



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 Minister of Social Affairs
Mr. Salim Sayegh
Beirut, Lebanon**

Friday, 27 August 2010

I just had a very good meeting with Minister Salim Sayegh.

We discussed the general developments in Lebanon.

I noted with concern the eruption of the incidents of armed violence in Beirut earlier in the week and I welcomed the efforts of the Lebanese Army and of Lebanon's top leaders in quickly restoring the calm to the area. The United Nations strongly encourages the calls for dialogue, mainly by President Sleiman and Premier Hariri, to avoid any tension and prevent incidents similar to what happened this week. Such violence is disruptive for the country's stability but also for the lives of Lebanese citizens.

We also discussed today the important role of Lebanon's State institutions in promoting security and stability but also socio-economic development and reforms in the country. I also took the opportunity to praise the efforts of Minister Sayegh to engage with and enhance the role of civil society groups in Lebanon.

Finally, I also discuss with Minister Sayegh today the progress in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

Thank you very much.

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