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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Monday, 10 January 2011

Good afternoon.

I was very pleased today to be received by the Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri. It was very good for me to have the views of the Speaker so early in this new year. We shared with the Speaker that our hopes and wishes that 2011 can be a successful year for Lebanon and it can tackle the issues before it.

Naturally, one of the questions that we discussed was the role of the Special Tribunal on Lebanon. I welcomed the efforts that being made by the friends of Lebanon to ensure stability in the country and particularly the efforts by Syria and by Saudi Arabia. The Speaker reassured me that he believed the unity and stability in Lebanon would be reaffirmed in the coming months. I also reiterated the position of the United Nations that dialogue between the parties within Lebanon was essential for resolving all problems, including the most sensitive.

Another issue that we talked about at considerable length was the question of potential oil and gas resources in Lebanese maritime areas. Lebanon has every right to benefit from these resources and they need to be explored and exploited in the future. In that regard, the Speaker raised with me the issue of the delimitation of Lebanon's maritime borders, which has not taken place so far. While it is not within UNIFIL's mandate to delineate these borders, the UN stands ready, if requested, to assist Lebanon in taking the necessary steps in that direction.

Thank you very much.
