



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 Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 07 October 2009

Good Morning,

I just had an excellent meeting with Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh.

It was an opportunity for me to brief the Minister on the preparations for the next Report of the Secretary General on Security Council Resolution 1701. This report is due by the end of the month, by the end of October with the Security Council. We are very pleased by the calm that has been restored in south Lebanon and by the statements of commitment to the resolution from all sides concerned.

However, the Minister and I agreed that more needs to be done to move towards a longer term cease-fire which would help confirm this calm and stability that now prevails along the Blue Line and would be an important step in the path towards the implementation of the resolution. Naturally, we also touched upon the critical issues of Ghajar, the Shebaa Farms and the constant intrusive intrusions of Israeli overflights into Lebanese airspace.

I also discussed with Minister Salloukh the situation in Lebanon and the process of government formation. I expressed the strong hope of the United Nations that the current atmosphere of dialogue in the country will allow for the formation of a national unity government as soon as possible. In this regard, the Minister and I agreed on the importance of the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to Syria.

Thank you very much.

QUESTION: What about the Israeli withdrawal from Ghajar?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: This is a question that we discussed with the Minister just now. It was also an issue that we raised in talks in Israel last week. We believe that the time is long overdue when this issue should be addressed and solved and we very much hope that the Israelis agree to ...a withdrawal from the northern part of the village of Ghajar.

Thank you very much.
