

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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 Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Tuesday, 05 October 2010

Good Afternoon

I just had a very good meeting with the Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri, and we had wide-ranging discussion about the situation in Lebanon and in the region. In particular, we talked about some of the recent tensions and I expressed to Speaker Berri the concern of the United Nations over this tension and the uncertainty it has generated among some of Lebanon's partners. The United Nations has called on all sides in Lebanon to refrain from any rhetoric that could further inflame the situation and to resort to dialogue in order to resolve even the most difficult issues.

I encouraged today the efforts exerted by the Speaker as well as also those by President Michel Sleiman and Prime Minister Hariri to address the tension and to preserve the work of this country's institutions. We also welcomed strongly regional efforts, and particularly those of Syria and of Saudi Arabia, to help calm the situation and promote an atmosphere of stability. What is important in the current circumstances is that people try to work together to address the difficult issues confronting the country, and that they do so in a calm and rational manner.

Shoukran. Thank you.
