



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with MP Saad Hariri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Friday, 11 September 2009

Good Afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with the majority leader Saad Hariri. Whilst I was meeting with Saad Hariri, we received disturbing reports that there have been some rocket attacks across the Blue Line. Some reports say there have been two or three rockets fired from southern Lebanon into Israel and also we have heard some reports of fire from Israel. I should say that all of these reports are unconfirmed and because I have been with Saad Hariri for the past 30 minutes, I have not had time to check with General Graziano. But if these reports are true, it is a very very serious development and I would call on all sides to exercise absolute caution and restraint.

I would like to say now a few words about my meeting with Saad Hariri. We last met a week ago and since then, there have been significant developments. The United Nations regrets the failure of the different political sides to reach an agreement on forming a new government in Lebanon and that we now return to the beginning of the process and the designation of a Prime Minister by President Sleiman. I regret that the efforts of the parliamentary majority leader Saad Hariri were not successful.

However, we strongly believe that a solution can be achieved. We hope that the consultations which the President of the Republic, General Sleiman, will resume with the different parliamentary blocs will be successful in placing the process of government formation back on track. When I met with President Sleiman on Wednesday at Beiteddine, we agreed that dialogue must be maintained and that Lebanon must not return to the old days of polarization and crisis.

If the Lebanese remain committed to the objective of a national unity government and work towards this goal, I believe it will be achieved. President Sleiman, majority leader Saad Hariri, Speaker Nabih Berri and other key political leaders enjoy the trust of the Lebanese people and the international community that they can confront the challenges and overcome the obstacles.

Thank you very much.
