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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement After Meeting with Minister of Administrative Reform Mohammad
Fneish
Beirut, Lebanon
Wednesday, 11 August 2010**

Good Morning.

Let me say to you and to all your viewers Ramadan Kareem.

I just had a very good meeting with Minister Mohammad Fneish. I have known Minister Fneish for some years, I think going back to the war of 2006 and the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701. When I was based in New York, I would visit Lebanon and always meet with Minister Fneish and for the last two years, since I have been resident here as the UN Special Coordination, Minister Fneish has been one of my frequent contacts and interlocutors.

We discussed today 1701 and the situation in the south, the tragedy last week in which sadly lives were lost and I expressed the hope, and I think the Minister agreed, that calm had been restored in the south. We have to work hard, all of us, UNIFIL, myself, the Lebanese Government, but the Israelis also to prevent incidents like this happening in the future.

I discussed in that respect the very important role that the Lebanese Army has played in the south, which is now being reinforced with an extra brigade and that is very important. The LAF and UNIFIL must work together very very closely.

Naturally, Minister Fneish and I also touched on the state of affairs within Lebanon. We spoke about the recent visit of H.E. President El-Assad and also King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, the importance of that visit both at a regional level and national level in helping to preserve calm and stability.

I hope in this month, in the most holy of months for Moslems, that we can look forward to a period of calm and stability in the coming weeks.

Shoukran, thank you very much.

QUESTION: Is it possible to stop the Tribunal in order to preserve Lebanon's calm and stability?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: You know the Tribunal is an independent body, established at Lebanon's request by the Security Council. I cannot speak for the Tribunal and what its outcomes may or may not be.

QUESTION: What about the indictment? Do you think anyone can ... (inaudible)?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: The press in Lebanon does a fantastic job but always there is intense speculation before events happen. Most of the times I wait until the events happen. So far the Tribunal has taken very few decisions. One decision of course they took, very early the Tribunal decided that there was no case against the four generals and it was the Tribunal who released the four generals. One of those generals, Gen. Jamil Sayyed, is now seeking the assistance of the Tribunal and there will be a hearing at the Tribunal I think in September, September 13, where the General will be present and he will ask for their assistance. So I have to wait to see what outcomes there will be.
