



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**

Friday, 06 November 2009

Good Afternoon

I just had a very good meeting with Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri. We discussed the general situation in Lebanon.

I expressed to Speaker Berri my concern over the delay in the formation of a new government and I know that Speaker Berri also shares that concern and we share with him frustration. It is difficult to understand why an agreement has not been reached on this so far. We are now at a point where the government should be formed as soon as possible to focus on tackling the many challenges facing the country. It remains absolutely critical for Lebanon to have a government, not least to continue with the implementation of resolution 1701.

We also touched on the most recent Report of the Secretary-General on Resolution 1701, which was released earlier this week, and I informed Speaker Berri that I will be traveling to New York in the next few days to meet with the Security Council Tuesday, November 10.

We agreed with the Speaker that the generally calm atmosphere that has prevailed in south Lebanon over three years is encouraging. But we are also concerned by the frequency of incidents that have taken place recently. Such incidents raise the possibility of an escalation and thus threaten the stability achieved so far. Naturally, we are also very very mindful of the daily violations of Lebanese airspace, of Lebanon's sovereignty and of Resolution 1701 by Israel, which is also covered in the Secretary-General's reports. I use this opportunity to call again for Israel to stop all such violations.

Thank you very much.
