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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with MP Michel Aoun
Rabieh, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 11 August 2011

Good morning,

I want to express my thanks to General Aoun for receiving me today and for the wide ranging discussion that we had, both about Lebanon and with regards to the region.

While we were talking we heard reports of the explosion in Antelias and we understand that there were injuries and perhaps some people killed. We don't know the circumstances but I wanted to express my condolences and sympathies to the families of those who have been killed and injured. We don't know the facts about this incident yet but the General and I agreed that stability in Lebanon was paramount, of utmost importance, during the present period. Like the General and other leaders we want to see reforms in Lebanon in many spheres and I hope this can be implemented and carried forward in the coming period.

We also discussed the situation in Syria. There are real concerns, that I understand, amongst many people in Lebanon about the situation in Syria. I think there is a common ground that everybody would like to see reform. President Assad has given some indications in that regards and it is very important that those reforms are implemented and taken forward in the coming weeks.

Thank you very much.
