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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement After Meeting with Minister of Interior Ziad Baroud on Parliamentary
Elections Day
Ministry of Interior, Lebanon
Sunday, 07 June 2009**

I don't want to take a lot of your time. I just wanted to say that I just had a meeting with the Minister of Interior, Ziad Baroud, and we also visited the operations room for the elections and also the SCEC.

I was very impressed with the SCEC. I think their media observation is very impressive and compares very well internationally, I think even with my own country, the UK.

I have to say that what I have seen so far today – and I know there is still about two hours before the polls close – I have really been quite impressed. As you know in Lebanon the practice in the past has been to hold elections over four days. This is the very first time that you have elections on one day and often when you are taking a big step like that there are many mistakes and shortcomings.

Personally, I haven't seen that many shortcomings and mistakes today. I am sure there have been some glitches. Again, in any election anywhere in the world, for sure there are glitches and shortcomings, something unexpected happens. Countries don't have elections every day, every week, every year. Its every four or five years and again I would remind you that this is the first time you have done it in one day, so I commend the Minister and the Ministry for what they have achieved.

I also wanted to say a few words about the army, the LAF and the ISF who I think have conducted themselves in a very impressive manner throughout the country. This has been a great day for Lebanon and for the Lebanese people and one which will be certainly in your history books and I trust in a positive sense.

Thank you very much.