



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 Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Mohammad Fneish
Beirut, Lebanon**

Monday, 10 January 2011

Good morning,

I just had a very good meeting with Minister Mohammad Fneish. We discussed many issues.

I told the minister that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met yesterday evening in New York with Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

With Minister Fneish, we discussed the situation with regards to the Special Tribunal on Lebanon and the necessity to maintain stability in the country. We also discussed the very important initiatives by friends of Lebanon, and particularly by Syria and Saudi Arabia. We wish that initiative every success.

I will be discussing later today these issues with H.E. the Speaker Nabih Berry and then also with the Prime Minister's diplomatic advisor, Mr. Mohammad Chatah.

Thank you.

QUESTION: What about the role of the United Nations with regards to the delimitation of maritime borders (inaudible)?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: We discussed this with the Minister and also earlier with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Ali Shami, who has been working extremely hard on this issue, and looking at the history and all the documents. There may be a role for the United Nations and we have to discuss it with the UN's lawyers in New York. But I think it is important that this issue move forward.

QUESTION: What about the Israeli withdrawal from Ghajar?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: We have no immediate news on that question but the other side, the Israeli side, have given a commitment to us that there would be a military withdrawal but I am afraid we do not have a date.

* * *