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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Minister of Interior Marwan Charbel**

Beirut, Lebanon

Monday, 11 July 2011

I just had a very good meeting with Gen. Marwan Charbel, the new Minister of the Interior. It was my first meeting with the minister. I took this opportunity to congratulate him on his new position and to wish him all the very best in the future challenges that he will face as Minister of the Interior.

We discussed the situation in Lebanon and I underlined, I stressed, that calm and stability throughout the country were important for the new government to address outstanding social and economic issues.

I also told the Minister that stability in Lebanon was very important for the implementation of Resolution 1701 and all Lebanon's international obligations. I briefed the minister on the progress that we have made with regards to 1701 and I expressed the hope that the United Nations can be in close contact with the Ministry of the Interior in the coming weeks and months to work collaboratively on the issues before us.

Thank you very much. Shoukran Jazeelan.

QUESTION: What about the maritime resources and the Israeli violations and Lebanon's right (inaudible)?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: We didn't discuss this in any detail. I have seen the newspaper reports with regards to the Cabinet meeting in Israel yesterday...

QUESTION: (inaudible)

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Well, I have only seen the newspaper reports at the moment. I don't know the details and I don't know if the Israeli government has written to the UN. But I think it an important point to be made is that all countries in this region as in any part of the world have an inherent right to the maritime resources adjoining their land. And I hope to see the Lebanese people in the future enjoying the results of the maritime resources here.

QUESTION: (on Ghajar, inaudible)?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: This is the one of the issues that we mentioned to Minister Charbel this morning and also earlier I had a meeting with the new Defense Minister Fayezz Ghosn and we also discussed that. ON Wednesday, there will be a meeting in Naqoura of the trilateral and I hope

that this will be on the agenda and that we can make progress on this. This is one reason why we welcome the establishment of a new Government because of course we need the Government to make progress on this.

Thank you very much.
