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**Office of the
Special Coordinator
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**Bureau du
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pour le Liban**

**UN Special Coordinator Michael Williams
Statement After Meeting with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri**

Beirut, 09 January 2009 -- Following is the statement of UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael Williams, after his meeting today with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri:

I just met with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri. Earlier this morning, I had a meeting with President Michel Sleiman and later today I will meet with Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. With Speaker Berri, we discussed the situation in Lebanon and the wider region, and especially the situation in Gaza. I briefed the Speaker on the adoption by the UN Security Council yesterday evening in New York of Resolution 1860, which calls for an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza. I also discussed with Speaker Berri, as I did with President Sleiman earlier, the forthcoming visit of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to this region.

The Speaker and I agreed that utmost vigilance was required during this period to avoid any tension from spreading to Lebanon. Our talks focused on the incident that took place yesterday along the south Lebanon border. The United Nations is encouraged by the immediate measures taken by the Lebanese Army, in very close cooperation with UNIFIL, to control the situation and to prevent further incidents from taking place. I relayed to the Speaker the concern of the United Nations over the tension that the incident yesterday generated and the need for the utmost restraint by all sides during a very sensitive period, especially now that the resolution on the ceasefire in Gaza has been adopted by the Security Council.

Speaker Berri expressed Lebanon's continued commitment to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. It remains very important, particularly during the current difficult circumstances in the region, that all sides fully abide by the requirements of that resolution to help maintain calm and stability in southern Lebanon.

Thank you
