



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 Prime Minister Saad Hariri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 07 December 2009

Good morning,

I just had a very good meeting with the Prime Minister Saad Hariri. It's the first time I actually meet the Prime Minister here at the Grand Serail, so it was a particular pleasure and privilege for me to meet with him this morning.

I congratulated him on the Ministerial Statement adopted by the Cabinet last week. We look forward to the Parliamentary debates in the next few days on that Statement which I think will begin tomorrow Tuesday. Our discussions also focused on the priorities of the new Government based on that Statement and the challenges the Government might face in carrying out those tasks. I took the occasion to underline to the Prime Minister the readiness of the United Nations, through all its agencies and offices in Lebanon, to extend assistance to the Lebanese government in all fields whenever requested.

We also discussed developments related to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 and the situation in south Lebanon.

And finally we also discussed the very important climate summit which is opening today in Copenhagen.

Thank you.

Q: Any news on the Israeli withdrawal from Ghajar?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: No, this is something that is being discussed. It is being discussed continually with the Israelis. As you know, it is very very clear in Resolution 1701 that Israel should withdraw from the northern part of Ghajar and I don't need to remind you that Resolution was adopted more than three years ago, now almost three and a half years ago. The discussions are continuing and I hope soon that they will move to a conclusion

Q: Did you bring any letter from the Secretary-General to the Prime Minister?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Today?

Q: Yes.

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: No, I didn't bring any letter. The Secretary General has written of course congratulating Saad Hariri on assuming the office of Prime Minister. The Secretary-General is very much hoping that he will meet with Prime Minister Hariri in the Summit in Copenhagen during the High Level Segment, which will be at the end of the conference. I think Prime Minister Hariri has given a very good signal by attending the Summit and I very much hope that other Arab Heads of Government will follow. I know several are already committed but it's a good sign that Lebanon is taking this conference very seriously.

Thank you.
