape the outlook of the region at the moment. All parties in the region have a role to play to contribute to maintaining stability. Syria is a key partner in this effort.

In this context, we discussed the situation in Lebanon and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, which continues to have Syria's full support. There is now a regular ongoing dialogue between the Lebanese and Syrian leaderships, and I am optimistic that this will help us achieve the right results. We all have a lot of work to do, but I am hopeful that we can make the necessary progress.

Thank you.
