



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Minister of Defense Fayez Ghosn**

Yarzeh, Lebanon

Monday, 11 July 2011

I just had a good meeting with Minister of Defense Fayez Ghosn. I congratulated him on his new position and wished him well in fulfilling the challenging task of overseeing and safeguarding the country's security.

My discussions with the Minister today focused mainly on the situation in south Lebanon and the implementation of Resolution 1701. I told the Minister that I will be travelling to New York later this month to brief the UN Security Council on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution over the past four months.

I welcomed the commitment of the new Lebanese Government to Resolution 1701 and expressed the hope that more progress could be achieved in the coming months to meet the remaining requirements of that resolution.

Thank you very much

IF ASKED:

On Israel's refusal to welcome SCL Michael Williams in Israel: I have read the newspaper reports in that regard. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, clarified last week that the report on resolution 1701, including on the Nakba day incidents, was his report and based on an objective investigation of incidents that took place that day. I hope to continue to meet regularly with Lebanese and with Israeli officials to ensure the proper implementation of Resolution 1701.

ON whether Israel's decision not to welcome Mr. Williams in Israel was true, I have not received anything official in that regard.

On the STL, the indictments and Lebanon's commitment to 1757, I did not raise this issue with the Minister. Prime Minister Mikati has stated clearly that his government is committed to UN resolutions and to its international obligations, and I expect this will also apply to its obligations to the STL.

