



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Ammar Moussawi
Beirut, Lebanon**

Thursday, 04 February 2010

Good Morning.

I just had a very good meeting with Mr. Ammar Moussawi. This was not our first meeting. We have met several times before. It is very important for me to meet from time to time with Mr. Moussawi but also with other leaders of Hizbullah.

Today we talked about several issues. We began talking about the terrible tragedy of last week, the airplane crash in which so many lives were lost. I expressed to Mr. Moussawi my gratitude for the remarks of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who thanked the UN and thanked UNIFIL for working with the Lebanese people. But we don't always work with the Lebanese people at times of tragedy. We have to work with the Lebanese people every day.

We also discussed with Mr. Moussawi the domestic political situation, the formation of a national government, the challenges ahead of it and also that the government has already made much progress. And finally we also discussed the Security Council Resolution 1701, the problems and the challenges ahead and we had a very wide-ranging discussion about that.

QUESTION: (inaudible)

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I don't like this rhetoric and these threats. I don't think it is helpful and I would like to see this rhetoric reduced. I don't think it is in the interest of either side to see a conflict.

QUESTION: (inaudible)

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: 1701 has worked we have stability and peace in southern Lebanon and along the Blue Line. Of course, there are problems and many many shortcomings. One which we can never forget is the question of Israeli air violations.

QUESTION: (inaudible)

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Most recently too in the last few days there was the incident involving the young Lebanese shepherd. We are very pleased that within 12 hours he has been returned to Lebanon, returned to his family. But we mustn't see incidents like this happen and this is where we need to work harder in the future.

Shukran, Merci, Thank you
